Course Title: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY OF SOUTH CHINA
Course Code: HST4353
Recommended Study Year: 2, 3, 4
No. of Credits/Semester: 3
Mode of Tuition: Sectional approach
Teaching Hours: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.: Elective
Prerequisite(s): None
Co-requisite(s): None
Exemption Requirement(s): N/A

Brief Course Description
This course examines the social and economic forces that shape the historical development of South China, and the lives of various social groups, including peasants, workers, merchants, and women.

Aims
This course introduces students to the ways of studying history from below by examining the interplay between the socio-economic environment and common people’s perspectives and practices.

Learning Outcomes
The students will be able
(1) to analyze current Chinese social and economic issues from a historical perspective.
(2) to explain the significance of common people’s perspectives and practices for understanding the past as well as the present.
(3) to gain a general understanding of different theoretical approaches to major issues in the field.
(4) to conduct research using primary and secondary sources critically.
(5) to develop written and oral communication skills.

Indicative Content
I. Population: growth and migration
II. Marketing systems and macroregions
III. Social organization: family and lineage
IV. Merchants, capitalism, and the commercial development
V. Peasants, agrarian economy, and the socio-political changes in 20th century China
VI. Women, economy, and society
VII. Cities and urban culture in the Republican period
VIII. State, economy, and society in 20th century China

Teaching Method
This course is taught partly as lectures, partly as seminars with assigned readings and discussions.
Measurement of Learning Outcomes

(1) research paper and short essays: to evaluate students’ writing skills and the ability to conduct research using primary and secondary sources critically.

(2) intensive class discussion: to assess students’ oral communication skills and their ability to analyze current Chinese social and economic issues from a historical perspective.

(3) examination: to evaluate students’ written communication skills and their comprehension of different theoretical approaches to major issues in the field.

Assessment
Continuous Assessment  65%
Examination  35%

Required Readings
Selected Readings from the following:
Zhang, Baohui, Communal Organizations and Agrarian Revolutions in South China, Austin: University of Texas at Austin, 1994.