Instructor : Gérard Roland

The course will introduce students to the new and evolving field of comparative economics that has emerged from the transition experience and the economics of transition. Before the economics of transition, comparative economics was devoted mostly to the comparison of capitalism and socialism, and in practice mostly to the study of socialist economic systems (central planning, Yugoslav self-management, market socialism…). The transition experience and the economics of transition has shown the importance of the institutions underlying the capitalist system. Comparative economics is now turning to the comparative analysis of institutions of existing capitalist systems and to the historical evolution of those institutions.

This year, one third of the course will be devoted to understand the success of the growth process in China.

Lecture 1. Introduction.

Review of the issues covered by the new comparative economics.

Readings:

Other readings:

PART I. COMPARATIVE INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

Lecture 2. Different coordination mechanisms.
Readings:

Other readings:

Readings:

Other readings:


Readings:

Other readings:

Lecture 5-7. The role of culture.

Readings:

Other readings:

Lecture 8: Capitalism under democracy and dictatorship.
Readings:

Other Readings:

Lecture 9: Comparative analysis of democracies: political regimes and electoral systems.
Readings:

Readings:

Other readings:


PART II. UNDERSTANDING CHINA’S DEVELOPMENT

Lecture 11: The gradual approach to reform and the flexibility of China’s administrative organization.

Readings:


Lecture 12: Dual-track liberalization and its properties.

Readings:

Lecture 13: Fiscal decentralization and the incentives of bureaucrats.


Lecture 14: Meritocracy and yardstick competition in the Chinese administration.

Readings: