**EXPLAINING CHINA’S RISE:**

**DEVELOPMENT AND CAPITAL ACCUMULATION**

**IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA**

Department of Sociology, Brown University

Fall 2014

Mondays 3-5:30pm

101 Thayer Street (VGQ 1st fl) 116E

**Course Instructor:**

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Office Hours: Friday 2-5pm, Watson 326

**Course Overview:**

Today, few questions pose more significance to scholars and policymakers than the “rise of China.” As scholars grapple with explaining China’s rise, they also provide tantalizing previews of the future of Chinese growth, and by extension, the future of the global economy. This course explores the character, conditions, and consequences of the rapid Chinese economic growth that many have termed “capitalism with Chinese characteristics.” It summarizes three paradigms for explaining this growth: a state-centered approach, a market-oriented approach, and a Marxist, accumulation-centered approach. The course is divided in three parts, each examining a separate paradigm of development, and providing case studies of how this paradigm explains growth in specific industries and sectors of the Chinese economy.

**Requirements**

Participation: The class will result from your participation. Therefore you are expected to arrive to class on time, complete assignments and readings on time, and contribute actively to class discussion. If you need to miss class, please email me in advance.

Written Assignments and Grading:

**Critical Commentaries (two per term. Each is 15% of final grade)**:

Commentaries should be single-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1 page. Please submit via email to [julia\_chuang@brown.edu](mailto:julia_chuang@brown.edu) by Saturday, 12midnight prior to each Monday class. I will circulate memos via class email every Sunday at 12noon prior to Monday class. Please read these memos before Monday class. You’ll get your grade and feedback returned to you via individual email by Sunday, 12midnight prior to class. If you require more time, please contact me beforehand.

Please structure your commentaries in the below fashion:

First summarize each reading. Identify the major concepts (i.e. state corporatism, economic growth, social inequality) and indicators (measurements for each concept, i.e. rural income, GDP) in each reading.

Then compare the basic argument of each reading with each other. In most weeks, these readings should offer contrasting views of Chinese growth.

Finally, if applicable, tie these readings to any previous concepts or explanations introduced in prior weeks’ readings. As the term progresses, the readings will consolidate into three basic paradigms, or explanations, for Chinese growth. Discussions should evaluate each paradigm in relation to the others.

**Presentation (20% of final grade):**

Presentations are 20 minutes each. Your choice as to medium: our room is Powerpoint-enabled, so you can use Powerpoint to show any pictures, clips or slides you wish. I would prefer to keep presentations mainly verbal – use visual media for visual things, not for commentary.

Please follow the same format as the commentaries for presentation content. End the presentation with several questions to structure discussion.

Grading on the presentation is as follows: as long as you do a presentation, you will receive the full 20% automatically.

**Final paper (30% of final grade):**

Final paper should be double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 10 pages

**Attendance / Participation (20% of final grade):**

Please attend all classes prepared to discuss the week’s readings. If you must miss class please email me beforehand. We will set up a 15 minute office hours slot during which we will discuss the readings one-on-one, to make up for your missed attendance.

This portion of the grade is necessarily subjective (I can think of no other way to grade participation other than to tally up number of times spoken, this seems awkward.) At midterm, Oct 13, I will email each of you individually showing your average points via participation thus far in the course (xx/20). If you have any questions you can then come to office hours to receive suggestions on how to improve.

**Grading Rubric:**

*Critical Commentaries 30%*

*Presentation 20%*

*Final paper 30%*

*Attendance / Participation 20%*

*------------------------------------------------------*

*Total 100%*

If you have a disability and need accommodations for assignments please come speak with me about it before the assignment is due. There are three major assignments.

**Readings**

All readings and other course materials will be on Canvas. Readings will include articles and book chapters. You’ll also be reading each other’s memos. Readings will change and be updated according to what the class needs.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

*The readings in the syllabus may change as the semester progresses. The most recent version is always on Canvas. Recommended readings are not required but may be helpful.*

Week 1 **Three Glimpses of the Chinese Economy, Past and Present**

September 8

Andrew Walder, *Communist Neo-Traditionalism: Work and Authority in Chinese Industry*, University of California Press, 1986, 1-27 (on Canvas)

Jean Oi, *Rural China Takes Off: Institutional Foundations of Economic Reform*, University of California Press, 1999, pp. 1-16 (Brown bookstore)

Yasheng Huang, *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. 50-105 (on Canvas)

**PART I: STATE-LED DEVELOPMENT**

Week 2 **Property Rights and Institutional Foundations of Growth**

September 15

Jean Oi, *Rural China Takes Off: Institutional Foundations of Economic Reform*, University of California Press, 1999, pp. 17-57 (Brown bookstore)

Yasheng Huang, *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. 1-41 (on Canvas)

Week 3 **Regional Competition and Local State Autonomy**

September 22

Susan Shirk, *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*, University of California Press, 1993, Chapters 1 (minus book outline, stop at pg 18) and 2 (on Canvas)

Gabriella Montinola, Yingyi Qian, and Barry R. Weingast, "Federalism, Chinese Style: The Political Basis for Economic Success," *World Politics* 48, no. 1 (1995): 5-81 (on Canvas)

Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words*. Chapters 1 and 7 (on Canvas)

Week 4 **Guiding Hand or Grabbing Hand?**

September 29

Minxin Pei, *China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy*, Harvard University Press, 2006, Chapters 3 and 4 (coming soon on Canvas)

**PART II: MARKET-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT**

Week 5 **Entrepreneurial Growth from Below**

October 6

Victor Nee and Sonja Opper, *Capitalism From Below: Markets and Institutional Change in China*, 2013, Chapters 2-4 (on Canvas)

Doug Guthrie, *Dragon in a Three-Piece Suit: The Emergence of Capitalism in China*, Princeton University Press, 2002, pp. 3-41 (on Canvas)

Week 6 **FDI and the Global Context**

October 20

Mary Gallagher, *Contagious Capitalism: Globalization and the Politics of Labor in China*, Princeton Press, 2006, pp. 9-60 (on Canvas)

**PART III: CAPITAL ACCUMULATION: LABOR, LAND**

Week 7 **Rural and Urban China**

November 3

Tiejun Cheng and Mark Selden, 1994, “The Origins and Social Consequences of China’s Hukou System.” *The China Quarterly* 139: 644-68. (on Canvas)

Dorothy Solinger, 1999, *Contesting Urban Citizenship: Peasant Migrants, the State, and the Logic of the Market*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapters 2-4 (on Canvas)

Week 8  **China’s Rural Labor Force**

November 10

Ching Kwan Lee, 1999, “From Organized Dependence to Disorganized Despotism: Changing Labor Regimes in Chinese Factories,” *The China Quarterly* (on Canvas)

Lei Guang, 2001, “Reconstituting the Rural-Urban Divide: Peasant Migration and the Rise of ‘Orderly Migration’ in Contemporary China.” *Journal of Contemporary China* 10(28): 471-493. (on Canvas)

Michael Burawoy, 1976, “The Functions and Reproduction of Migrant Labor: Comparative Material from Southern Africa and the United States.” *American Journal of Sociology*. vol.81, no.5: 1050-87. (on Canvas)

Week 9 **What is Chinese Accumulation?**

November 17

Ching Kwan Lee, *Against the Law: Labor Protest in China’s Rustbelt and Sunbelt*, University of California Press, 2007, Chapters 1-4 (Brown bookstore)

Giovanni Arrighi, *Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the Twenty-First Century*, Verso, 2007, pp. 351-378 (on Canvas)

Joel Andreas, “Changing Colours in China,” New Left Review No. 54 (Nov./Dec. 2008), pp. 123-142 (on Canvas)

Week 10 **Accumulation in China’s Industrial Sectors**

November 24

Mike Davis, Planet of the Slums, *Verso,* 2003, Chapter 1 (on Canvas)

Youtien Hsing, *The Great Urban Transformation*, University of California Press, 2010, pp. 1-26 (on Canvas)

Emily Yeh, *Taming Tibet: Landscape Transformation and the Gift of Chinese Development*, Cornell University Press, 2013, Chapters 3 and 4 (on Canvas)

**THE FUTURE: CHINESE GROWTH AND THE WORLD**

Week 11 **Future Trajectories of Chinese Growth**

December 1

Susan Shirk, *Fragile Superpower: How China’s Internal Politics Could Derail its Peaceful Rise*, Oxford University Press, 2008, Chapters 2-4 (on Canvas)

Joel Andreas, “Sino-seismology” New Left Review, No. 75 (July-August 2012), pp. 128-135. (on Canvas)

Ho-Fung Hung, “America’s Headservant” (on Canvas)