

Course Title	: CHINESE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY
Course Code	: HST2353
Recommended Study Year	: 1, 2, 3
No. of Credits/Semester	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional approach
Teaching Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

This course examines the social and economic forces that shape the historical development of South China, and the lives of various social groups, including peasants, workers, merchants, and women.

Aims

This course introduces students to the ways of studying history from below by examining the interplay between the socio-economic environment and common people's perspectives and practices.

Learning Outcomes

The students will be able

- (1) to analyze current Chinese social and economic issues from a historical perspective.
- (2) to demonstrate an understanding of different theoretical approaches to major issues in the field.
- (3) to conduct research using primary and secondary sources critically.
- (4) to develop written and oral communication skills.

Indicative Content

- I. Population: growth and migration
- II. Marketing systems and macroregions
- III. Social organization: family and lineage
- IV. Merchants, capitalism, and the commercial development
- V. Peasants, agrarian economy, and the socio-political changes in 20th century China
- VI. Women, economy, and society
- VII. Cities and urban culture in the Republican period
- VIII. State, economy, and society in 20th century China

Teaching Method

This course is taught partly as lectures, partly as seminars with assigned readings and discussions.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- (1) research paper and short essays: to evaluate students' writing skills, their ability to

- conduct research using primary and secondary sources critically, and their understanding of theoretical approaches to their research topics. (LOs 2, 3, 4)
- (2) intensive class discussion: to assess students' oral communication skills and their ability to analyze current Chinese social and economic issues from a historical perspective. (LOs 1, 4)
- (3) examination: to evaluate students' written communication skills and their comprehension of different theoretical approaches to major issues in the field. (LOs 2, 4)

Assessment

Research paper:	30 %
Short essays:	20 % (10 % x2)
Class discussion:	20 %
Examination	30 %

Required Readings

Selected Readings from the following:

- Brown, Rajeswary A., *Chinese Business Enterprise in Asia*, London: Routledge, 1995.
- Chen, Han-seng, *Landlord and Peasant in China: A Study of the Agrarian Crisis in South China*, Westport, Conn.: Hyperion Press, 1973.
- Cheong, Weng Eang, *The Hong Merchants of Canton: Chinese Merchants in Sino-Western Trade*, London: Curzon Press, 1997.
- Chung, Stephanie Po-yin, *Chinese Business Groups in Hong Kong and Political Change in South China, 1900-25*, Basingstoke: Macmillan Press, 1998.
- Eastman, Lloyd, *Family, Fields and Ancestors: Constancy and Change in China's Social and Economic History, 1550-1949*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Eng, Robert Yeok-yin, *Imperialism and the Chinese Economy: The Canton and Shanghai Silk Industry, 1861-1932*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978.
- Faure, David and Siu, Helen F., *Down to Earth: The Territorial Bond in South China*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1995.
- Honig, Emily, *Sisters and Strangers: Women in the Shanghai Cotton Mills, 1919-1949*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1986.
- Lee, Leo Ou-fan, *Shanghai Modern: The Flowering of a New Urban Culture in China, 1930-1945*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.
- Lin, Alfred H.Y., *The Rural Economy of Guangdong, 1870-1937: A Study of the Agrarian Crisis and its Origins in Southernmost China*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.
- Marks, Robert Brian, *Tigers, Rice, Silk, and Silt: Environment and Economy in Late Imperial South China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Rawski, Thomas G. and Li, Lillian M., *Chinese History in Economic Perspective*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.
- Rawski, Evelyn S., *Agricultural Change and the Peasant Economy of South China*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1972.
- So, Alvin Y., *The South China Silk district: Local Historical Transformation and World-System Theory*, Albany: State University of New York Press, 1986.
- Stockard, Janice E., *Daughters of the Canton Delta: Marriage Patterns and Economic Strategies in South China, 1860-1930*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1989.
- Wang, Gungwu, *The Nanhai trade: The Early History of Chinese Trade in the South China Sea*, Singapore: Times Academic Press, 1998.
- Wong Chor Yee, *Proto-industrialization and the Silk Industry of the Canton Delta*,

1662-1934, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995.

Woon, Yuen-fong, *Social Organization in South China, 1911-1949: The Case of the Kuan Lineage of Kai-ping County*, Ann Arbor: Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, 1984.

Zhang, Baohui, *Communal Organizations and Agrarian Revolutions in South China*, Austin : University of Texas at Austin, 1994.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.