

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Shanghai

Course Code / Title: (SH/DEVS 333) Political Economy of Development: China and the World

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Development Studies / Political Science, Economics, International Relations, East Asian Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

Development is one of the most important topics of our time. During the last four decades, China has transformed from a centrally-planned economy to one that is more market-based. In the process, it has achieved an historically unprecedented duration of sustained economic growth and lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. China's experience challenges the established theories of economic development in several ways. Its success is often oversimplified as due to strong leadership atop a highly centralized and interventionist state. This course tackles the big questions and theories in development using China as a case study.

Objectives

In this course, students:

- build a nuanced understanding of the multiple factors that have driven Chinese economic development.
- analyze the theories and rationale for economic growth policies by comparing China's experience to those of other developing countries.
- conduct research in a Chinese environment and present findings to peers.
- examine development theory and practices and critically apply them to developing states.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, which will follow a seminar format. It is essential to complete all assigned reading materials before each class to enable active participation in class discussion. Required readings are 50-80 pages weekly. Graded assignments include:

- Two response papers that briefly summarize an assigned reading, discuss how ideas in the text relate to other readings and class discussions, and evaluate how the selected text tries to convince the reader and whether it is effective.
- A midterm paper on an assigned topic. Students answer the assigned question using course materials and their own analysis. Paper are graded on the skill demonstrated in developing an argument and using evidence to support the paper's stance.
- A final project of 3,000-3,500 words if written individually or 5,000-6,000 words if written as a team. The development space is filled with great ideas and innovative solutions, from

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technological interventions to new policy initiatives. The project consists of a proposal for a development intervention of the student's choice (i.e., a draft policy plan for job creation; a proposal for reducing inequality in a country; a draft business plan for a business targeting the poor community; or a project for implementing sanitation in rural areas), as if it were to be presented to a government or funding organization for actual implementation. The project consists of a class presentation with an outline and a final paper.

Grading

The final grade is assessed as follows:

- Response papers: 20% (2 at 10% each)
- Midterm paper: 30%
- In-class preparation and discussion: 10%
- Final paper and presentation project: 40%

Readings

Ang, Yuen Yuen. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2016.

Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. "Think Again, Again: Trapped in Poverty." In *Poor Economics: A Radical Way of Rethinking the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2012.

Boltho, Andrea and Maria Weber. "Did China Follow the East Asian Development Model?" In *State Capitalism, Institutional Adaptation, and the Chinese Miracle*, edited by Barry Naughton and Kellee Tsai, 240-264. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Brandt, Loren, Debin Ma, and Thomas G. Rawski. "From Divergence to Convergence: Reevaluating the History Behind China's Economic Boom." *Journal of Economic Literature* 52, no. 1 (2014): 45-123.

Brautigam, Deborah. "Aid 'with Chinese Characteristics': Chinese Foreign Aid and Development Finance Meet the OECD-DAC Aid Regime." *Journal of International Development* 23 (2011): 752-764.

_____. *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Collier, Paul. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Falling and What Can Be Done about It*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Dollar, David. "China's Rise as a Regional and Global Power: The AIIB and "One Belt, One Road." *Horizons* 4 (Summer 2015): 162-172.

Edwards, Steven. "Economic Development and the Effectiveness of Foreign Aid: A Historical Perspective." *Kyklos* 68, no. 3 (2015): 277-316.

Heilman, Sebastian. "Policy Experimentation in China's Economic Rise." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 43, no. 1 (Jan. 2007): 1-26.

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- Jenkins, Rhys. "China's Global Expansion and Latin America." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 42, no. 4 (Nov. 2010): 809-837.
- Kaplan, Stephen. "Banking Unconditionally: The Political Economy of Chinese Finance in Latin America." *Review of International Political Economy* 23, no. 4 (2016): 643-676.
- Lin, Justin Yifu. "A Framework for Rethinking Development." In *The Quest for Prosperity: How Developing Economies Can Take Off*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012.
- Morgan, Pippa and Yu Zheng. "Old Bottle New Wine? The Evolution of China's Aid in Africa, 1956-2014." *Third World Quarterly* (March 2019).
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2019.1573140>.
- Naughton, Barry. "Is China Socialist?" *Journal of Economic Perspective* 31, no. 1 (Winter 2017): 3-24.
- _____. "Chapters 16-17." In *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007.
- Radelet, Steven. "A Primer on Foreign Aid." *Center for Global Development Working Paper* 92. (July 2006).
- Ranis, Gustav. "The Evolution of Development Thinking: Theory and Policy." *Economic Growth Center Discussion Paper No. 886*, Yale University, May 2004.
- Sen, Amartya. "The Concept of Development." In *Handbook of Development Economics, Volume 1*, edited by H. Chenery and T.N. Srinivasan, 9-26. Elsevier Science Publishers, 1988.
- Sun, Irene Yuan, Kartik Jayaram, and Omid Kassiri. *Dance of the Lions and Dragons: How Are Africa and China Engaging, and How Will the Partnership Evolve?* McKinsey & Company (June 2017).
- Vogel, Erza. "The Deng Era, 1978-1989." In *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2011.
- Wade, Robert. "The Developmental State: Dead or Alive?" *Development and Change* 49, no. 2 (Mar. 2018): 518-546.
- Williamson, Jeffrey. *Trade and Poverty: When the Third World Fell Behind*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2011.
- World Bank. Belt and Road Initiative Brief. March 2018.
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/regional-integration/brief/belt-and-road-initiative>.
- World Bank. *The East Asian Miracle: Economic Growth and Public Policy*. Report Number 12351. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/975081468244550798/Main-report>

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Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Introduction to issues in globalization and development

Topic 2: Different perspectives and approaches to development theory and practice

Topic 3: The Asian miracle

Topic 4: China's historical experience of development

Topic 5: The global poverty trap

Topic 6: Poverty reduction in China

Topic 7: Chinese economic development (1978-2000)

Topic 8: Chinese economic development (2000-2018)

Topic 9: Comparing development in China and Latin America

Topic 10: Comparing development in China and Africa

Topic 11: Foreign aid; Traditional donors in comparison to China's foreign aid policies

Topic 12: China and the Global South in international organizations