

Economics 508

Comparative Economic Systems

quarter
call number

Instructor Name
Instructor Contact Info
Instructor office hours

Course Overview

This course is a comparative study of the economic of three non-Western transition economies: China, India and Russia. We will focus on the critical importance of natural resources on a state's economy. The course investigates international economic issues through comparison of China's progress toward export-led growth and India's stagnation under autarky. We also use Russia's dependence on petroleum and natural resources exports to provide a stark comparison with the relatively resource-poor countries of China and India. In this course, we consider how India's reluctance to engage the global economy slowed its economic progress and how its democratic tradition interacted with the conflict between the need for a social safety net and the creation of incentives suitable for economic growth and development. We will also investigate the following issues: labor markets and human resource development; government structure and the role of foreign investment in shaping economic development in the region; the social consequences of and solutions to poverty; fairness vs. efficiency in privatization; and land reform.

GEC Information

This course satisfies general education diversity outcomes for international issues (non-western).

International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world. Students exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.

As an international issues course, the subjects covered in Economics 508 address economic, political, cultural, and social differences among the nations of the world, specifically non-Western countries experiencing economic transition. Students will show progress in developing these ideas through regular homework assignments covering the assigned readings in the course.

This course also satisfies general education outcomes for the third writing requirement.

Writing and Related Skills coursework develops students' skills in written communication and expression, reading, critical thinking, and oral expression.

1. Students apply basic skills in expository writing.
2. Students demonstrate critical thinking through written and oral expression.
3. Students retrieve and use written information analytically and effectively.

As a third writing course, Economic 508 will develop students' skills in the written articulation of ideas as well as the students' critical and analytical abilities in reading demanding texts and synthesizing ideas through regular written homework assignments, exams and a research paper.

Readings

The readings consist of three books available from campus-area bookstores as well as a course packet available at UniPrint.

1. Book: F.A. Hayek. The Road to Serfdom (University of Chicago Press, any edition).
2. Book: Yegor Gaidar. Collapse of an Empire: Lessons for Modern Russia (Brookings Press).
3. Book: Barry Naughton. The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth (MIT press)
4. Course packet: available at UniPrint.

Assignments

Homework.....30%

There are 15 homework assignments, each worth a maximum of two points.

Final Exam.....30%

Final Paper and Presentation.....40%

Please note:

Failure to cite others' work according to the guidelines distributed in class will result in a 0 for the paper, report to the Committee on Academic Misconduct, and probably an E in the course.

All submissions will be run through the "Turnitin" software to check for gross similarities among assignments.

Your final paper is due when you begin your presentation. Papers will receive a 10 point deduction for each day they are turned in late.

Academic Misconduct

Academic Misconduct: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)

Disability Services: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Course Schedule and Assignments

- Class 1 **Introductory Class: selection of presentation times, meetings**
No assigned reading
- Class 2 **Video: Commanding Heights 1 (The Battle of Ideas)**
Course Packet: Popper (Ch. 4)
- Class 3 **Discussion of Popper, Hayek; Class on methods of research for final presentation**
Hayek: Introduction by Friedman & Introduction by Hayek (pp 3-27)
- Class 4 **Video: Commanding Heights 2 (The Agony of Reform)**
Course Packet: Hayek chapter; Hayek: Ch. 5
- Class 5 **Discussion of Hayek**
Hayek: Ch. 6, 13
- Class 6 **Video: Commanding Heights 3 (The New Rules of the Game)**
Gaidar: Introduction (ix-xviii) & The Yugoslav Tragedy (Ch. 1, pp 19-25)
Naughton, Ch 1-2
- Class 7 **Video: Behind Kremlin Walls**
Gaidar: Ch. 3 (pp 39-70); Recommended (*not required*) – Gaidar: Ch. 1, 2
Naughton, Ch 3-4
- Class 8 **Class on Comparison of the Economic Transition in China, India, and the Russian Federation**
Gaidar: Ch. 4 (pp 71-114)
Naughton, Ch 5-6
- Class 9 **Video: China 2 (The Mao Years)**
Gaidar: Ch. 5 (pp 115-161)
Naughton; Ch 7-8

- Class 10 **Discussion of China, Gaidar**
Gaidar: Ch. 6 (pp 162-200)
Naughton, Ch 8-10
- Class 11 **Video: China 3 (Deng and post-Deng era)**
Gaidar: Ch. 7 (pp 201-219)
Naughton, Ch. 11-12
- Class 12 **Discussion of China, Russia, India**
Gaidar: Ch. 8 (pp 220-249)
Naughton, Ch. 13-14

Gulati and Fan Parts I and II (in course packet)
- Class 13 **Video: Tycoon – A New Russian**
Gaidar: Afterword (pp 250-256); Course Packet: Klebnikov Introduction
Naughton, Ch. 15-16

Gulati and Fan Parts III and IV (in course packet)
- Class 14 **Discussion of Gaidar**
Course Packet: Arrow (Ch. 6) & Polterovich (Ch. 7)
- Class 15 **Discussion of Gaidar, Russian Transition**
Course Packet: Belousov, Taylor (Ch. 13) & Glinkina,et.al. (Ch. 15)
- Class 16 **Discussion of course materials, final presentations**
Course Packet: Grinberg (Ch. 20) & Classtinot, Usiyevich (Ch. 23) & Intriligator,et.al. (Ch. 26)
- Class 17 **Final paper presentations 1-8**
No assigned reading
- Class 18 **Final paper presentations 9-16**
No assigned reading
- Class 19 **Final paper presentations 17-25**
No assigned reading

FINAL EXAMINATION in XXXX Wednesday, 3:30-5:18

<http://www.ureg.ohio-state.edu/ourweb/scheduling/SchedulingContent/FinalsWI08.html>

FINAL EXAM COVERS ENTIRE COURSE INCLUDING READINGS, ANYTHING COVERED IN CLASS, AND ANYTHING PRESENTED IN TERM PAPERS.