Fudan Economics Course—Historical, Global, and Environmental

Perspectives on Chinese Economic Development

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This course offers a series of different perspectives on Chinese economic development that are intended to expand the contexts within which economics typically considers development issues. Of the six double-class periods, the first two address ideologies and institutions of political economy before 1949. The third session examines the crucial role of fossil fuels to both economic development and environmental change. The fourth and fifth sessions consider the institutions governing natural resource use, focusing on water governance in China and elsewhere. The final session reviews different ways economy and environment are jointly addressed in discussions of sustainable development. Together, the six sessions aim to give students a fresh mix of complementary perspectives from which to view China’s contemporary economic challenges. In addition to attending lectures and preparing the readings, students will write two essays, one concerning the first half of the course (750-1,000 words) and the second addressing the second half of the course (1,500-2,000 words). The short essay will count 1/3 of the final grade; the longer essay 2/3 of the final grade.

1. Chinese ideologies and institutions of political economy before the 20th century
2. Classical era ideologies

Readings: Loubna El Amine, *Classical Confucian Political Thought*, selections

1. Late imperial institutions

Readings: Li Cho-ying, “Beneficiary Pays;” He Wenkai, “Public Interest and the Financing of Local Water Control in Qing China 1750-1850.”

1. The shifting place of popular welfare in the pursuit of power and wealth
2. Popular welfare in the pursuit of power and wealth

Readings: A. James Gregor, “Confucianism and the Political Thought of Sun Yat-Sen;” Michael R Godley, “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics--Sun Yatsen and the international development of China.”

1. The legacy of war for Chinese political economy

Readings: Chi-ming Hou, “Wartime public finance and economy”

1. Economic Development, Fossil Fuels, and the Environment
2. Anthropocene and how to conceptualize economy-environment relationships

Reading: Steffen, Crutzen and McNeill, “The Anthropocene: Are Humans Now Overwhelming the Great Forces of Nature?” Wrigley, “Energy and the English Industrial Revolution”

1. Asian patterns of economic growth in global perspective

Reading Sugihara CWH v. 7 “Global industrialization: a multipolar perspective”

1. Resources and economic development: markets, state, community institutions--examples from water governance
2. Water governance institutional choices. Then water with energy and energy used in industry, agriculture, and human consumption, esp. urban infrastructure

Readings: Barton Thompson, “Water as a Public Commodity.”

1. Chinese case

Readings: Dajun Shen and Philip Andrews-Speed, “Water Resources Allocation in the People’s Republic of China;” Qiu, Li, Li, Zhang and Yang, “Water and Energy Nexus in China.”

1. Property Rights Regimes: China in Global Perspective

Readings: Cole & Ostrom, “The Variety of Property Systems and Rights in Natural Resources;” Lange, “An Eco-Socio-Legal Perspective on Property Rights in Natural Resources--the case of water.”

1. Sustainable Development: Global Issues and Chinese Leadership Possibilities

Reading: “China: Systematic Country Diagnostic” World Bank Report No. 113092-CN