

The Meteoric Ascent of China's Economy: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

Honors 491 (Writing Intensive)
UH-Manoa, Spring 2005, Wednesday 1:30-4:30 pm
Professor Sumner La Croix, UHM Economics, Saunders 515A
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Tentative Syllabus: Subject to Revision!!

Since its initiation of economic reforms in 1979, China's economic growth has been exceptional (Table 1). The average annual income of a Chinese citizen was just US\$717 in 1980 and grew by 660% to US\$4,726 in 2003. As China's 1.3 billion people become integrated into the world economy; as China competes for natural resources; as its military power increases; and as knowledge of the Chinese language becomes a more critical skill; the implications for China and the rest of the world are likely to be enormous and far from fully predictable. This seminar brings together materials from a variety of disciplines to gain perspective on China's meteoric ascent and to understand the future implications of this ascent for the Chinese people and for citizens of other countries.

Seminar. It is expected that students will attend all classes; complete assigned readings prior to each class; and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class. The instructor will sometimes present a short (15-20 minute) lecture on the day's topic, but the majority of the class time will be spent discussing the day's topic and assigned readings. At the previous seminar meeting, the instructor will ask one student to prepare a 15-minute presentation on one of the assigned readings and will ask two students to prepare 5-minute presentations on more specific questions and topics. In the last two seminar meetings, students will make a brief presentation of their term papers.

Attendance. You are expected to attend all classes. Please consult with the instructor at the start of the semester if there are specific sessions that you cannot attend. Two unexcused absences result in a reduction in grade by one level, e.g. A to A-. Each additional unexcused class reduces the grade by one more level.

Texts. Selected articles; you can download 75-90 percent of them as pdf files from the UH-Manoa library website.

Bruce Gilley, *China's Democratic Future : How It Will Happen and Where It Will Lead*. Columbia University Press, 2005, paperback.

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*. Norton, 2001, paperback.
(Hint: buy this book in December 2005 and read as much of it as you can over the semester break!!)

Grading. Participation in seminar discussions: 20%
Two major and several minor presentations: 20%
Three short papers edited into term paper: 60%

Term Paper. Each student is required to submit—via e-mail—a one-page proposal for a term paper by 12 noon on Monday, January 30, 2005. The term paper is expected to comprise 17-20 pages of text (not including references, tables, figures), double-spaced, 12-point type. The paper must include a literature review and must undertake original research. Students have broad latitude on the choice of topic as long as it is related to the topic of the course: the rise of China. The topic must be approved by the instructor. A 6-8 page essay elaborating research questions and literature review is due on February 22. Each student is required to meet with the instructor to review comments on the essay. A second essay is due on March 17 and a third essay on April 10. The term paper—developed from the three earlier essays—is due on April 26.

Office Hours. Tuesday, time tba. Wednesday, time tba. And by appointment. All office hours are held in Saunders 515A.

Tentative schedule of topics and readings (subject to change).

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| January 11 | Review of class requirements.
Overview of China's rise and its domestic and foreign implications.

Past meteoric rises ... where are they now?
Netherlands, Great Britain, Argentina, Australia, Japan,
USSR, and the United States. |
| January 18 | The rise and fall of China's economy and state during the Ching Dynasty.
Reading: Spence. |
| January 25 | Turmoil: From the Republic to the Great Leap Forward.
Reading: Spence. |
| January 30 | (No class). One-page term paper proposal due. Submit via e-mail. |
| February 1 | Socialist planned economy, the Cultural Revolution, the totalitarian state.
Reading: Spence. |
| February 8 | Deng Xiao Peng's economic reforms.
Reading: La Croix, Woo, and Mark. |
| February 15 | State-owned enterprises, private property, and World Trade Organization.
Reading: TBA.

Globalization and China's Economy
Reading: TBA. |

- February 22 China's trade and its impact on other economies.
Reading: Edmonds, La Croix, Li, and Pennaz.
- Foreign direct investment: Backlash within China?
Reading: TBA.
- First essay due—submit wordfile via e-mail.
- March 1 Economic Growth and Democracy.
Reading: Gilley.
- March 8 Political Change: Different Scenarios.
Reading: Gilley.
- March 15 China's Rising Military Power: Implications for the Region
Reading: TBA.
- March 17 (No class.) Second essay due—submit wordfile via e-mail.
- March 22 Demographic change and economic and political implications.
Reading: TBA.
- March 29 Spring Break! No Class! Enjoy!
- April 5 Competition for natural resources and the price of oil.
Reading: TBA.
- April 10 (No class.) Third essay due—submit wordfile via e-mail.
- April 12 Language, culture, and growth.
Reading: TBA.
- Educating 1.3 billion people.
Reading: TBA.
- April 19 Growth and the Environment
Reading: TBA.
- April 26 Student Presentations (attendance mandatory).
Term Paper Due. Submit via e-mail and bring print-out to class.
- May 3 Student Presentations (attendance mandatory).

Good Luck!!