

**COURSE SPECIFICATION**  
**DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	School of Liberal Arts
<b>Programme:</b>	Minor in Chinese Studies
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	Contemporary China
<b>Course Code:</b>	MCL 5210
<b>Course Leader:</b>	George Zhang
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures:	36
Seminar / Tutorials:	9
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

**Course Description:**

With its awesome economic development in the last forty years, China is a country that attracts attention from all around the world, with its largest population, second largest economy, long history and many cultural and social changes. These changes are so rapid and overwhelming that even many living in China find difficult to keep up, let alone those from outside China. This course is designed to facilitate the students to have a better understanding of the contemporary China through a critical overview of China since its launch of open door and economic reform in the 1980s. While the course will look at key aspects of economic development, it also examines the development through advanced in technologies, and changes in the society in the light of some theoretical framework so that students can better comprehend contemporary China as it stands today and how it may develop in the near future.

**Prerequisites:**

GEP 4180

**Aims and Objectives:**

The course aims to develop a sound understanding on the part of the students of important economic and social development and changes in contemporary China, i.e. China in the last forty years. This is achieved by critically examining from the perspective of some relevant economic, developmental and/or social change theories, some key

economic and business sectors, such as financial services, manufacturing industry; its new reactive industry which the Chinese government really encourages and supports as it represents the future potentials; and some noticeable social changes as a result of the economic and business development like environment, family life, social equality and social welfare etc, family life and reading of selected texts in English translation.

Wherever possible, students are encouraged to reflect on what they have observed or research on contemporary China. By all this, the course enables students to gain a deeper insight into not only what we see as the economic wonders of China in the last few decades, but also its accompanying cultural and social changes and what underpins such development and changes, in addition to developing their transferrable presentation, research and writing skills.

### **Programme Outcomes:**

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- demonstrate familiarity with some key economic development in China achieved in the last forty years, and how it impacts on China and its standing in the world economic as China is often referred as the power-house of the world economy
- demonstrate enhanced knowledge of the development of China's knowledge industry, its technological advancement and its increasing emphasis on the development of creative industry, an area perceived to be very promising in the future.
- demonstrate critical awareness and understanding of some important cultural and social changes in contemporary China as a result of its impressive and rapid economic and technological development, and potential impacts they have on Chinese society and China's future development.
- demonstrate theoretical analyses and perceptions of the above mentioned economic development and socio-cultural changes and fundamental research skills through applying relevant theories in analyzing the developments and changes and in presenting their analyses and their own views.

### **Indicative Content:**

- An overview of China's rapid economic development since 1980s, its trajectory and its role in the world economy today, including its new Belt Road initiative which may change the dynamics of the world economy and trade;
- A selective study of a few key sectors that can best illustrate the nature of the above mentioned economic development in China, such as banking and financial services, automobile industry, infrastructure, technology and E-commerce;
- New knowledge initiatives in China with regard to digital cities and creative industry developing both in China and in partnership abroad;
- The impacts the rapid economic development has on the society as a whole from a selection of both macro and micro challenges and issues such as education, environment, and health care and welfare system
- A theoretical examination of the development and change in the framework of developmentalism theory and China's own effort in search of a way forward with

China's distinctive characteristics.

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

**Teaching Methodology:**

This course combines lectures, seminars and individual or group work. Students are encouraged to reflect on their own research as well as on the recommended readings by the teachers, and are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions and interactions. Learning is supported by a range of additional activities and readings with tasks both in and outside classroom, involving project, group or pair work. Student work is assessed through a variety of ways consisting practical project, reflective writing and exam, as well as using both formative and summative approaches.

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for a complete reading list

**Indicative Text(s):**

Chow, Gregory. (2015) Routledge Handbook of the Chinese Economy. Routledge  
 Davies, Howard. (2017) Understanding a Changing China: key issues for business. Taylor & Francis  
 Jacka, Tamara (2013) Contemporary China: society and social change. Cambridge University Press  
 Santos Goncalo (2016) Transforming Patriarchy: Chinese families in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. University of Washington Press  
 Vukovich D, (2011) *China and Orientalism: Western Knowledge Production and the PRC (Postcolonial Politics)* . Routledge.

**Journals**

**Web**

**Sites**

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Change Log for this CSD:**

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
