

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Business and Economics
<b>Programme:</b>	BA (Hons) Economics with Combined Studies BA (Hons) Business Administration with Combined Studies
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	Economics of Transition
<b>Course Code:</b>	ECN 5100
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Parviz Dabir-Alai
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>
Lectures:	30
Seminar / Tutorials:	15
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall/Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This Course takes a case study approach to the examination of the challenges of economic transition in its broadest sense. The progression of material covered on the course is from economic theory to the study of policy options adopted by the global multi-lateral lending agencies in the 1980s, 1990s and to the present day. The case studies used are intended to illustrate the theory and the policy framework discussed. Questions such as what priorities led to the changes in Eastern Europe and whether trade and price liberalization schemes can work and at what cost, will be studied.

**Prerequisites:** ECN 4105 and ECN 4110

### **Aims and Objectives:**

This Course intends to expose you to a range of material designed to encourage the linking of economic theory to the practical implications faced by policy makers and the policy choices they make in a number of diverse situations and areas.

### **Programme Outcomes**

A1, A5  
B1, B2

C3, C4, C8  
D

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.  
This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, a successful student should be able to

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

1. Demonstrate the core common characteristics of economies in a transitional state.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the process of economic liberalization.
3. Develop an understanding of the concept of input-output analysis with a view to learning about constrained maximization.
4. Develop an understanding of the framework under which an economy's overall performance and priorities may be compared vis-à-vis those of another.
5. Develop a familiarity with the vast and growing literature on the performance of economies as they experience significant change, and from a variety of perspectives.
6. Develop an understanding of the concept of an economic *system* and its constituent parts.

### **Subject-specific skills**

1. Understanding some of applications relating to the use of production functions.
2. Being able to synthesise information on the role of environmental influences as they relate to economic performance.
3. Being able to analyse the importance of the four key characteristics in shaping the applications of economic policy making.

### **Other skills**

1. The ability to apply economic models to finding resolutions for economic problems.

### **Numeracy**

1. Numeracy and quantitative skills including the framing of data, its interpretation and extrapolation.

### **Indicative Content:**

1. The contribution of economic theory to the debate on transition economies.
2. An optimum approach to cross-sectional classification issues: traditional *vs.* modern approaches; discussion of the 4 key ingredients.
3. Exogenous factors in determining any given 'economic outcome'.
4. Prioritizing desirable 'economic outcomes'.
5. The contribution of hypothesis testing to the assessment of underlying structural differences/similarities.
6. Evolution of the market system starts with barter.
7. The channels of monetary transmission in transition and other economies.
8. Economic Liberalization.

9. Case studies on Poland, Japan, Spain, etc.

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

**Teaching Methodology:**

Semi-formal weekly presentation of material in lecture format interspersed with discussion and use of audio-visual material. Instructor presentation takes up most of the first part of the weekly sessions. The second half of the weekly sessions will consist of a mixture of instructor and student led activities.

**Bibliography:**

- Baer, W. and Love, J.L. (ed.) (2000) *Liberalization and its Consequences – A Comparative Perspective on Latin America and Eastern Europe*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham. ISBN: 1-84064-436-2.
- Dabir-Alai, P. and Odekon, M. (ed.) (1998) *Economic Liberalization and Labour Markets*, Greenwood Press, Wesport. ISBN: 0-313-30358-4.
- Gregory, P.R. and R.C. Stuart (1999) *Comparative Economic Systems*, Houghton Mifflin Company, (6<sup>th</sup> edition), Mason. ISBN: 0-395-90815-9.  
In particular chapters 1 – 6.
- Hirst, P. and G. Thompson (1996) *Globalization in Question*, Polity Press, Cambridge. ISBN: 0-7456-1245-8.
- Köves, A. and P. Marer (ed.) (1991) *Foreign Economic Liberalization: Transformations in Socialist and Market Economies*, Westview Press, ISBN: 0-8133-8199-1.  
In particular chapters 1, 2, 4 and 18.
- Orłowski, L.T. (ed.) (2001) *Transition and Growth in Post-Communist Countries: the ten year experience*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham. ISBN: 1-8406-4556-3.
- Sachs, J (2004) *The End of Poverty*, Penguin, New York. ISBN: 0-1410-1866-6.
- Thaler, R. and C. Sunstein (2008) *Nudge*, Penguin, Michigan. ISBN: 0-1410-4001-7.
- Zimbalist, A.; H.J. Sherman and S. Brown (1989) *Comparing Economic Systems: A Political-Economic Approach*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. ISBN: 0-15-512403-X.
- Commander, S. and F. Coricelli (ed.), (1995) *Unemployment, Restructuring, and the Labor Market in Eastern Europe and Russia*, EDI/World Bank, Washington DC. ISBN: 0-8213-2988-X. As an almost entirely empirical study this volume now represents outdated research, but it is still worth a browse.
- The library should be consulted for the latest issues of the *World Bank Development Report* and the *World Bank Atlas*. Additionally, please consult both current and recent issues of the *Briefing Notes in Economics* published ‘in-house’ at the Department. Please consult the web-site for some useful downloads – this is located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/bne> It is also a good idea to read quality daily newspapers such as the *Financial Times* and/or the *Guardian* on a fairly regular basis. The web-sites for these publications are mentioned further below.
- Some of the more popular weekly journals, such as the *Economist* magazine, provide good surveys on a variety of topics and should be consulted.
- The IMF website is particularly good for material on the globalization of financial markets, etc. Also, do visit the website for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) mentioned further below.

