

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHY 2041G
Geography of China
January 2014

Lectures: Friday 10:30am - 12:30pm Room HSB-240
Tutorials: Friday 12:30pm - 1:30pm Room HSB-240 & Room SSC-2020
Instructor: Dr Clare Gordon **Graduate Assistants:** TBA
Room 2223 SSC
cgordon@uwo.ca
Ph: 661-2111 ext.82828

Office Hour: Friday 3:30 – 4:30pm, or by appointment.

Course Description:

This course adopts a geographic approach to understanding contemporary China. It examines how transformations of China's land, people, economy, and society are recasting internal regional divisions and repositioning China in a rapidly changing world.

No prerequisites are needed for this course. Lectures will present essential information for a virtual tour of the regions and peoples of the “many Chinas” in the reform era. We trace dramatic changes over space and time as this vast ancient civilization emerges on the world stage as contemporary China. Tutorials further explore diverse values, practices, and landscapes. Students learn to understand the forces that have shaped a new cultural geography in China. We see continuing development in the face of daunting challenges but also exciting possibilities for the future of its own citizens, regional roles, and global presence.

The course uses the theories and methodologies of geography to help students understand these dynamic changes in context. Employing various scales of analysis to identify regional features, students will explore the conditions, events, problems, and trends of contemporary China and their implications for people inside and outside of China.

The course is for students considering China-related careers in government, NGOs, or business, as well as preparing them for further studies on China in Geography or in other areas of study.

Learning Objectives:

After successful completion of this course, students will have

- 1) knowledge of the geography of China: population, environmental, cultural, political, and economic characteristics;
- 2) use of geographical concepts and techniques: reading and working with map data and satellite images of China;
- 3) understanding of the regions of China: natural (physical) settings, socio-economic regions, and recasting regions.

Required Textbooks available for purchase in The Book Store at Western:

Veck, Gregory. et al. 2011. (2nd ed.) *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Chapman, Phil. et al. 2008. *Wild China: Natural Wonders of the World's Most Enigmatic Land*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, Co-published with BBC Books.

Additional sources and readings will be identified and recommended in class.

Evaluation Component	Weight	Description (more details on OWL)
Written Exercises (x4)	20%	About 250 words each on a topic drawn from Veck "Questions for Discussion" sections.
Mini-Multis (x6)	30%	Ten multiple-choice questions each, during the tutorial covering topics of lectures/tutorials in the previous week.
Essay Proposal	5%	About 250 words to focus your research on the Essay conforming to standard academic approaches and formats.
Essay	20%	About 1500 words presenting your research on the selected topic, using geographical concepts and methods.
Final Exam (2-hour)	25%	Fifty multiple choice questions on the whole course. This will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

DATE	Lecture Topics	Readings	Exercises & Assignments
Jan 10	China: Old and New	<i>CG</i> 1-15; <i>WC</i> 209-247	Class & Tutorial combined
Jan 17	Physical Environments	<i>CG</i> 16-47; <i>WC</i> 1-47	Exercise 1 due
Jan 24	Historical Development	<i>CG</i> 48-82; <i>WC</i> 48-85	Mini-Multi 1
Jan 31	Administrative Divisions	<i>CG</i> 83-110; <i>WC</i> 86-117	Proposal due
Feb 7	Population and Migration	<i>CG</i> 111-138; <i>WC</i> 118-147	Mini-Multi 2
Feb 14	Changes in Consumption	<i>CG</i> 139-178; <i>WC</i> 148-179	Exercise 2 due; Mini-Multi 3
<i>Feb 21</i>		<i>Reading Week</i>	
Feb 28	Economic Transformations	<i>CG</i> 179-202; <i>WC</i> 180-207	Mini-Multi 4
Mar 7	Agricultural Changes	<i>CG</i> 203-233	Exercise 3 due; Mini-Multi 5
Mar 14	Industrial Infrastructures	<i>CG</i> 234-267	Mini-Multi 6
Mar 21	Urban Expansion	<i>CG</i> 268-302	Essay due
Mar 28	Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan	<i>CG</i> 303-362	Exercise 4 due
Apr 4	China's Evolving Landscapes		Class & Tutorial combined

Readings are from (*CG*) *China's Geography* or (*WC*) *Wild China*.

Other Instructions:

- ✓ **No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.** Student use of technology (such as, but not limited, to laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.
- ✓ **Make-up exams** can be arranged only for documented medical and emergency reasons. The student should contact your home faculty academic counselling office with documentation indicating that the student could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.
Students are required to follow the **Policy on Accommodation for Medical illness:** (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)
Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.
- ✓ **Lectures, presentations, and class discussions** include information, explanations, and interpretations not available elsewhere, but essential to mastery of the course content and to performance on exams. Active participation in all classes is advised. If you are unable to attend a class due to a minor illness or other problems, arrange to borrow notes from a classmate.
- ✓ **Tutorial work** will be marked in class, but not graded. There will be no make-up for missed lab-tutorial work. Lectures and tutorial work covers course subject matter only.
- ✓ **Writing** skills will not be covered in tutorial sessions. Those who would like some help, may find it from the Writing Support Centre at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/> .
- ✓ **Term paper** proposals or papers submitted late will be penalized by a deduction of 10% per day to the maximum of seven calendar days after which they will not be accepted.
- ✓ **Accommodation for some religious holidays and special examinations** may be provided, but students need to request accommodation in writing as early as possible and not later than the dates specified in *2013 Western Academic Calendar*.
- ✓ **Plagiarism and cheating on an examination** are academic offences therefore are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.
Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>) does textual similarity review to detect plagiarism. Your paper may be submitted to Turnitin and included as source document.
- ✓ **Emails** are to be used to set up appointments or for very brief answers. Teaching staff will not read emails during the weekend nor do we answer email questions concerning course content or exams. We will be happy to see you and answer your questions during our office hours.
- ✓ **OWL** powered by Sakai provides up-to-date details about the course. If, during the term, a student has technical difficulty (rare) accessing or using this facility, please contact University Information Technology Services for assistance in resolving such problems.
- ✓ **Mental Health @ Western.** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
- ✓ **Program Counselling.** Students in need of counseling about the geography program and related matters should contact Undergraduate Assistant and Program Advisor Ms. Angelica Lucaci in the Department of Geography: alucaci@uwo.ca (Phone ext. 86052)
- ✓ **EVERYONE** is required to evacuate the building when the fire alarm is activated.