



**Econ2128A 570
Economics of China
Fall 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Jason Dean
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Course Information

Mode of Instruction:

Calendar Description:

This course examines economic development of the People's Republic of China since 1949. It analyses China's economic successes and failures during the Maoist era and the reform period. Topics include state versus private ownership, foreign trade and investment in China, rural and urban reforms, inequality and poverty, and human development.

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B, or Economics 2001A/B, or with permission from the Department.

Anti-requisite(s): Economics 3311F/G and Economics 2174F/G, if taken in 2021-22 or 2022-23.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: CATEGORY A

Subject Code: ECONOMIC

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

COURSE SYLLABUS

ECO2128A - SECTION 570
THE ECONOMICS OF CHINA
Fall 2025



Professor: Jason Dean
Contact: jdean26@uwo.ca
Office Hours TBA (Or by Zoom)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a structured, empirical analysis of China's economic transformation beginning in the late 1970s. It examines how institutional reform, policy experimentation, and incremental market development generated sustained growth and reallocated resources across sectors. Key topics include the dual-track system, urban and rural segmentation, and the mechanisms that drove productivity gains and large-scale poverty reduction. Students will analyse demographic transition, income distribution, and labour market dynamics using tools such as Lorenz curves and Gini coefficients, while evaluating how state institutions have coordinated and constrained growth. The course situates China's development within a broader international context, considering trade integration, foreign investment, and industrial upgrading. It also investigates contemporary constraints such as population ageing, environmental degradation, and technological dependence, and considers how these shape the trajectory of future reform. Students will emerge with a historically informed, institutionally aware understanding of China's economic trajectory and its relevance for development policy and the global economy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyse China's transition from a command to a market economy, evaluating institutional reforms, development strategies, and their impact on growth, productivity, and poverty reduction.
2. Assess demographic, labour market, and income distribution trends using empirical tools such as Lorenz curves and Gini coefficients, with attention to human capital and inequality.
3. Interpret China's global economic integration, including its trade relationships, foreign investment patterns, industrial upgrading, and economic ties with Canada.
4. Critically compare economic systems and development models, synthesizing China's historical trajectory with broader principles of economic efficiency, coordination, and policy experimentation.

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event
04-Sep-25	Fall/Winter Term begins
12-Sep-25	Last day to add/drop Fall 12-week or Fall/Winter 24-week courses (no transcript or fee penalty)
15-Sep-25	Relief deadline for Summer Day final grades
30-Sep-25	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no classes)
11–13-Oct-25	Thanksgiving Weekend
15-Oct-25	Relief deadline for Spring/Summer Distance Studies final grades
01-Nov-25	Transcript deadline for Letter-of-Permission courses (2024–25 & Summer 2025)
03–09-Nov-25	Fall Reading Week
01-Dec-25	Last day to withdraw from Fall 12-week courses with 'WDN'; after this = 'F'
09-Dec-25	Fall/Winter classes end
10-Dec-25	Study Day
11–22-Dec-25	Mid-year exam period

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Lesson†	Topic	Textbook Reading††	Assessments†††
1	Sep-10	Lesson 1	<i>Introduction: The Chinese Economy in Context — Economic Systems, GDP and Growth</i>	Ch 1 §1.3-1.6	Owl Quiz 1
2	Sep-17	Lesson 2	<i>The Geographic Setting</i>	Ch 2	Owl Quiz 2
3	Sep-24	Lesson 3	<i>The Chinese Economy Before 1949</i>	Ch 3	Owl Quiz 3
4	Oct-01	Lesson 4	<i>The Socialist Era, 1949–1978: Big Push Industrialization and Policy Instability</i>	Ch 4	Video Assignment #1 Owl Quiz 4
5	Oct-08	Lesson 5	<i>Market Transition: Strategy and Process</i>	Ch 5	Owl Quiz 5
6	Oct-15	Mid-term Exam (Lessons 1-5)			
7	Oct-22	Lesson 6	<i>The Urban-Rural Divide and Chinese-Style Urbanization</i>	Ch 6	Owl Quiz 6

8	Oct-29	Lesson 7	<i>Growth and Structural Change</i>	Ch 7		<i>Owl Quiz 7</i>
9	Nov-05	— Reading Week – no class —				
10	Nov-12	Lesson 8	<i>Population: Demographic Transition, the Demographic Dividend, and the One-Child Policy</i>	Ch 8		<i>Owl Quiz 8</i>
11	Nov-19	Lesson 9	<i>Labor and Human Capital</i>	Ch 9		<i>Owl Quiz 9</i>
12	Nov-26	Lesson 10	<i>Living Standards: Income, Inequality, and Poverty</i>	Ch 10	Video Assignment #2	<i>Owl Quiz 10</i>
13	Dec-03	Lesson 11	<i>International Trade</i>	Ch 16		<i>Owl Quiz 11</i>
Dec 11-22			Final Exam Period - Scheduled by Registrar			

† Weekly lesson notes and lecture slides will be posted on OWL, along with required supplemental readings and videos.

†† Required Textbook: Naughton, Barry J. (2018). *The Chinese Economy: Adaptation and Growth* (2nd ed.). MIT Press. ISBN: 9780262534796.

††† Weekly OWL Quizzes are conducted online and due each Sunday by midnight.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Naughton, Barry J. *The Chinese Economy: Adaptation and Growth*. 2nd ed. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2018. ISBN 9780262534796.

- The textbook can be purchased at the [Western Bookstore](#).
- **Cost \$86.00**

It is essential to purchase the second edition of the textbook, as the first lacks key updates, revised data, and essential context on China's current economy.

Assessments	Weight	Date
Socrative Quizzes (Participation)	10%	During each class
Weekly OWL Quizzes	10%	Due each Sunday by midnight
Video Assignments (2 total)	20% (2 @ 10% each)	1st: Oct 1 (midnight) 2nd: Nov 26 (midnight)
Midterm Exam	20%	Oct 15 (in class)
Final Exam	40%	Scheduled by Registrar
TOTAL	100%	

Interactive Socrative Quizzes (Participation – 10%)

- Brief interactive quizzes at the end of each class via Socrative.com reinforce your understanding of key concepts.
- You need a laptop or smartphone; no registration required.

- Your final grade will be based on your best 9 of 11 quizzes.
- Missed quizzes score zero

Weekly OWL Quizzes (10%)

- Two multiple-choice quizzes per week (11 total), based on textbook readings, lesson notes, and practice sets.
- Treat quizzes as timed assessments and complete all assigned materials ahead of time.
- Quizzes are due each Sunday by midnight.

Video Assignments (20% total, 10% each)

Two assignments help you critically apply course concepts:

Assignment #1 (Individual, due Oct 1):

- Produce a 10-minute explainer video on a specific economic concept from the course.

Assignment #2 (Groups of 2-3, due Nov 26):

- In groups, record a 15-minute structured debate on a contentious economic topic related to China, leveraging AI to develop initial arguments and critically refining them.

Midterm and Final Exams

- You must attend the midterm and final exams in person, at the scheduled class time. If unable to attend due to illness or another valid reason, please refer to the policies below.
- Exams consist of multiple-choice questions covering conceptual, knowledge-based, and quantitative/graphical content. Specific exam coverage and format will be provided in advance.
- Only non-programmable calculators are permitted; ask your professor if unsure.
- All other electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, programmable calculators, etc.) are strictly prohibited.

Ungraded Practice Problem Sets

- After each lesson, practice problems will be posted on OWL. Completing these problems after reviewing lesson materials (OWL notes and textbook) is mandatory preparation for weekly quizzes.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special

Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.