



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# **ECO 372 Comparative Study of Economic**

## **Institutions**

**Summer 2024**

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:**TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This Course delves into the diverse array of economic institutions that societies have developed to address economic problems. Using detailed case studies and empirical evidence, students will explore various economic concepts and models to understand the functioning of these institutions. Topics include formal institutions like laws and regulations, as well as informal institutions such as cultural norms and trust. Emphasis is placed on the importance of institutions in shaping economic behavior and performance.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Show proficiency in understanding the prevailing economic models utilized for analyzing institutions;
2. Apply analytical techniques to discern the impact of institutions on socioeconomic equilibria;
3. Utilize these approaches to evaluate existing institutions, including legal or regulatory frameworks;
4. Demonstrate understanding of the reasons behind the variation in institutions across different countries;
5. Gain insight into the pivotal role of institutions in the economic development process.

### **PREREQUISITES**



ECO 110 Microeconomics

**GRADING**

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Assignments	20 Points
Midterm Exam	20 Points
4 Projects	40 Points
Final Exam	20 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

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**Required Texts:**

Morris Bornstein, *Comparative Economic Systems: Models and Cases*, R. D. Irwin, 1974.

**Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

**COURSE TOPICS**

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MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <p>Topic 1: The Concept of Comparative Economic Systems</p> <p>Topic 2: Methodologies for Comparative Economic Analysis</p> <p>Topic 3: Theoretical Frameworks in Comparative Economics</p> <p>Topic 4: Historical Evolution of Economic Systems</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b></p>



	Assignment 1 Project 1
Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Capitalism: Principles and Characteristics Topic 6: Socialism: Ideals and Realities Topic 7: Mixed Economic Systems: Theory and Application Topic 8: Market Mechanisms and Allocation of Resources</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Assignment 2 Project2</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Government Intervention in Economic Systems Topic 10: Property Rights and Ownership Structures Topic 11: Labor Markets and Employment Policies Topic 12: Income Distribution and Wealth Disparities</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Midterm Exam Project 3</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Economic Planning: Models and Approaches Topic 14: Transition Economies: Lessons from Post-Socialist States Topic 15: Comparative Analysis of Economic Performance Metrics Topic 16: Globalization and its Impact on Economic Systems</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Project 4</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Cultural Influences on Economic Development Topic 18: Environmental Sustainability in Economic Systems Topic 19: Technological Innovation and Economic Growth Topic 20: Case Studies in Comparative Economic Systems</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam</p>

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow



University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.