

Course Form for PKU Summer School International 2026

Course Title	Title in English: Introduction to Chinese Economy
	Title in Chinese: 中国经济导论
Teacher	Xi Ji
First day of classes	July 6, 2026
Last day of classes	July 17, 2026
Course Credit	3
Course Description	
Objective:	
<p>China's fast economic growth has generated great interest among media, scholars and ordinary people around the world. The aim of this course is to provide students with an overview of the Chinese economy and a detailed understanding of China's economic transition. The topics covered in this course include an introduction of the Chinese economic history, the urban-rural divide, the rural economy and urban economy, patterns of growth and development, demographic transition, population policy and the related labor market issues, poverty and inequality, sustainability, etc. Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be familiar with China's economic history, its current economic reforms, and the challenges that the country faces in the future.</p>	
Pre-requisites /Target audience	
<p>A university-level introductory course in Economics (e.g. Principles of Economics).</p>	
Proceeding of the Course	
<p>The course will be delivered through a mix of lectures, student presentations, debates and field trips. Students' participation is strongly encouraged. Specifically, students are expected to discuss the assigned reading materials and current events in class.</p>	
Assignments (paper or other forms)	
<p>Reading assignment will be given before each lecture, and students will be requested to write a term paper on a topic related to the Chinese economy.</p>	
Evaluation Details	

Class Attendance: 25%
Midterm Presentation: 15%
Debate & Class Pre: 20%
Field Trip: 10%
Final Term Paper: 30%

Note:

Class Attendance:

A basic requirement of this course is to attend the lectures on time. Absence without prior notice is allowed only in case of sickness. In such a case, however, a written explanation (with your signature) should be submitted afterwards. If you have no choice but to miss a lecture out of some reason, a written application is required before the lecture. Absence without notice for reasons other than sickness will result in a reduction of your attendance by 10% for each offence (out of ten lectures).

Final Term Paper:

The expected length of the Final Term paper is 3,000 to 5,000 words. Your essay will be graded by the following criteria:

- a) Relevance and originality of the topic (10%)
- b) Soundness of theoretical and (or) empirical evidence (15%)
- c) Thoroughness of reasoning and analysis (15%)
- d) Organization and format, including referencing & bibliography (10%)
- e) Writing and presentation skills (10%)

Text Books and Reading Materials

Naughton, Barry, 2018, *The Chinese Economy: Adaptation and Growth* / Barry Naughton., 2nd edition, MIT Press, Cambridge.
Arthur R. Kroeber, 2016, *China's Economy-what everyone needs to know*. Oxford University Press.
Qian, Yingyi, 2017. *How Reform Worked in China*, MIT Press.
Wu, Jinglian, 2005, *Understanding and Interpreting Chinese Economic Reform*, Thomson South-Western, Singapore.
Chow, Gregory C., 2007, *China's Economic Transformation*, 2nd edition, Blackwell Publishing, Oxford.

Academic Integrity (If necessary)

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited in this course. Plagiarism is defined as presenting others' work as one's own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge. Any evidence of plagiarism will lead to zero credit to your work submitted and will be reported to university authorities.

CLASS SCHEDULE (Subject to adjustment)	
Session 1: An overview of Chinese economy	Date: July 6
【Description of the Session】 In this session, the lecture will give the students an overview of the Chinese economy, mainly of its natural resources and its legacies, covering the geographical information and comparison between China and America and etc. 课堂 reading 教材的 2 the geographic setting	
Group discussion on Documentary: The Road to Revival	
Session 2: The history of Chinese economy	Date: July 7
【Description of the Session】 This lecture will mainly summarize the development history of the Chinese economy before 1949. 课堂 reading 教材的 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	
Group discussion on Documentary: The Road to Revival	
Session 3: Market transition-strategy and process	Date: July 8
【Description of the Session】 This lecture will mainly cover China's market transition from socialist economy.	
【Field Trip】 Visiting well-known Chinese companies	
Session 4: The urban-rural divide and land-use policy	Date: July 9
【Description of the Session】 The difference between urban and rural society is especially pronounced in China. In China, urban and rural areas often seem like two different worlds, running on different technologies, organized in different ways, and having a different standard of living. While some urban-rural gap is inevitable in a developing economy, the urban-rural gap in China is unusually large. Extensive administrative barriers were set in place during the 1950s as part of the command economy. For 60 years, urban and rural areas have had different governance structures and different systems of property rights.	
【Literature sharing and discussion】 Topic: The urbanization.	

Session 5: Demographic transition	Date: July 10
【Description of the Session】 <p>The demographic transition in China is an un-normal process. It is the results of socioeconomic development and implementation of a rigid family-planning program, which have made the transition not only the world's largest, but also the world's fastest.</p>	
【Debate】 <p>Topic: Birth control policy in China / Your opinions on the birth control policies in China: Pros and cons.</p> <p>The whole class will be divided into two groups, each selecting 5-6 representatives. Each group is expected to give a presentation on a self-chosen side of whether you support or oppose the birth control policies in China. Each side's presentation will be given an equal amount of time.</p>	
Session 6: The efforts and achievements in alleviating the division as well as the challenges facing the Chinese government	Date: July 13
【Midterm presentation】 <p>Students are expected to demonstrate the efforts and achievements in alleviating the division as well as the challenges facing the Chinese government. Students are supposed to be divided in to 10 groups. Each group will be given 10-15 minutes to present.</p> <p>The midterm presentations will be graded upon the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Relevance of the topic (20%) b) Structure (20%) c) Evidence (20%) d) Insight (30%) e) Performance of presenters (10%) 	
Session 7: Economic growth and poverty-alleviation	Date: July 14
【Description of the Session】 <p>This session begins with a brief characterization of China's long-run growth experience, followed by a short discussion of the data on which it is based. Moreover, it will cover the topics of "China's Targeted measures lift people out of poverty".</p> <p>Documentary: The Road to Revival</p>	
Session 8: Emerging economy	Date: July 15
【Description of the Session】 <p>The challenges of water availability, soil pollution, resilience of the natural environment, and atmospheric degradation and climate change are among the most serious that China confronts. Few natural landscapes remain in the PRC because culturally the</p>	

emphasis is on managed and reshaped landscapes and the control of ecological processes. There is still an opportunity for improved environmental policy-making to make a significant difference before further environmental catastrophes develop.

【Field Trip】

A visit to Hanwang Technology Co., Ltd

Session 9: Climate change and sustainability: Transformation from industrialization to ecological civilization

Date: July 16

【Debate】

Topic: Should Ecological Governance Be Guided by the Government or Determined by the Market?

The whole class will be divided into two groups, each selecting 5-6 representatives (hopefully different from previous debate). Each group is expected to give a presentation on a self-chosen side of whether the government or the market should dominate the environmental governance. Each side's presentation will be given an equal amount of time.

Session 10: Concluding remarks and outlook

Date: July 17

【Description of the Session】

In this lesson, we will summarize what has been learned in this course and form an overall understanding of the Chinese economy.

【Free discussion】