

GEOG 2041B – Geography of China Course Outline: Section 001/Winter 2019

1. Course Information

1.1. Classroom Location:

Class Location and Time:

SEB 2200, Wednesday, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Clare Gordon

Office: SSC 2223

Office Hour: Monday / 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Phone: 661-2111 x82828

Email: cgordon@uwo.ca

2. Calendar Description

2.1. 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.

2 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

2.2. Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

3. Textbook

Veeck, Gregory. et al. 2016. (3rd ed.) *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
ISBN 978-1442252561

4. Learning Outcomes

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.

5. Course Format

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. We explore diverse values, practices, and landscapes. 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.

There are no labs or tutorials. In-class lectures and discussions, as well as readings, note taking, and assignments are essential to success in the learning process. Some, but not all, PPT slides used to support lectures may be posted on OWL.

6. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Exercises (8)	40%	In-class as indicated
Mid-term	30%	Feb. 27
Group Report	30%	Apr. 3

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

Evaluation Component Description (more details in class and on OWL)

Exercises (8 x 5%)	practice using geographical techniques for skill development, such as map labelling and map-interpretation, as well as multiple-choice questions, from lectures and readings in previous weeks; in class, closed-book, about 10 minutes each.
Mid-term (30%)	provide short answers (10 to 100 words) to questions; based on questions at the end of each chapter; 50 minutes class time, closed-book.
Group Report (30%)	work outside class in assigned groups on topics re China’s geography; groups and topics will be confirmed in class (January 23rd); interim (10%) reports of group member activities and final (20%) written report.

2019 DATE	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignments
Jan. 9	Introduction: China's Path and Progress	Chap. 1, pp. 1-20	Videos at class OWL
Jan. 16	Physical Geographies	Chap. 2, pp. 21-49	Preview "Questions for Discussion"
Jan. 23	History and Geopolitics	Chap. 3-4, pp. 50-116	Ex. 1
Jan. 30	Urbanization	Chap. 5, pp. 117-154	Ex. 2
Feb. 6	Population and Inequality	Chap. 6-7, pp. 155-211	Ex. 3
Feb. 13	Economic Transformations	Chap. 8, pp. 212-240	Ex. 4
<i>Feb. 20</i>	<i>No Classes</i>	<i>Winter Reading Week</i>	
Feb. 27	Agriculture	Chap. 9, pp. 241-266	Mid-term Exam
Mar. 6	Industry	Chap. 10, pp. 267-291	Ex. 5
Mar. 13	Trade and Transportation	Chap. 11, pp. 292-308	Ex. 6
Mar. 20	Environmental Crises & Response	Chap. 12, pp. 309-339	Ex. 7
Mar. 27	Taiwan	Chap. 13, pp. 340-363	Ex. 8
Apr. 3	Hong Kong & Macau	Chap. 14, pp. 364-395	Group Report

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. Students are required to follow the Policy on Accommodation for Illness http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf.]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed assessments worth less than 10% of the course grade should apply directly to the course instructor and provide documentation within 48 hours of the scheduled assessment to avoid receiving a grade of zero. If accommodation is warranted, make-up work or re-weighting will be offered.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of "need". It is important for students to monitor their performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in the course.

7. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. For missed exams, you must take your documentation to Academic Counselling within 48 hours of the exam. Otherwise, the instructor will assign a grade of zero. The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

8. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during exercises, 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.

9. Academic Offences

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.

10. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

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 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available at: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca>

11. Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

12. 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/>.

13. Support Services

Student Support Services can be reached at: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

14. Important Dates

January 7: Classes resume

January 15: Last day to add a second term half course

February 18: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 18 to 22: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

April 9: Classes end

April 10: Study day

April 11-30: Examination Period