

ECON 380-001
Spring 2017
Robinson Hall B111
MWF 12:30-1:20

INSTRUCTOR: Abigail N. Devereaux
OFFICE: Location: Mason Hall 1st Floor: D167-2
Hours: Wednesdays, 4:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. or by appointment
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ECON 830: Economies in Transition

Course Description

We will be using Blackboard for the class. All readings not in the books or linked through the syllabus will be uploaded to Blackboard. All assignments should be uploaded to Blackboard. Unless otherwise specified on the syllabus, Mondays and Tuesdays will be lectures, and Fridays we will have a 15-minute quiz and a 35-minute lecture.

Required Books

All books are available in the bookstore, and the first is available as a free eBook through the Mises Institute.

1. Boettke, P. 2001. *Calculation and Coordination: Essays in Transitional Political Economy*. Routledge. eBook: <https://mises.org/library/calculation-and-coordination-essays-socialism-and-transitional-political-economy>
2. Ronald Coase and Ning Wang (2013). How China Became Capitalist: <https://www.cato.org/policy-report/januaryfebruary-2013/how-china-became-capitalist>
3. Martin Malia, *The Soviet Tragedy*.
4. Panagariya, Arvind. *India: The Emerging Giant*.

Basic Conceptual Outline for the Class:

- **Unit 1: Planned Growth and Progressive Utopia:** The history of scientific management, the socialist calculation debate, and the Soviet Experience
- **Unit 2: India's Double Independence for Double-Digit Growth:** First independence from Britain, then from the License Raj
- **Unit 3: The Marketization of China:** The potential internal contradictions of planned marketization, with a focus on sustainable markets

Expected Workload

This class is an upper level economics course that is heavy on reading and creative thinking, and light on rote memorization. Students are expected to do the readings before the class for which

they are assigned. Assignments are meant to get the student to engage with the material to come up with their own ideas and ways to present it. It is not possible to “show up for the exams” and pass this course.

Class Schedule of Assignments, Exams, and Other Important Dates:

Date	Topic	Readings, Assignments, and What is Due
1/23	Introduction and Overview	Malia, pp. 1 – 17
1/25	The Rise of Socialism: Planning’s Promise	Malia: pp. 21 – 50
1/27	The Revolution and War Communism	Boettke: pp. 105 - 139 QUIZ 1
1/30 LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES / DROP WITH 0% PENALTY	The “Retreat to the Market” (NEP)	Malia, pp. 139 - 175
2/1	Building Socialism #1	Malia, pp. 177 - 226
2/3	Building Socialism #2	QUIZ 2
2/6	Purge and Consolidation, or, the Great Terror	Malia: pp. 227-240, 243-9, 255-7, 260-9
2/8	Reform Communism #1	Malia: pp. 315 – 318, 327 (bottom) – 341 (top)
2/10	Reform Communism #2	Malia, pp. 405 – 412, 417 (bottom) – 438 (top) QUIZ 3
2/13 LAST DAY TO DROP WITH 33% PENALTY	Perestroika and Public Choice	Boettke: pp. 177-190
2/15	Why Reform Couldn’t Save the Soviet Model	Boettke: pp. 191-212 Boettke: pp. 1-6
2/17	Planning’s Broken Promise: Knowledge and Calculation	Boettke: pp. 29 - 46 QUIZ 4
2/20	Political Infrastructure of Development	Boettke: pp. 234-247
2/22	Why Culture Matters	Boettke: pp. 248-268

2/24 FINAL DAY TO DROP WITH 67% PENALTY	Russia, Today: Is Putin Good for Russia's Economy? Unit 1 Discussion, Assignment Tic-Tac- Toe	Readings: TBA QUIZ 5
2/27	Introduction to Unit 2: India	Panagariya: pp. xiii - xxx
3/1	Phase I (1951-65): Liberal Regime	Panagariya: pp. 22 - 46
3/3	Phase II (1965-81): India's Experiment with Socialistic Planning, aka, the License Raj	Panagariya: pp. 47 - 77 QUIZ 6
3/6	Phase III (1981-88): The Stealth Liberal Reform Era	Panagariya: pp. 78 - 94 DUE: Assignment #1
3/8	Phase IV (1988-2006): Double-Digit Growth	Panagariya: pp. 95 - 109
3/10	India and Korea: A Tale of Two Countries	Panagariya: pp. 110-125 QUIZ 7
3/13, 3/15, 3/17	NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)	
3/20	Transforming India #1: International Trade	Panagariya: pp. 259-281
3/22	Transforming India #2: Sectorial Liberalizations	Panagariya: pp. 282-310
3/24	Transforming India #3: Tackling Corruption	Readings: TBA QUIZ 8
3/27	Introduction to Unit 3: China China at the Death of Mao #1	Coase & Wang: pp. 1 - 21
3/29	China at the Death of Mao #2	
3/31	China in Transition	Coase & Wang: pp. 22 - 40 QUIZ 9
4/3	How China's Market Reform Began #1	Coase & Wang: pp. 41 - 67 DUE: Assignment #2
4/5	How China's Market Reform Began #2	
4/7 - NO CLASS (APEE)		
4/10 - NO CLASS (APEE)	Investment and Demand: How to "Balance" the Transition. Uncertainty	Video: China in Transition http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/brand-

	in Financial Markets, Environment. Green Shoots and Accommodating Policies. Is China Addicted to Stimulus for Growth?	connect/wp/enterprise/china-an-economy-in-transition/
4/12 – Guest Lecturer (APEE)	China 4: Guest Lecturer	TBA
4/14	Market Reform Under Socialism #1	Coase & Wang: pp. 68 – 103
4/17	Market Reform Under Socialism #2	QUIZ 10 (includes previous week's material)
4/19	Growing out of Socialism #1	Coase & Wang: pp. 104 – 126 (VI)
4/21	Growing out of Socialism #2	Coase & Wang: pp. 126 (VII) – 152
4/24	From Capitalism to Capitalisms #1	Coase & Wang: pp. 153 – 180 (VI) QUIZ 11
4/26	From Capitalism to Capitalisms #2	Coase & Wang: pp. 180 (VII) – 203
4/28	Epilogue: How China Won and Russia Lost	http://www.hoover.org/research/how-china-won-and-russia-lost QUIZ 12
5/1	Overview & Review #1	
5/3	Overview & Review #2	
5/5 – FINAL DAY OF CLASS	Overview & Review #3	DUE: Assignment #3
5/15 – FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM: 10:30 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.	FINAL EXAM

Grading, and Coursework

Quizzes: 15-minute quizzes on that week's readings every Friday at the beginning of class. I will drop the lowest 2 quiz grades. (15%)

Unit 1 Assignment: First choice from Assignment Tic-Tac-Toe (15%)

Unit 2 Assignment: Second choice from Assignment Tic-Tac-Toe (15%)

Unit 3 Assignment: Third choice from Assignment Tic-Tac-Toe (15%)

Final Exam: Comprehensive final exam given during the scheduled exam period (40%)

Grading Scale:

A: 93-100 A-: 90-92 B+:85-89 B: 80-84 B-:75-79 C+:70-74
C: 67-69 C-: 64-66 D: 60-63 F: <60

I will not accept late assignments or allow students to re-take quizzes or exams except in the event of an emergency. In the event of an emergency, students should email me immediately. Please note that if a student is late on an assignment and I have not accepted a student's excuse, a grade of "0" will be given for that assignment.

Study Tips

Be active! Engage with the material, do not just passively absorb it.

Ask questions and take notes as you read, as time permits. That way you will have a question ready to go by Thursday, and have topics for short essays on the exams.

Generally, it is often fruitful to write while you read.

Come to office hours.

Additional Information

Honor Code: Students must adhere to the honor code of George Mason University. Cheating will not be tolerated in this class. George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

Disability Resource Center: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Additional References

Aslund, Anders. "Why Has Russia's Economic Transformation Been so Arduous?"
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEC/Resources/84797-1251813753820/6415739-1251814010799/aslund.pdf>