

**Syllabus**  
**Advanced Topics in Economic Growth**  
FALL 2022

Professor Yong Wang  
(last update: May 14, 2022)

**Instructor Contact Information:** yongwang@nsd.pku.edu.cn ; Room 503, Langrun Garden, Peking University

**Teaching Assistant:** Zitong Zhang, zitongzhang@nsd.pku.edu.cn

**Class Time and Venue:** TBA

**Office Hours:** by appointment (please contact Ms. Shaona Ma at shaonama@nsd.pku.edu.cn)

**Description of the Course**

This PhD course serves two main purposes. One is to provide a rigorous theoretical training in modern theory of economic growth. The second is to help students get started with academic research in this area. This course is most suitable for econ PhD students who have already taken the first-year PhD courses on micro, macro and econometrics. Other students are also welcomed to audit this course.

**Grading and Requirement:**

1. Problem Sets<sup>1</sup> (10% × 3)

Requirement and Format:

- (1) You have to finish all problem sets, some of which are empirical.
- (2) For any problem set, you could work with one more student and hand in a joint copy of solutions.
- (3) You must type out your solutions neatly in English or Chinese.

2. Final Exam (60%, date: TBA)

Requirement and Format: closed-book exam; based on the course materials covered in class.

3. Paper Presentation (10%)

Requirement and Format: You must present an assigned paper using PPT slides and also hand in a written referee report specifying its major potential deficiencies and future research within one week after your presentation.

4. No late homework or proposal will be accepted without prior verifiable justifications.

**Schedules<sup>2</sup>**

**Lecture One: Factor Endowment and Technology Choice**

**Lecture Two: Structural Transformation**

**Lecture Three: JLW Model and Industry Dynamics with Frictions**

**Lecture Four: Innovation, Idea Flows and Imitation**

**Lecture Five: Heterogeneous Firms and Firm Dynamics**

**Lecture Six: Production Network and Vertical Structure**

**Lecture Seven: Income Distribution and Factor Shares**

**Lecture Eight: Economics of Data and Platform Economy**

**Lecture Nine: Political Economy**

**Lecture Ten: Spatial Growth Models**

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<sup>1</sup>The problem sets are mostly based on the instructor's ongoing research, but sometimes adapted from the research papers of others. Failure to obtain grade B or above in two or more problem sets will result in grade F for the whole course automatically.

<sup>2</sup>The ordering of the lectures is subject to change, depending on the actual progress of teaching.