

Tentative Syllabus
IR 280 Political Economy of China

March 11, 2015

Office Hours:

My office is *Harkness 109D* (Wallis Institute of Political Economy). My office hours are *Monday 4:00pm-6:00pm* or other time by appointment. I will be delighted to discuss any issues or questions that arise from lectures, precept, or the readings; to discuss potential ideas or challenges that you may have with your written work; or, just to have a conversation about political economy, political science or economics.

If you are unable to see me during my office hours and would like to schedule an appointment, please send me an *email (gdongchen@gmail.com)* in which you propose three different times that you can meet during the week. I will respond with the preferred time. Please make every effort to attend office hours, and only schedule an appointment, separately, if your timetable will not allow you to attend the Thursday slot.

It is important that you do not wait until the last minute to contact me with urgent questions or problems.

Assessment:

Midterm Exam — 20% of the grade. The midterm is scheduled for Tee0r s

Course Materials

We will extensively use and read several academic research papers or parts of books. Some items are posted on Blackboard under Course Materials. The Blackboard web site of the course is available only to students registered for the course.

Strategies for Effective Reading

Whenever you read any scholarly work in social science, you should ask the following questions:

- (1) What thesis does the author advance?
- (2) Does the author provide a clear definition of key terms, and is this definition applied consistently throughout the argument?
- (3) What assumptions are required for the author's inference to be successful? Does the author make explicit note of these assumptions and discuss their appropriateness in the given context?
- (4) Does the author bring empirical evidence to bear on her argument? Is this evidence appropriate for the given theoretical argument?

When reading more technical material, you do not need to absorb every detail of any game-theoretic or econometric models that you encounter. Nonetheless, I strongly recommend that you do your best to follow the broad argument; I will always be on hand in office hours to fill in the gaps.

Tentative Course Outline

We do not intend to provide a comprehensive list of all the important academic papers about China's political economy. Instead, the following papers/books are selected for the purpose of facilitating the lectures of the course.

1. Introduction: A Brief History of Market Transition (1978-1998)

Barry Naughton (2007)* Chapter 4

Yingyi Qian (2000) "The Process of China's Market Transition (1978-1998): The Evolutionary, Historical, and Comparative Perspectives."

University of Rochester

Persson, Petra and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, "The Limits of Career Concerns in Federalism: Evidence from China." working paper

Lv, Xiaobo and Pierre Landry, Show Me the Money: Interjurisdiction Political Competition and Fiscal Extraction in China." *American Political Science Review*, 108(3): 706 - 722.

Kung, James Kai-sing, and Shuo Chen. "The tragedy of the Nomenklatura: Career incentives and political radicalism during China's great leap famine." *American Political Science Review* 105.01 (2011): 27-45.

4. Economic Structure, Investment and Macro-economy

(Feb 17, 19,24)

Loren Brandt, Chang-Tai Hsieh and Xiaodong Zhu, 2008 * "[Growth and Structural Transformation in China](#)," in Loren Brandt and Thomas Rawski ed. *China's Great Economic Transformation*, pp. 569-632, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

March 3 **Review and preparation for Midterm**
March 5 **Midterm**

6. Under the Dome: Discussion of Chai's Video and Environmental Protection
(March 17, 19)

University of Rochester
Jidong Chen

Spring 2015

Bai, Chong-En, Qi Li, and Min Ouyang. "Property taxes and home prices: A tale of two cities." *Journal of Econometrics* 180.1 (2014): 1-15.

8. China' investment in Africa
(March 26)

9. Return to Education, Income Inequality, Redistribution and Public Opinion
(March 31)

Xing, Chunbing, and Shi Li. "Residual wage inequality in urban China, 1995–

Meng, Xin, Nancy Qian, and Pierre Yared. "The Institutional Causes of Famine in China, 1959-61." *NBER Working Paper* 16361 (2014).

11. Social Mobility and Civil Service Exam System

(April 7)

Jia, Ruixue, and Ying Bai, "Elite Recruitment and Political Stability: The Impact of the Abolition of China's Civil Service Exam System." working paper

Jia, Ruixue, and Xiaohuan Lan, "Capitalism for the Children: Entrepreneurs with Cadre Parents Under Big Government." working paper

12. Anti Corruption and Some Development Economics

(April 9)

Gerard Roland, 2013, * Development Economics

13. Business and Politics

(April 14)

Li, Hongbin, Lingsheng Meng, Qian Wang and Li-an Zhou, "Political Connections, Financing and Firm Performance: Evidence from Chinese Private Entrepreneurs," *Journal of Development Economics* 87, 2008, pp. 283-299.

Truex, Rory. "The returns to office in a "Rubber Stamp" parliament." *American Political Science Review* (2013): 1-17.

14. Media Openness and Information Manipulation

(April 16)

Shirk, Susan L., ed. *Changing media, changing China*. Oxford University Press, 2010.

King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. "How censorship in China allows government criticism but silences collective expression." *American Political Science Review* 107.02 (2013): 326-343.

