

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHY 2041B
Geography of China
January - April 2018

Lectures: Friday 10:30am - 12:30pm Room UCC 56

Instructor: Dr Clare Gordon

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Office Hour: Friday 9:30 – 10:20am, 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.

Antirequisite(s): Geography 2041F/G.

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. Additional maps and videos 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 Textbook available for purchase in The Book Store at Western:

Veck, Gregory. et al. 2016. (3rd ed.) *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Evaluation Component	Weight	Description (more details on OWL)
Exercises (5 x 2%)	10%	hands-on practice using geographical techniques for skill development; in-class, about 10 minutes each.
Quizzes (2 x 5%)	10%	map labelling/ multiple-choice questions from lectures and readings in previous weeks; in class, about 10 minutes.
Mid-Term	30%	map-interpretation and short-answers (about 200 words x2) covering Chapters 2-8; in-class, about 50 minutes.
Final Exam	50%	multiple-choice and short answers on entire course with emphasis on Chapters 9-14; 2 hours, closed book; date, time and location TBA by Registrar's Office.

DATE	Lecture Topics	Readings	Tests
Jan. 12	Introduction: China's Path and Progress	Chap. 1, pp. 1-20	Companion Website
Jan. 19	Physical Geographies	Chap. 2, pp. 21-49	Exercise 1
Jan. 26	Historical Development	Chap. 3, pp. 50-85	Exercise 2
Feb. 2	Geopolitical Organization	Chap. 4, pp. 86-116	Exercise 3
Feb. 9	Urbanization and Population	Chap. 5-6, pp. 117-181	Exercise 4
Feb. 16	Inequality and Economy	Chap. 7-8, pp. 182-240	Quiz 1
Feb. 23	<i>No Classes</i>	<i>Reading Week</i>	
Mar. 2	Agricultural Changes	Chap. 9, pp. 241-266	Mid-Term
Mar. 9	Industrial Infrastructures	Chap. 10, pp. 267-291	Exercise 5
Mar. 16	Trade and Transportation	Chap. 11, pp. 292-308	Quiz 2
Mar. 23	Environmental Crises & Response	Chap. 12, pp. 309-339	
Mar. 30	<i>No Classes - Good Friday</i>	Chap. 13-14, pp. 340-395	
Apr. 6	Taiwan, Hong Kong, & Macau	Review	

Other Instructions:

No electronic devices will be allowed during quizzes, exercises, and tests. 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.

No make-up quizzes and exercises. Everyone is expected to attend the scheduled classes. Demands from other courses, family issues, or job interviews, etc. are not acceptable excuses for missing assignments of this course.

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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Students with special accommodation will write make-up tests and examinations administered by the department on Fridays during respective periods of fall and winter terms. To prevent prior disclosure, the format and contents of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

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.

Writing skills will not be covered in class sessions. Those who would like some help, may find it from the Writing Support Centre at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>.

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 *2016 Western Academic Calendar*.

Scholastic Offences 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.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Mental Health. If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>.

Western's commitment to accessibility. The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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. You must use your UWO email account and have the course name and number in the subject heading to ensure your messages are received in a timely manner. We will read and reply to email but the response may not be instantaneous.

OWL 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.

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.