COURSE SYLLABUS

Econ 4340
Comparative Economic Systems
Spring 2010

Course & Section: Econ 4340 (WM 12:40 - 2:05 p.m.)
Classroom: FCB 131

Course Title: Comparative Economic Systems

Prerequisite: Econ 2120 or instructor permission.

Instructor: Dr. K. K. Fung

Textbook: Readings selected by K. K. Fung and Wall Street Journal subscription

Course Description:
Factors contributing to differential performance of economic systems, including property rights, information flow, incentive structure, management-labor relation, government policies on technology and competitiveness. Emerging trends of system convergence and corporate globalization.

Course Outline:
Course materials will be organized into 13 major topics:
A. Culture and political factors
B. Property rights
C. Market entry and exit
D. Market vs regulation
E. Market structure
F. Ownership structure
G. Underground economy
H. Corruption
I. Technology and innovation
J. Dispute settlement
K. Labor market
L. The Welfare State
M. Globalization

Method of Instruction:
Class discussion on reading assignments.

Assessment:
Students will be graded by:
1. 12 comprehension exercises on selected readings 40%
2. 12 written discussions on selected readings 40%
3. Class participation 20%

Class participation includes:
1. 5 points each for 2 class presentations of class discussion
2. 2 points for each in-class Q&A participation.
3. 10 points for SETE survey
4. 10 points each for submission of outside readings (see below for instructions).

50 points constitute full participation.
Attendance & Grading:
Class attendance is mandatory. Students who are absent more than six (6) times will receive only 80% of their full course grade. For students who are absent no more than three (3) times, the lowest two grades in the written assignments (but not the last two) will be dropped in computing the course grade provided that ALL assignments are completed. All absences, regardless of excuses, are treated equally.

N.B.: Students who must leave before end of class should first obtain instructor's permission at beginning of class.
N.B.: Two late arrivals (more than 10 minutes after classes start) are counted as one absence.

Late Assignments:
Late writing assignment submissions carry the following penalty.
Collabics group assignments:
40% - missing initial group submission deadline
40% - missing peer rating deadline
20% - for missing peer comments
20% - failure of top-rated submitters to respond to peer comments
Late assignments must be submitted no later than the deadline of the next assignment in the same category.

Incomplete Assignments:
Missing assignments will be graded as zero (0) and cannot be dropped as lowest grades in writing assignments in the computation of course grades.

Grading Scale:
Apart from the customary rounding off of the unit digit, your course grade will be assigned according to the following schedule without further curving. If you reach the lower cutoff point of a higher grade because of customary rounding, you will receive a minus with the higher grade. If your rounded grade is in the top quintile within a certain grade, you will receive a plus with that grade:

| 90% & above | A |
| 80 - 89% | B |
| 70 - 79% | C |
| 60 - 69% | D |
| 59% & under | F |

Conduct
The University of Memphis policy regarding Classroom Misconduct will be enforced. Details of the policies can be found in the Student Handbook or at the Office of Judicial and Ethical Programs website, http://www.people.memphis.edu/~jaffairs/

Office Hours
Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00 - 12:00 pm
04:00 - 05:00 pm
Or by appointment at other mutually convenient time.

Office Number: Room 413, Business Building.
Telephone & FAX: 678-4626; 678-2685 Fax
E-mail: kkfung@memphis.edu
Website: http://kkfung.org

Econ 4340
Comparative Economic Systems
How to do class presentations

Order of presentation

- Your name
- Title of article
- Brief summary of assigned readings
- Discuss (see "How to discuss a reading" below)
- Ask for feedback

Hints for good presentation

- Eye contact with audience
- Project your voice
- No reading from printed article
- One 3 by 5 card for notes is acceptable. But don't look at it constantly
- Ask for feedback or question

January 14, 2009

Econ 4340
How to discuss a reading

The purpose of discussion exercises is to make sure you have read your assigned readings and have related their contents to your previous personal and intellectual experiences. **Your discussion should not be a summary of the assigned readings.**

You may do one of the following:
1. Choose a point and provide an analogy.
2. Choose a point and provide an example to support or reject it.
3. Choose a point and provide a logical or factual counter-argument or refutation.

N.B.: Examples and points provided by you may come from any discipline, personal experience, or current events.

N.B.: Discussion of later readings should draw upon content of earlier readings, wherever appropriate.

Things to remember:

- Discussion should begin with a departure point and end with a wrap-up.
- Departure begins, wrap-up ends
- Departure is an appetizer, wrap-up is a dessert
- Deliberate, not pontificate
- Go deep, not spread thin
- Analogize, not summarize
- Evaluate, not regurgitate
- Associate freely, but focus clearly

What I look for in a good discussion:

- Creative analogies or associations are more valued than more facts.
- Open mindedness.
- Conciseness.
- Proper space allocation. In other words, a part that carries more points should not be shorter than the parts that carry fewer points.

What I don't appreciate:
Summary of the assigned readings to pass off as discussion.
Using examples that you know very little about instead of personal examples that you know more about.
Repetition of the same points using identical words from one part to another.
Closed-mindedness. In other words, picking sides instead of exploring possibilities.
Suggesting solutions to intractable problems as if you are an expert who has studied the issues for years.

K. K. Fung
August 1993
Revised: January 1997
Revised: December 1998
Revised: December 2003
Revised: April 2005, January 2009

Econ 4340
Comparative Economic Systems
How to Do Writing Assignments

Questions in writing assignments could involve low-level comprehension or open-ended discussion. The purpose of straight comprehension questions is to make sure you have read the assigned readings and can locate where the appropriate answers are. Complete understanding of the readings are not expected.

You may:

- Copy the appropriate sentences and add connecting sentences to make them more readable. (Max grade: 90 - 95%)
- Rewrite the appropriate sentences in your own words with explanatory notes. (Max grade: 100%)

K. K. Fung
January 1997
Revised: December 1998
Revised: December 2003, January 2009

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Guidelines for selecting and presenting supplementary readings

- Study the assigned reading list.
- Search for a related clip from current WSJ or on the internet using keywords from the reading assignments. Selected clips must be at least 600-word long and preferably less than one year old. The best clips are those that add substantive analytical or descriptive content to the assigned readings.
- Submit a 300-word (maximum) summary of your selection with a discussion of your selection to instructor via email.
- Do an oral in-class oral presentation after approval,

Free Internet Reading Resources

Lexis-Nexis database
This include all of the following publications and more.

Far Eastern Economic Review
Since June 96 (hard to search)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Access Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian Science Monitor</td>
<td>Since 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Times</td>
<td>Previous 365 days</td>
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<td>Washington Post</td>
<td>Previous 14 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fortune</td>
<td>University library database (use firefox browser)</td>
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<td>Business Week</td>
<td>University library database (use firefox browser)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Economist</td>
<td>University library database (use firefox browser)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wall Street Journal</td>
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