

# **Economics 2336 Regional Development Winter 2018**

**Instructor:** Professor Weina Zhou

**Office:** 6220 University Ave, C21

**Lecture:** Tuesday and Thursday 14:35-15:55, McCain 2198

**Office Hour:** Tuesday and Thursday, 13:00-14:30, C21 (no appointment needed during this time). Meetings at any other time must be arranged in advance, preferably via email (see email policy). I'm not available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

## **Prerequisites:**

Econ 1101, 1102

## **Course Description:**

Why are some countries or regions poor? Why the relative positions of different countries and regions have been shifted over the last several decades? This course focuses on the economic development process and issues in China and Japan to answer these questions.

## **Recommended Books:**

- Naughton, Barry, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2007
- David Flath, *The Japanese Economy*, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, 2005

## **Website:**

You can access to course materials through Brightspace. Please check the course website frequently for new announcements.

**Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on the basis of five course requirements:

### 1. Group Research Paper (30%)

You will be assigned to a group to complete a group research paper. Each group consists of three or four students. You are expected to find a research question and provide your analysis on the economic development of China or Japan. (I will also provide you with several potential research topics.) Detailed requirements of the research paper will be provided in February.

Since the last day to drop winter term classes without a "W" is February 4, group assignments will be made on February 7. All students who take this course must attend the class on February 7. The research project is due in stage throughout the term. Each group must submit your (1) proposal on February 28, (2) draft on March 21 and (3) final paper on April 10. Each group is also required to make a 25 minutes presentation of your research paper in class (e.g., using powerpoint). Group presentation will be taken place in the last class(es) of the term.

2. In-class Exams: (60%) There are two closed-book exams (30% each) in this class. The exams are scheduled on February 14 and April 4.
3. Attendance and Class Participation (10%) I will randomly take attendance several times during the term. We will also have in-class group discussion throughout the term. You are encouraged to join the discussion and will be evaluated by your performance.

**Note: All cell phones must be turned off when class starts and remain off until class is over. Using cell phones (texting, reading e-mail, etc.) will not be tolerated. Violation of this policy will result in a 20% reduction from the Attendance and Class Participation grade per incident.**

**Grading Scheme:**

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	55-59	50-54	<50

**Policies on Missed Materials:**

If a student miss the first in-class exam for a valid medical reason (doctor notes are required), all the weight of that midterm will be shifted to the second in-class exam. If a student miss the second in-class exam for a valid medical reason, you must notify the instructor immediately (within 48 hours), provide appropriate medical documentation, and make arrangements to write a *comprehensive* make-up exam as soon as health permits. Note that only original medical notes will be considered. If exemption is not granted, a grade of zero will stand. No late group research paper will be accepted. There will be no exceptions.

**Course Coverage:**

Economics of China:

1. The Pre-reform Era: 1949-1978
2. Economic Reform
3. The One Child Policy
4. Government and Political Economy

Economics of Japan:

1. The Japanese Economy after WWII: Growth and Stagnation

**Other General Notes:**

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC)

prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit [www.dal.ca/access](http://www.dal.ca/access) for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation - Form A.

Please note the Department of Economics Statement on Academic Integrity posted on the course website. As part of an academic community it is your responsibility to be aware of appropriate conduct. Any academic offence will be reported and acted upon immediately by Dalhousie administration.

**Writing Center Information:**

Writing expectations at university are higher than you will have experienced at high school (or if you are entering a master's or PhD program, the expectations are higher than at lower levels). The Writing Centre is a Student Service academic unit that supports your writing development. Make an appointment to discuss your writing. Learning more about the writing process and discipline-specific practices and conventions will allow you to adapt more easily to your field of study.