

ECON 380-601: Economies in Transition
Summer 2021 (Wednesday, June 9th – Wednesday, July 28th)

Dr. Rosolino Candela

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Monday (asynchronous)

Wednesday (5 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.)

Friday (11 A.M. –12:30 P.M.)

In-Person Course Location: Auditorium, Van Metre Hall, Arlington Campus, GMU

Virtual Course Link: (TBD)

Office Hours: Appointment upon request

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This is a hybrid course consisting of a combination of virtual as well as in-person lectures and discussion. Each week there will be two synchronous class meetings, which will be held in-person (unless stated otherwise) and one asynchronous lecture posted online. The synchronous class meetings will be held on Wednesday (5 P.M.–6:30 P.M.) and Friday (11:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M). These meetings will be a combination of lecture and open discussion. An asynchronous meeting will be held on Monday, consisting of a recorded lecture, video, or an article that will be posted for you to download through Blackboard. **Please note that the first week of class (Wednesday, June 9th and Friday, June 11th) will be held virtually.**

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES:

This course investigates the foundations of comparative economic systems. Broadly defined, comparative economic systems refers to the study of human interaction under alternative institutional arrangements. The overall objective of this course, therefore, will be to use the basic foundations of economic and institutional analysis to understand, across time and place, how individuals have been able to transition from poverty to wealth. More specifically, however, the focus of study and the particular debates in the field of comparative economic systems has evolved over time across three phases. Before 1989, the core of comparative economics was an examination of the differences in economic, as well as political, performance between capitalism and socialism. During the 1990s and into the early 2000s, the main focus of interest of comparative economists has been the transition from socialism to capitalism. In recent years, mostly as a result of the transition experience of China and India, a new orientation of comparative economics has emerged that focuses on the comparison of the economic effects of the various institutions of capitalism. Both the lectures and assigned readings will reflect the overall scope of this field of study as well as the particular phases of emphasis.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Books

Boettke, Peter J. 2001. [*Calculation and Coordination: Essays in Transitional Political Economy*](#). New York, NY: Routledge.

Powell, Benjamin, ed. 2007. [*Making Poor Nations Rich: Entrepreneurship and the Process of Economic Development*](#). Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Coase, Ronald, and Ning Wang. 2012. [*How China Became Capitalist*](#). New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

COURSE STRUCTURE & GRADING:

Courses will be a mix of lecture and open discussion. PowerPoint will be used during the lecture, and will be made available on Blackboard, but students are responsible for taking notes.

Your final grade is based on quizzes (25%), a midterm exam (35%), and a final exam (40%). No additional credit is available.

Quizzes: There will be 5 quizzes, which will be held every Wednesday at the beginning of class (NOT including June 8 and exam days). Each quiz will be based on the readings and class lecture from the previous week. There are no makeup quizzes, and students must be on time to receive a quiz. Once collected, quizzes will not be distributed to latecomers.

Midterm exam: The midterm exam will be administered in class on Wednesday, July 7, 2021. The exam will include *all* material covered up until that point in time.

Final exam: The final exam will be administered on Wednesday, July 28, 2021. The final exam is comprehensive and will include *all* material covered throughout the semester.

Your letter grade will be assigned based on the weighted value of your quizzes and exams as follows:

A+ 96-100;	A 91-95;	A- 90-86
B+ 85-81;	B 80-76;	B- 75-71
C+ 70-68;	C 67-65;	C- 64-60

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:

If you require any special accommodations, please see me immediately following the first class so that we can work together to make sure that you have what you need to succeed in this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity regarding coursework and grades. The Honor Code reads as follows:

“To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work.”

More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found at the Office of Academic Integrity website at <https://oai.gmu.edu>

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Introduction into Comparative Institutional Analysis (June 8th & June 11th, NO QUIZ)

Powell, Benjamin, ed. 2007. *Making Poor Nations Rich*, pp. 1–53.

2. Institutions and Entrepreneurship (June 14th & June 15th, No Class Friday June 18th)

Powell, Benjamin, ed. 2007. *Making Poor Nations Rich*, pp. 54–133.

3. The Socialist Calculation Debate, the Soviet Experiment with Socialism, and Transitional Political Economy in Post-Soviet Russia (Weeks of June 21st & June 28th)

Boettke, Peter J. 2001. *Calculation and Coordination*, pp. 1–6.

Boettke, Peter J. 2001. *Calculation and Coordination*, pp. 29–46.

Boettke, Peter J. 2001. *Calculation and Coordination*, pp. 77–104.

Boettke, Peter J. 2001. *Calculation and Coordination*, pp. 140–153.

Boettke, Peter J. 2001. *Calculation and Coordination*, pp. 154–190.

4. Midterm Exam (Wednesday, July 7th)

5. The Chinese Experiment with Socialism and Transitional Political Economy in China (Friday, July 9th and Week of July 12th)

Coase, Ronald, and Ning Wang. 2012. *How China Became Capitalist*, pp. 1–40.

Coase, Ronald, and Ning Wang. 2012. *How China Became Capitalist*, pp. 41–152.

Powell, Benjamin, ed. 2007. *Making Poor Nations Rich*, pp. 283–308.

6. Market Reform in Africa, India, and Sweden (Monday, July 19th and Wednesday, July 21th)

Powell, Benjamin, ed. 2007. *Making Poor Nations Rich*, pp. 137–188.

Powell, Benjamin, ed. 2007. *Making Poor Nations Rich*, pp. 250–280.

Powell, Benjamin, ed. 2007. *Making Poor Nations Rich*, pp. 309–341.

7. The Case of Latin America (Guest Lecture, Friday July 23rd)

Powell, Benjamin, ed. 2007. *Making Poor Nations Rich*, pp. 189–222.

Faria, Hugo J. 2008. “[Hugo Chávez Against the Backdrop of Venezuelan Economic and Political History](#).” *The Independent Review* vol. 12, no. 4, pp. 519–535.

8. Final Exam (Wednesday, July 28th)