



# China's Economic Environment

ECON 301 / HIST 303

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

China's Economic Environment (ECON 301 / HIST 303) offers a general history of China's economic performance from the earliest records of Chinese civilization to 1949, with a discussion of post 1949 developments in the final two weeks of class. ECON 301 / HIST 303 is introductory, has no prerequisites, and assumes no prior knowledge of China or its language. The organization of the course is basically chronological, but within that framework we will be approaching China from the viewpoint of the relationship between the economy and history.

The course has two basic goals: (1) to present a basic introduction of the traditions and legacies of the history of China's economic performance; and (2) to use the specific study of China as a means for developing more general skills in the discipline of historical and economic analysis.

## **GRADING**

Any student who misses more than 1/3 of all classes will fail. Failure to complete any of these requirements will result in automatic failure for the course.

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| ● Final Exam                           | 50% |
| ● Writing Assignments on the Readings  | 30% |
| ● Classroom Participation and Readings | 20% |

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND FURTHER READINGS**

- The Open Empire: A History of China to 1600; Hansen, Valerie; (Norton, 2000)
- The Search for Modern China; Spence, Jonathan D.; (New York: W.W. Norton, 1999)
- The Cambridge History of Ancient China: From the Origins of Civilization to 221.B.C.
- The Cambridge History of China, Vol.01: The Ch'in and Han Empires, 221 B.C. - A.D. 220
- The Cambridge History of China, Vol.05, The Sung Dynasty and Its Precursors, 907-1279
- The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 07-8, The Ming Dynasty 1368-1644
- The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 9, The Ch'ing Empire to 1800
- The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 10-11: Late Ch'ing, 1800-1911
- The Pattern of the Chinese Past; Elvin, Mark; California: Stanford University Press, 1973
- From Divergence to Convergence: Reevaluating the History Behind China's Economic Boom; Brandt, Loren, Ma, Debin and Rawski, Thomas G.; Journal of Economic Literature, 2014



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## ECON 301 / HIST 303

### SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

#### **Week 1: Course introduction: Discipline of Chinese Economic History**

- The Open Empire

#### **Week 2: The Neolithic Revolution and The Beginning of Chinese Economic History**

- The Open Empire

#### **Week 3: The Agricultural Revolution and Creation of China's Empire**

- The Cambridge History of Ancient China

#### **Week 4: Movie Watching & Discussion**

- The Search for Modern China

#### **Week 5: China's Golden Age**

- The Search for Modern China

#### **Week 6: The First Commercial Revolution**

- The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 01

#### **Week 7: The Economic Performance in Late Imperial China and the Great Divergence (1)**

- The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 05

#### **Week 8: The Economic Performance in Late Imperial China and Great Divergence (2)**

- The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 07-8

#### **Week 9: Review**

#### **Week 10: The Economic Growth from 1840 to 1949: From divergence to Convergence (1)**

- From Divergence to Convergence
- The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 10-11

#### **Week 11: The Economic Growth from 1840 to 1949: From Divergence to Convergence (2)**

- From Divergence to Convergence
- The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 10-11

#### **Week 12: Movie Watching & Discussion**

- The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 9

#### **Week 13: Economic Reforms of Deng Xiaoping**

- The Search for Modern China

#### **Week 14: China's Economic Performance Since Entering the WTO**

#### **Week 15: Final Exam**