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. One third of the course will be devoted to understand the success of the growth process in China.

Requirement: An original research essay due by December 10 2017.

Lecture 1 (August 23). Introduction.

Review of the issues covered by the new comparative economics.

Readings:

Other readings:

PART I: INSTITUTIONS AND GROWTH.

Lectures 2 and 3 (August 30 and September 6). Institutions and Economic Growth.

Readings:

Other readings:


**Lecture 4 (September 20). Comparative legal systems. Common Law vs Civil Law.**

Readings:

Other readings:
Lecture 5-7 (September 27. October 4 and 11): The Role of Culture.

Readings:


Other readings:


Lectures 8 (October 4, 11 and 18): Comparative History.

PART II. UNDERSTANDING CHINA’S DEVELOPMENT

Lecture 9 (October 25): China’s growth under socialism and under transition.

Readings:

Other readings:

- Song, Storesletten and Zilibotti (2011) “Growing like China” AER.

Lecture 11 (November 8): The gradual approach to reform and the flexibility of China’s administrative organization.

Readings:

**Lecture 12a (November 15): Dual-track liberalization and its properties.**
Readings:


**Lecture 12b (November 15): Fiscal decentralization and the incentives of bureaucrats.**

Lecture 13 (November 29): Meritocracy and yardstick competition in the Chinese administration.

Readings: