

**FAS2882I: Chinese Economic History in a Global Context**  
**FASStrack 2025**

Note: This is a new course, pending NUS approval. Please note the class will be cancelled if the course is not approved by March. Otherwise, more course details will be updated when it is approved.

**Schedule: PM Session (2pm-6pm, Singapore Time)**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday**

**Tentative Course Description**

This course explores the emergence, development, and expansion of China's market economy since the early modern period within a global context. It begins with a discussion on the economic divergence between China and the Western world, followed by an examination of key economic phenomena related to Chinese economic activities both in China and Southeast Asia. Topics include mountain capitalism, merchant groups, the national market, cross-sea junk trade, plantations and mines, the earliest Chinese companies, overseas Chinese community. These discussions ultimately lead to a reconsideration of Chinese economic history from the perspective of West-China convergence. The course is conducted in Chinese.

**Tentative Course Syllabus**

Class 1--The Debate about the Great Divergence

Class 2--Mountain Capitalism in Ming-Qing China

Class 3--The Rise of Merchant Groups

Class 4--Long-Distance Trade and the National Market

Class 5—The Emperor and the Market Economy

Class 6--Chinese Transregional community

Term break

Class 7--Fieldwork Trip to Singapore's Chinatown

Class 8--Junk Trade Since the Age of Exploration

Class 9--Plantations, Mines, and Chinese Migration in Southeast Asia

Class 10—Kongsi and Capitalism

Class 11—Nation-State, Diaspora and Company

Class 12--Rethinking Chinese Economic History from the Perspective of Convergence