

Economics 536  
 Department of Economics  
 ♦ Comparative Economics  
 Fall 2013, 8:30-9:20 MWF  
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 Leasure 013

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Office hours (in Waters 312): 11:30-12:45 MWF and by appointment.

Econ 536. Comparative Economics. (3) II. Analyzes capitalism in the United States, Britain, Japan, France, Germany, Sweden, the European Union, China, Russia & former Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary; the four tigers; market socialist economies; economics in transition; economic reform in China, India, Mexico, & other economies; the contrasting economies of North and South Korea; and the Marxian critique of capitalism. Pr.: Econ 110 or 120. The course is a university general education course and counts for the international studies secondary major and Arts and Sciences' international overlay.

**Objectives:** The major objectives of the course are for students to be able to: (1) analyze and compare the United States's, Britain's, Japan's, France's, Germany's, and various European and Asian capitalist economic developments and compare them to other economies; (2) analyze the reasons for the collapse of state socialism and the problems of the transitions of socialist to market economies; (3) discuss and analyze the transitions to the market in Russia, the former Soviet Union, and case studies in Eastern and Central Europe; (4) discuss and analyze the problems of economic reform and liberalization in developing countries such as China, India, and Mexico; (5) understand the basics of Marxian economics, how Marxist economists analyze the political economy, and the contrasts between the approaches of Marxism and Western standard economics, and (6) generally compare economic systems and ideas. To attain the background essential to meet these objectives, you need to read the readings and attend lectures, presentations, and class discussions.

**Required text:** Paul R Gregory and Robert C. Stuart, *The Global Economy and Its Economic Systems* (Mason, Ohio: South-Western, 2014), ISBN 978-1285-0553-50. Gregory and Stuart's text is required and its reading is assumed in examination questions, but the lecture-discussion outline will not always parallel the reading. If any changes or deletions are made in readings during the course of the semester, they will be announced in class.

**Internet Resources on Comparative Economics:** Country information and country background notes are at <http://www.ksu.edu/economics/nafwayne/>. The European Banks for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), at [www.ebrd.com/](http://www.ebrd.com/) provides a menu of EBRD activities for Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, by country. Selecting Russia, for example, gives you the EBRD's activities on Russia. Other menu options are Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and other countries from Eastern Europe or the former Soviet Union. The Central Bank of Russia's statistics are at <http://www.cbr.ru/eng/>. The Stockholm School of Economics' page on transitional economies is at <http://www.hhs.se/site/2ndpage.htm>. For Soviet economic history and related links, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/sutoc.html>. Links to 25 international agencies, including organizations, commissions, and development banks for most regions of the world, are at <http://altaplana.com/Gate.international.html>.

<http://newton.uor.edu/Departments&Programs/AsianStudiesDept/> includes general information, government institutions, directories, search engines, travel information, East Asian libraries, etc. for East and Southeast Asia (click Japan for that country); add the suffix [japan-pol.html#econ](http://www.ksu.edu/economics/nafwayne/japan-pol.html#econ) for a wealth of current materials on the economy. Links to Japan are also at [www.ksu.edu/economics/nafwayne/japan.htm](http://www.ksu.edu/economics/nafwayne/japan.htm). The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is at <http://www.oecd.org/>, with national-income statistics of OECD members, United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, the Euro zone, the EU, Britain, Sweden, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, South Korea, Mexico, at <http://www.oecd.org/std/nahome.htm>. Other information includes the European Union <http://www.europa.eu.int/>; the European Central Bank <http://www.ecb.int/>; and Germany <http://www.germany-info.org/relaunch/index.html>, <http://smith.diw.de/english/index.html>, and (statistics) [http://www.destatis.de/e\\_home.htm](http://www.destatis.de/e_home.htm).

Lexis-Nexis, on the KSU system, enables you to get information on a country by topic, at <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>. News stories are archived for more than 20 years. EconLit, [www.econlit.org/](http://www.econlit.org/), is a database with a comprehensive indexed bibliography with abstracts of the world's economic literature, 1969 to the present, with over 300 major economic journals and collected volumes, compiled from the American Economic Association.

<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/> is for recent news from a country's newspapers. Click the country you are interested in on the world map, and you will receive a menu of newspaper options. [www.state.gov/www/background\\_notes/](http://www.state.gov/www/background_notes/) is for background notes on countries. At [www.odci.gov/](http://www.odci.gov/), under "Library and Reference, click the World Factbook and "Country Listing," for the economy, government, and maps on countries. Recent news on countries may be available in hard copy or online in the *Wall Street Journal*, BBC, CNN, the Economist, New York Times, and perhaps Financial Times

The selected and collected works of Karl Marx are at <http://csf.colorado.edu/mirrors/marxists.org/archive/marx/works/>. Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* is at [www.duke.edu/~atm2/SMITH/](http://www.duke.edu/~atm2/SMITH/).

**Grades:** I plan four examinations (of which one will be the final exam), each worth 100 points. The total for exams is 400 points. Other required work for points beyond 400 points includes occasional quizzes (announced in advance); internet assignments; and in-class team exercises. Class discussion is encouraged.

All numerical grades for exams or any other graded item will be posted on K-State Online.

Texting during class is not allowed.

Exams: I have indicated tentatively the coverage of each one-hour examination (the readings and corresponding lectures just before the listing of the examinations). Each one-hour exam is roughly half to three-fourths objective (mostly multiple choice, with an occasional short identification or explanation question) and the rest essay or problem. Exams and quizzes encompass readings, lecture/discussion, powerpoints, talks, student presentations, videos, and e-mails. To find out the type of exams, peruse previous comparative economics exams at <https://www.ksu.edu/economics/nafwayne/exams/index.htm> (KSU computing ID and password required) and on K-State Online.

Plagiarism: University policy is: "Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, paper, or project; failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the university." For more information refer to "Academic Dishonesty," <http://www.ksu.edu/uaucl/hbook/thxf.html>.

Nondiscrimination: Kansas State University is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or other nonmerit reasons.

Honor system: The university has an honor system based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that in academic matters one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Undergraduate Honor System. The policies and procedures of the Undergraduate Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. A prominent part of the Honor System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge, which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by undergraduate students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." This statement means that the student understands and has complied with the requirements of the assignment as set forth by the instructor. A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. An XF would be failure of the course with the X on the transcript indicating failure as a result of a breach of academic honesty. For more information, refer to <http://www.ksu.edu/honor>.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as I have outlined it or which will require academic accommodations, please notify me in the first two weeks of the course.

Tentative Schedule of the Course (numbers correspond to chapters of Gregory & Stuart):

Introduction to the Course (Mon. Aug. 26)

1. Economic History and Economic Systems (& Preface) (Wed., Aug. 28)

2. Definition & Classification of Economic Systems (Fri., Aug. 30)

3. Economic Systems & Economic Outcomes (Wed., Sept. 4)

4. How Economic Systems Change (Mon., Sept. 9)

5. The Setting of Economic Systems

\*1/2- 1-page essay on components of the Human Development Index

(<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork>)

6. Theory of Capitalism

1<sup>st</sup> EXAM, Fri., Oct. 4

7. Theory of Planned Socialism

8. Theory & Practice of Market Socialism

9. Introducing the Anglo-Saxon, European, and Asian Models

10. The Anglo-Saxon Model: England during the Industrial Revolution

11. The Anglo-Saxon Model: The U.S. Economy

2<sup>nd</sup> EXAM, about Friday, Oct. 18 or 21

12. The European Model

13. The Asian Model

14. The Soviet Command Economy

15. China: Party Dictatorship, Markets, and Socialism

16. An Introduction to Transition

3<sup>rd</sup> EXAM, about Fri., Nov. 1

17. Transition Economies: Output Patterns & Measurement Issues

18. Introducing Markets: Privatization and the Decline of Government

19. The Macroeconomy: Fiscal and Monetary Issues

20. Transition and the Global Economy

21. Transition and the Safety Net

4<sup>th</sup> EXAM, about Fri., Nov. 22

22. Prospects for 2050: Economic Institutions and Economic Performance

Final Exam, Tues., 11:50-1:40, Dec. 17 (counts same as 1-hour examination)