

Economics 194X: Contemporary Chinese Economy

Spring 2020

2157 Pearson Hall

9:00 – 10:50 AM; Thursday

Instructor

Dr. Wendong Zhang (张文栋)

Assistant Professor of Economics

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Student Hours for Dr. Zhang: Tuesday 9 - 10 am in 478C Heady

Purpose and Objectives of the Course:

The past few decades have seen China increasingly rising as a political as well as economic superpower. China is the second-largest economy in the world and is on course to become the largest one within a generation. No business or government can ignore China, nor should any future worker of the 21st century. Both the ongoing US-China trade war and the novel coronavirus pandemic reveal strong inter-dependence among firms, citizens and countries. Understanding China with its unique development path, political system, rapid transformation, and expanding presence worldwide would be critical for all of you, the next-generation job seekers.

By the end of the half-semester course, students are expected to be able to: 1) Describe in detail China's geographic setting, economic trends, and political system; 2) Understand the underlying logic of China's main economic reforms and its further developments in a global context; 3) Evaluate the successes and failures of China's economic reforms and transformation towards a more market-oriented economy; 4) Provide for a non-China watcher an overview of the most critical economic and political issues facing the current Chinese leadership; 5) Identify relevant contemporary issues in public media and the academia, dissect the opinions from facts, arguments from evidence, and critically assess the strength and weakness of the data, methods and arguments.

Course Format:

The class materials will be posted to the Canvas course website. Due to concerns over coronavirus, the classes after the 2020 spring break could likely be conducted online via WebEx or Zoom. I will post more information regarding the online access.

Textbook:

There is no required textbook for this class and all course materials will be posted on Canvas. For those who are interested, I encourage you to read the following textbooks for reference.

- *China's Economy: What Everyone Needs to Know*, by Arthur Kroeber, Oxford University Press, 2016. First Edition, <https://www.amazon.com/Chinas-Economy-Everyone-Needs-Know%C2%AE/dp/0190239034> (2nd Edition, June 2020)

- *The Chinese Economy: Adaptation and Growth*, by Barry Naughton, MIT Press, 2018. Second Edition, <https://www.amazon.com/Chinese-Economy-Adaptation-Growth-Press/dp/0262534797>

Supplemental Reading

- *The State Strikes Back: The End of Economic Reform in China?*, Nicolas Lardy, Columbia University Press, 2019, <https://cup.columbia.edu/book/the-state-strikes-back/9780881327373>
- *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*, Richard McGregor, Penguin Press, 2011, <https://www.amazon.com/Party-Secret-Chinas-Communist-Rulers/dp/0141975555>

Independent Work and Academic Dishonesty:

Unless otherwise noted, students are expected to work independently. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All applicable University policies with respect to academic integrity will be followed. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Student Services: <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

Evaluation:

Students will be assigned 1000 points based on the following components:

- **China Now Newspaper Article Review:** Critical reviews of three newspaper articles on Chinese economy are required for this course. Articles selected should be published after 2018 from *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *South China Morning Post*, and *The Financial Times*. These reviews should consist of three sections: the economic phenomenon/concepts analyzed in this article, a summary of the author's arguments and supporting evidence, plus your own analysis/opinions on the discussed economic issue (why or why not you agree with the author). **The due dates are April 2nd, April 16th, and April 30th.** The reviews should be typed in 12 point font, double-spaced and no longer than 2 pages, and uploaded in Canvas. This will consist of 300 points of your grade with 10 points for each review.

- **Movie/Documentary Review and an accompanying 5-minute Presentation:** Each Student will work with the instructor to identify a suitable documentary or movie related to Chinese economy, politics or culture, and write a 2-page summary and review of this documentary, focusing on not only its storyline, but also the facts it revealed about Chinese economy and society. Starting from the 3rd week of the class (the week of April 2nd), I will ask students to do a PechaKucha style presentation (10 slides or less * 30 seconds each) to talk about the documentary during the class break. The movie review is 100 points, and the PechaKucha presentation is worth 100 points.

- **Project presentation:** Students are expected to identify a topic as a research project by April 2nd, and prepare a 10-15 minute presentation on April 30th. Sample topics are provided at the end of the syllabus, and it is worth a total of 300 points. .

- **Class Attendance:** Students are expected to participate in the class discussions and attend lectures, especially after we transition to online instruction. These activities will be worth 20 points, and you are allowed one absence without excuses. Absences beyond one will lead to a deduction of 3 points for each absence.

Final Grade:

The following weights will be assigned to each component:

Class Participation	200
Project Presentation	300
Newspaper Article Review	300
Movie Review Write-Up	100
Movie PechaKucha Presentation	<u>100</u>
	1000

A letter grade will be assigned to each component. The distribution of scores for each grade will depend upon the range of the final cumulative scores as follows:

A: 930 – 1000	A-: 900 – 929	B+: 870 – 899	B: 830 – 869	B-: 800 – 829
C+: 770 – 799	C: 730 – 769	C-: 700 – 729	D+: 670 – 699	D: 630 – 669
D-: 600 – 629	F: 0 - 599			

Accessibility Statement

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

Late submissions & Make-ups

Unless with approved proofs AND consent of the instructor, this class does not allow or accept late submissions or make ups for all problem sets, project materials and/or exams.

Dead Week

This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the Faculty Handbook.

Harassment and Discrimination

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email eooffice@iastate.edu.

Academic Integrity

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Religious Accommodation

Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request the reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office at 515-294-1020 or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 515-294-7612.

Contact Information

If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.

ISU's Principles of Community

Students are responsible for living the tenets established in ISU's Principles of Community: Respect, Purpose, Cooperation, Richness of Diversity, Freedom from discrimination, and the Honest and respectful expression of ideas. Visit ISU's Principles of Community website (<http://www.diversity.iastate.edu/principles-of-community>).

Economics 194X Schedule – Spring 2020
2157 Pearson Hall Thursday 9-10:50AM

Date	Topic
March 12	Introduction, China's Economic Geography and Political System, and Its Relation to Its Coronavirus Response and Economic Growth
March 17	Spring break
March 19	Spring break
March 26	US-China Trade Relation, Made in China 2025 and Its Challenges to U.S. Business
April 2	China's Agricultural Reforms: Lessons and Challenges
April 9	China's Industrial Transformation and Urban Growth
April 16	China's State-Owned Enterprises and Its Superstar Firms in the Internet Age
April 23	China's Push for Overseas Investments, Belt and Road Initiative, and Predicting China's Growth
April 30	<i>Student Project Presentations (10-15 minutes each)</i>
May 5 – May 8	<i>NO Final Exam</i>

Sample Topics for Student Project Presentations:

1. Beijing's Air Quality Since 2008 Beijing Olympic Games
2. China's Exports After the 2001 WTO Accession and Its Impacts on the US
3. *Guanxi* and the Chinese Negotiation
4. Chinese Housing Market
5. Chinese Hukou System and One-Child Policy
6. Chinese Marriage Market
7. What the Modern Chinese Consumers Want?
8. China's Business Climate
9. A Uniquely Chinese Internet
10. China in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
11. Top Chinese Tourist Destinations and Cuisines
12. China's Left Behind Children
13. Chinese Students Studying Abroad
14. China's Migrant Workers
15. China's Billionaire Boom
16. Are US and China Destined for War?
17. XI Jinping and his Iowa Connections
18. Mobile Payments and Internet Businesses with Chinese Characteristics
19. Is Huawei a State-Owned Enterprise?
20. When China Will Become No.1 Economy?

Documentaries or Speeches about Chinese Economy and China

- Made by China in America (8 min) by Miao Wang, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giEIg8ZDM7Q>
- Chinese Migrant Workers
- China Mega Projects: Food, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmVNwilQJvc>
- China Mega Projects: Energy, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfG0USvDTew>
- China Mega Projects, Transportation, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYJ4-fTDy_E
- Martin Jacques, What China Will Be As A Great Power, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBjvklYLSHM>
- China's Mega Projects: the 24-Hour MegaCity, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaogIEKIdgY>
- China's Mega Projects: Manufacturing, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVaMUds5gw>
- Chinese Migrant Workers documentary, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6kLVNTDH0E>
- China's Left Behind Children, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yw4sODY_IWQ
- Shenzhen, the Silicon Valley of Hardware, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGJ5cZnoodY>
- A Billion Chinese Dreams: Finding Happiness in a Changing China, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Z0k_1VAXFA
- A Billion Chinese Dreams: The Rich-Poor Gap, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAN1FnyFgI>
- A Billion Chinese Dreams: Next Stage Economic Reform, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pm8py5H61PI>
- China: Rise of an Asian Giant, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIF-ujSeQho>
- How China is Changing Africa, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wj79k-CUZHu>
- China: Power and Prosperity (PBS Newshour): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JovtmKFxi3c>
- China's Unmarried "Leftover" Women, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBMcoJW092Y>
- China's College Entrance Exam Preparation, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9RWgVbvklA>
- The China Complex, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCwibvji0jE>
- The Incredible Rise of China (BBC), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kycScj7D_BY
- One Child Nation, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZb7C6QRN_A
- The End of China's Economic Miracle? (Panel Discussion), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-P6UIXyz-c>
- Yukon Huang, Debunking Myths about China's Economy, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XepCiOI_g6I
- Scott Kennedy, China's Power – Up for Debate, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkztE5NhLSs>
- Scott Kennedy, Huawei's Role in the Global Tech Sector, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMRwcWRk_50
- Google vs. China, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3dE_LDz_9E
- Mobile Payments: China Leads the Way, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7_FVBunlQQ
- China's Rise, Three Key Things, TED Talk, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKNzht-JOXE>
- Too Big for China: Startups, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uOc6rXLJSs>
- The New Silk Road, Part 1, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUxw9Re-Z-E>, Part 2, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyeBxcvUJIU>
- Chinese New Year: the Largest Party in the World, Part 1, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIn2Glvd6fU>, Part 2, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7B4f-GQljA>, Part 3, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxAKqwhGKiI>
- For Chinese Food, Search "A Bite of China" in YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AizamOIZijs&list=PLEmk2mJtZJ7FIVlrali2t9xhqYVkiWqU>
- For an online lifestyle star, search "Liziqi" on Youtube, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoC47do520os_4DBMEFGg4A