

Economics 4530 – The Chinese Economy
Fall 2008

COURSE SYLLABUS

Lectures: TTH 1:30 – 3:00, Classroom: 121 Allen
Instructor: Bulent Unel, Office: 2134 Taylor
Office Hours: T-Th: 11:00am–12:30pm
E-mail: bunel@lsu.edu

Description: This course is intended to introduce students to the Chinese Economy. We basically review the history of the economy in China, study major governmental policies that have shaped the growth and development of the Chinese economy in the last three decades, and analyze China's role in the international trade and financial markets.

Course Material: The required textbook is *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*, by Barry Naughton (hereafter BN), *MIT Press*. I will closely follow this book and my lecture notes.

Another good reference for further study of topics treated in the course is *China's Economic Transformation*, by Gregory C. Chow, 2nd edition, Blackwell Publishing. I will also post several articles from technical and non-technical journals on the course site on Moodle. Readings from the course materials will be assigned as the course progresses.

Grading: Grades for this course are based on a term paper (25%), two midterms (Midterm-1: 20% and Midterm-2: 25%), and a final (30%).

Exams: The first midterm will be given on Thursday, September 25. The second midterm will be on Tuesday, October 28. The dates are tentative and depending on our pace, I may change them in future. There will be a comprehensive final at the end of the semester on Wednesday, December 8 (3:00-5:00pm).

DO NOT MISS THE MIDTERM. There will be **no makeup** for the midterm exams. If you miss a midterm and document your excuses, then its weight will be added to your final.

Paper: Each student will be required to write a 12-page paper on a topic of his/her interest. You should let me know the topic of your paper by November 1, and the due date of paper is December 4. This paper is designed to encourage students to improve their writing and to research more deeply on a topic of interest. This paper will be 30% of your overall grade and if you do not submit your paper, you will automatically **fail** the course.

The paper must be typed and you must email me an electronic copy (Word file, preferably). Use double-spacing, and make sure I can tell when paragraphs begin and end. With today's word

processors, there is no excuse for misspelled words or serious grammatical mistakes.

The report should be in your own words, although it is o.k. to use a **few** direct quotes, as long as they aren't very long, and the source and page number must be provided after the quote. Plagiarism is cheating and will not be tolerated. You should provide a list of references; if you get information from a web site, you should list the web site name and URL (i.e. the web address, <http://www>. etc) in the references. The Economics Dept. requires all written assignments be run through TURNITIN, a plagiarism checker program.

Attendance Policy: There is no attendance requirement *per se*. However, experience shows that it is extremely useful! You will find that consistent class attendance and participation will greatly increase your chances for success, as well as lightening your outside of class workload. Perhaps it is best to attend classes regularly. You will be responsible for material covered in class even if you miss class.

Course Outline: This outline represents the topics to be covered in class. Some items will receive more attention in the lectures than others but all topics will be covered in the exams. *Please note that this outline represents a basic course plan that may change as we go along.* You are responsible for finding out about these changes, though I will do my best to ensure that you learn about them.

1. *China Rises*, A Documentary by CBC Production [Week 1]
2. *The Chinese Economy before 1978*, Chapters 2 and 3 in BN [Week 2]
3. *Market Transitions: Strategy and Process*, Chapter 4 in BN [Week 3]
4. *Growth and Structural Change*, Chapter 6 in BN [Week 4]

Midterm-1 (September 25)

5. *Rural Industrialization: Township and Village Enterprises*, Chapter 12 in BN [Weeks 5]
6. *The Urban Economy*, Chapter 13 in BN [Week 6]
7. *International Trade*, Chapter 16 in BN and Materials will also be posted on Moodle [Week 7]
8. *Foreign Investment*, Chapter 17 in BN and Materials will also be posted on Moodle [Week 8]

Midterm-2 (October 28)

9. *Macroeconomic Trends and Cycles*, Chapter 18 in BN [Week 9]
10. *Financial System*, Chapter 19 in BN and Materials will also be posted on Moodle [Week 10]
11. *U.S.-China Economic Relations*, Materials will be posted on Moodle [Week 11]
12. *China's role in the World Economy*, Materials will be posted on Moodle [Weeks 12]