

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

**GEOGRAPHY 2040A**  
**Geography of East and Southeast Asia**  
September 2014

**Lectures:** Friday 10:30am - 12:30pm Room SSC 3006  
**Tutorials:** Friday 12:30pm - 1:30pm Room SSC 3006  
**Instructor:** Dr Clare Gordon **Grad. Assistant:** Mengieng Ung  
Room 2223 SSC  
[cgordon@uwo.ca](mailto:cgordon@uwo.ca)  
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 82828

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

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**Course Description:**

This course introduces the lands and peoples of East and Southeast Asia. It focuses on the distributions and interrelationships of physical environments and human behaviours. Regions are ongoing outcomes of sustained human activity that integrate past cultural experience into current ideas, technological developments, and resource practices. These latter three combine in future changes to further promulgate the culture and to shape the regional identity within the world community.

The course provides a framework through which to explore the changing human geography of a diverse and dynamic region. After an overview of the physical and political geography of the region, the lectures will focus on selected topics that are especially germane to understanding East and Southeast Asia as a sub-global region, we will call 'Pacific Asia'. The emphasis is on the patterns displayed by socio-cultural variation in resources utilization. Both general characteristics of the region and particularities within and between different countries will be presented while working through the issues. The tutorials will be organized for practical work, such as analysis of maps, open discussion of video clips, and assigned readings.

**Course Prerequisites:** None.

**Course Objectives:**

- To present the emerging region of Pacific Asia in a way that will lead to understanding the role of regional differences in the era of globalisation;
- To provide the student with an opportunity to learn about the region from the spatial perspective and to interpret the region through use of some geographic principles and techniques;
- To describe and discuss selected issues, to help the student increase awareness of and sensitivity to the differences of the physical and human environments in Pacific Asia;
- To outline Pacific Asian geographical patterns of regional spatial organization, its ecological characteristics, cultural roots, and contemporary social-economic-political forces;
- To understand how the people in the region perceive and use their physical settings to develop their distinctive places and identities in the global community.

**Required Textbook** (available for purchase at the UWO Book Store):

Weightman, Barbara A. *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East, and Southeast Asia*. Custom Edition. John Wiley & Sons. 2012.

**Required Readings:**

In addition to the course texts, students are also required to read a few assigned articles and to study selected maps. There will also be video clips. All of these will be identified in class and placed on the course OWL site.

**Evaluation:**

Final grades in the course will be determined by performance in the following components:

<b>Participation/Contribution</b>	<b>5%</b>	Evaluated in Lab Tutorials
<b>Group Project</b>	<b>20%</b>	Details given in class

**All tests are conducted during class.** The format includes multiple choice questions, map interpretation, short-answers, and essay questions.

<b>Test 1</b> (Sept. 26)	1 hour	<b>25%</b>
<b>Test 2</b> (Oct. 24)	1 hour	<b>25%</b>
<b>Test 3</b> (Nov. 14)	1 hour	<b>25%</b>

**Lecture Topics:**

<b>Week 1</b> (Sept. 5)	The Big Picture: Major Influences
<b>Week 2</b> (Sept. 12)	Environments and People
<b>Week 3</b> (Sept. 19)	Population, Gender, and Disparity
<b>Week 4</b> (Sept. 26)	Development, Urbanization, Migration, and Quality of Life
<b>Week 5</b> (Oct. 3)	Agriculture, Food, and Food Security
<b>Week 6</b> (Oct. 10)	East Asia: Center of the World
<b>Week 7</b> (Oct. 17)	China: Great Dragon Rising
<b>Week 8</b> (Oct. 24)	Japan: Century 21; Korea and Taiwan: Tigers Rising
(Oct. 31)	<i>Fall Study Break</i> NO CLASS
<b>Week 9</b> (Nov. 7)	Southeast Asia: Transition among the Nagas
<b>Week 10</b> (Nov. 14)	Mainland Southeast Asia: Turmoil and Peace
<b>Week 11</b> (Nov. 21)	Insular Southeast Asia: Challenges of Growth
<b>Week 12</b> (Nov. 28)	Pacific Asia: New Patterns and Prospects

### ***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 tests** 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](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.
- ✓ **Lab-Tutorial work** will be marked in class but not graded. There will be no make-up for missed lab-tutorial work.
- ✓ **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 the current *Western University 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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).
- ✓ **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](mailto:alucaci@uwo.ca) (Phone ext. 86052)

EVERYONE is required to evacuate the building when the fire alarm is activated.
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