History and Geo-economics: Economic Development in China

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to examine in depth a strategic area for world equilibrium and dynamics.

The first module will introduce the history of China in the 20th century, from the Opium Wars (1842) to the episodes of Tian’anmen Square (1989) with specific attention to the position of China in international relations.

The second module will focus on different aspects of the economic development of China and will analyse domestic changes and strategies of growth from 1949 to the present day. The course will explore the role of this country in the dynamics of globalisation and will analyse its relationships with both developed and emerging countries.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will have acquired a basic knowledge of the history of China and will be familiar with the strategies adopted in the various phases of the Chinese economy in its process of development. Students will have the essential elements for understanding contemporary China.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

Students will be able to critically analyse, describe, historically contextualize the development strategies adopted by China for its positioning in the globalization process and to identify the logic underlying the current Chinese presence in the world.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Module 1*

The end of the Sino-centric system and the transition from Empire to Republic.

The Republic of China and its place in the world.

The communist revolution in China.

The People’s Republic of China under Mao’s guide and its international relations.

Deng Xiaoping and the phase of ‘reform and reopening.’

The 1989 crisis.

*Module 2*

The economy of China: growth and development indicators.

Economic strategies between 1949 and 1978.

‘Open door’ economic policies.

Strategies for market transition.

Xi era.

China in globalization: the role of foreign trade and foreign direct investment.

Technology, infrastructure, sustainability: the new frontiers of growth.

***READING LIST***

For the first module

*For attending and non-attending students:*

G. Samarani, *La Cina contemporanea. Dalla fine dell'impero a oggi*, Einaudi, Torino, 2017 (a selection of chapters).

Ge Zhaoguang, *What is China? Territory, Ethnicity, Culture, and History,* Harvard University Press, 2018.

Furthermore

*For non-attending students:*

J. Spence, *Mao Zedong. A life*, Penguin, London, 2006.

For the second module

*For attending students:*

B. Naughton, *The Chinese Economy,* MIT Press, 2007 (a selection of chapters).

B. Naughton, *The rise of China’s Industrial Policy. 1978 to 2020,* Academic Network of Latin America and the Caribbean on China, 2021 (a selection of chapters).

Lectures’ notes: material and texts indicated during the course

*For non-attending students:*

B. Naughton, *The Chinese Economy,* MIT Press, 2007 (a selection of chapters).

B. Naughton, *The rise of China’s Industrial Policy. 1978 to 2020,* Academic Network of Latin America and the Caribbean on China, 2021.

Further details on alternative or supplementary reading lists will be provided on the lecturers’ web pages.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures. Practical classes. Group work.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is written (interim tests, only for *attending students*) or written and oral (for *non-attending students and for attending students* who do not take/pass the interim tests).

During the year *attending* students only may take two written interim tests: one on the first module between January and February, the other on the second module in the second half of May.

In the second semester *attending* *students* will be invited to carry out some in-depth group or individual projects. Students will be given the analysis of some themes of contingent current events linked to the topics covered in the course. Group (or individual) work will conclude with a presentation in the classroom and the preparation of a written report. Presentation and reports will be assessed by the lecturer and will contribute to the determination of the final mark. Oral presentations will be assessed on the basis of clear and effective communication; written reports on the basis of correct contents, display of logic, students’ ability to select the most relevant elements of the chosen topic for their work. Correct syntax and grammar of the class presentation and of the written report will also be important.

*Non-attending* students and *attending* students who do not take or pass the interim tests shall take an exam (oral exam on the first module and written on the second module) during the official exam session at the end of the course.

Final assessment is out of 30 and aims to assess students on their knowledge of course topics and their critical thinking and expressive skills. A critical and organic understanding of the discipline together with appropriate use of specific language will be criteria for top marks.

Further indications on assessment methods will be given by the lecturer at the beginning of lectures or, for non-attending students, during office hours.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Before enrolling in the course, students are highly encouraged to take the exam in Development Economics: Strategies and Policies to better understand the topics taught in the second module of the course.

Further information and notices on the course, exams and office hours will be available on the university website and on the lecturers’ webpage. Additional details on the reading list will be provided in class.

The course requires students’ ability to understand scientific texts written in English. It also requires a good knowledge of contemporary history and political geography as well as the basic elements of political economy.

Notices and communications relating to the course, exams and office hours (eg postponements or suspensions) can be found on the teacher's page on the website of the Catholic University.

Further information can be found on the lecturers’ webpage at [http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG](http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG%2522%2520%255Ct%2520%2522_blank) or on the Faculty notice board.