COURSE OUTLINE: Fall 2018  
ECON 336: The Chinese Economy  
Prof. Chris Green

Course Prerequisite: Economics 208 and 209 (or equivalent), or ECON 230D or ECON 250D

Course Objective: The course surveys the contemporary Chinese Economy, how it has evolved to its present state, the implications, domestic and foreign, of its economic growth, and directions and prospects for the future.

Course Marks: Each students must EITHER write a research paper (10 pages maximum, not including references, tables or figures) on an approved subject of her/his choice (40% of course marks) OR if s/he wishes take a mid-term exam (worth 33.3% of course marks). The paper is due NO LATER than Friday Nov. 9, 2018 at 12:00 noon; the mid-term exam is scheduled for Thursday October 11, 2018 . (The exam will cover parts A, B, and C in the course outline, and will be essay in nature requiring clear, on-point, knowledgeable and concise answers.) Any student may show up for the mid-term exam but once s/he decides to submit the exam for grading is not eligible to submit a term paper. Students who decide not to take (and submit for grading) the exam on October 11 MUST undertake the research paper. There will be no make-up exam for those who do not take the exam on October 11. Also, late research papers receive a zero. There is a comprehensive final examination in the December examination period (60% of course marks for those who undertook the research paper; 66.7% for those who wrote the mid-term exam)

Course Outline and Reading List (Syllabus); It is available on course website through My Courses. All readings with an asterisk (*) are required readings.

There is a course pack (required readings) on sale at the McGill Bookstore. In addition, some (optional) readings are in two books: (1) Barry Naughton, The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth, also online Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2007 (Naughton in Reading List,) and (2) Loren Brandt and Thomas Rawski (eds.), China’s Great Economic Transformation, also online, Cambridge University Press, 2008 (B&R in reading list). Each of these books is available as an e-book. Another interesting book is, Justin Yifu Lin, Demystifying the Chinese Economy, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Office: 534 Leacock; Office Hours: T: 2:30-3:30; Th 1:30- 2:30.

McGill University values Academic Integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Student Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

University Examination Regulations

A. INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

*Naughton*, Ch 1 [in course pack (CP) pp 9-15]


*Lin*, Ch 2.[CP: 16-31]


B. ECONOMIC REFORM COMES TO CHINA

*Naughton*, Ch. 4 [CP:73-99]; *Lin* Ch 5. [CP:100-109]
C. ECONOMIC GROWTH: Sources, Demographics and Income/Wealth Distributions

1. Sources:


2. Demographics and Income/Wealth Distributions


D. CHINA’S OPENING UP: Developments and Consequences, Imbalances, Controversies and Initiatives

1. Developments and Consequences:


2. Imbalances:


3. Controversies and Initiatives


E. PUBLIC FINANCE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

   [Naughton, Ch 18, 19 are optional]


   * Chang, J., L. Yang, Y. Huang (2013),“How Big is the Chinese Government Debt?”, China Econ. Journal, v. 6:152-171 [In CP: 304-313]


F. ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY, AND RESOURCE ISSUES

**Naughton, Ch. 20**


G CHINA: PROSPECTS and DIRECTIONS


Perkins and Rawski in B&R, Ch 20, pp.858-876.


RESEARCH PAPER

Students may choose any well-defined, tightly focused topic for their research paper. The paper is limited to 10 (double-spaced) pages (maximum) not including references; endnotes, if any; tables; diagrams; charts; etc). The paper must be paginated, reflect research in depth, be well-written, include adequate citations, and a list of references in an acceptable form. Papers are due Friday Nov. 9, 2018 at 12:00 noon. Late papers are NOT accepted, and receive a grade of zero.

It is highly recommended that students seek feedback on their term paper topic and bibliography, preferably before Friday October 19, 2018 and no later than Friday October 26. Students should submit a BOTH (i) one page proposal indicating what topic you have chosen, why chosen, and how you plan to approach it, AND (ii) list of the sources to be consulted (books, articles in scholarly journals, web resources, etc) in appropriate reference form). NB. The most important sources for almost all topics will be articles in scholarly journals. Your reference list should include at least several of these---and where applicable come from relatively recent issues of the journals. The research paper proposals will be returned with comments. It is highly advisable that you seek feedback on your term paper topic and bibliography earlier rather than later! The paper is not easy to write. Feedback can help prevent submission of poor papers. A poor paper will receive a failing grade!!!