

GEOG 3901B – Selected Topics in Geography China Field Trip – Yangtze Three Gorges Summer 2019

1. Course Information

1.1. Classroom Location:

Field trip will take place Monday, May 27 to Thursday June 6, beginning in Chongqing and ending in Wuhan.

Pre-trip mandatory meetings:

Monday, March 18 from 1:30-2:30pm in SSC 2240

Monday, April 1 from 1:30-2:30pm in SSC 2240

Tuesday, April 9 from 7:30-9:30pm in 316 Ramsay Rd

Friday, May 3 from 2:00-4:00pm in SSC 2322

You must pay the non-refundable trip deposit and be added to the course as specified by the Department of Geography. More details from Angelica Lucaci (alucaci@uwo.ca).

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Clare Gordon

Email: cgordon@uwo.ca

Office: SSC 2223

Office Hours: Friday from 12:30-1:30pm or by appointment

Cell in China: **TBA**



2. Calendar Description

2.1. Course Description

(Consult the Department of Geography for details of course offering.)

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): Two full courses or equivalent in Geography. Third or fourth year status at the university.

The course is jointly organized by Western University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Chongqing University in China. The Course Syllabus in draft form can be viewed at the course OWL site and the updated versions will be posted in the same folder on OWL when they become available. Please print hard copies of the final syllabus, field exercises, and other relevant materials and bring them with you in the field.

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. Introduction

This field course will take students to Southwestern China along the Yangtze River. Students are expected to get first hand experience from four aspects; physical geography, human geography, urban issues and resources management.

The Yangtze River becomes substantially more powerful after passing the Sichuan Basin and creates astonishing gorges. Water management is crucial to utilize the water resource for the benefits of irrigation and other consumption activities, flood and drought control, transportation, and hydropower. To study these aspects, we will visit the world largest hydraulic engineering project, the Three Gorges Dam, together with a cruise trip along the Three Gorges.

Like other regions in China, the local culture is fascinating and adapts to the local environment. We will examine authentic Chongqing hotpot and Hubei cuisine and explore why the food there is different from other parts of China. We will also investigate ancient poems on this region and use them as references to today's situations. Many items of cultural heritage in the three Gorges were below the flooding line when the Dam was put into use. A variety of methods were used to rescue more important ones. We will visit a few featured heritage sites to learn about the principles and techniques for their protection.

The region is densely populated. This trip will lead students into two metropolises, Chongqing and Wuhan, to retrieve first-hand information on their development and planning. Students are expected to compare the two cities, one hilly and one flat.

4. Budget

Students are expected to pay for the airfare and food. Accommodations and inland travel are funded by a donation from Dr. Cecilia Yau, a WesternU geography alumna and a highly accomplished Asian business leader, in honour of Dr. Elaine Bjorklund, Professor Emerita of our department.

Students are encouraged to seek funding opportunities that would cover a large part, if not all of your expenses for airfare and food, perhaps other costs depending on individual circumstances, such as t expenses of trip and health insurance, travel vaccines, and personal lifestyle needs. To apply, visit the [International Learning](#) website, Going Abroad Western Awards. The department will arrange to provide invitation letters for every trip participant to help obtain passport and visa for travel to China. If you have specific medical or dietary needs, please inform Dr. Gordon as soon as possible.

5. Learning Activities

As this is a credit-earning trip, students will fulfill the following tasks under the guidance of the trip leaders and/or the TAs:

- Pre-trip preparations including readings and map studies
- During the trip (collecting first-hand data)
 - Observation
 - Interviews
 - Group presentation
- After the trip (data analysis)
 - Field trip report

6. Evaluation

Students are required to attend all meetings punctually, before, during, and after the trip. Students are responsible for material covered and for completion and submission of all the assignments as specified. A collegial and courteous manner is expected from all participants throughout this course, especially when you are interacting with the professors and students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Chongqing University, and Wuhan University, so that everyone involved can benefit from an in-depth exchange.

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Pre-trip meetings / Assessments	20%	May 17 May 28
Participation during the trip	10%	June 6
In-trip Group Presentation	10%	June 3
Individual post-trip report	60%	June 30

Pre-trip Assessments

- Meeting attendance and notes as well as actions taken following every session
- Submitted statement of research interest
- The Yangtze River basin and the area of the trip
- Geographical context of the Three Gorges Dam
- Chongqing and Wuhan environments
- Use of WeChat and Pleco for ease of communications in the field

In-trip group presentation

Date and time: Monday, June 3rd, 2019, 7pm-9pm

Venue: Upper deck of the cruise ship

The two hours have two sections. The first session will take one hour. Each student should present their fieldwork up to that point and assess to what extent their original research design has been achieved, whether the methodology is adequate to achieve research goals, what are the gaps and difficulties. The presentations will be organized within groups. Each student will have six minutes and should prepare one or up to three slides (on paper or with a laptop). The remaining time of the hour will be devoted to intra-group discussion. Each group should identify three strengths and three difficulties in first-hand data collection. The second section will be used for inter-group discussion. Each group will present their three strengths and three difficulties in no more than five minutes. Following each presentation, the same critique groups as in the pre-trip group presentation will provide comments with one minute for each group.

Individual Field Report

Submit to course OWL "Drop Box".

There are four parts for the post-trip report as indicated below:

- Diagrams (manual or scanned) and Notes: activities/subjects for each day 10%
- Photos and Comments: 50 minimum field trip photos, brief identifications/comments 10%
- Observations and Reflections: Reported observations of the trip highlights (500-1000 words in length). Use your own field notes along with other resources to support your interpretation and discussion of the site(s) visited on the trip; you might find it helpful to organize around a particular theme or themes. Your report will be evaluated for insights and use of evidence 10%
- Final Report 30%. The final report must primarily rely on first-hand data from the upcoming fieldwork. Simple observation is not counted as a methodology. The deadline for submitting the final reports will be June 30th, 2019. The length of the report should be 2000~2500 words. Standard academic writing formats are expected. The grading will be based on the following criteria: (1) clear introduction of the research background, literature and question (20%), (2) sound methodology and first-hand quantitative/qualitative data collection in the fieldtrip (20%), (3) credible data analysis (40%), (4) sound conclusion and discussion (10%) and (5) rigorous academic writing (10%).

Research Groups

You have been put into groups. Each group has a randomly designated group leader, as marked in bold red in the Table posted on OWL.

Trip Itinerary

The schedule of events is changing. See current version on OWL.

Students are responsible for material covered in the mandatory meetings as well as those provided during the field trip. Below are a few books, maps, and videos with glimpses:

Chetham, Deirdre. *Before the Deluge: The Vanishing World of the Yangtze's Three Gorges*.

New York; Houndmills, England: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.

Theroux, Paul. *Sailing through China*, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire : Michael Russell, 1983.

Map of Chongqing [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] (1:700,000). 2019.

Map of Ch'ung Ch'ing by AMS (1:250,000), 1962.

For use in the Western Libraries (Map and Data Centre, Sheet NH 48-12 in "Binder 1" Drawer "China - Thematic Physical" Bin #84)

Yangtze: New China and the Old River. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

One copy available for loan at Western Libraries (Huron DVD collection, DS 779.23 Y36 2008)

National Geographic: Big, Bigger, Biggest: Dam S02E08

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3J196bLP5E>

National Geographic Documentary Megastructures - The Three Gorges Dam - BBC Documentary

History <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HCHXNv7g8>

Other requirements:

Pre-departure & Travel Registry: You are required to complete the mandatory pre-departure training in OWL prior to departure. Please refer to our [pre-departure website](#) for instructions on how to sign up for the pre-departure training in OWL. The purpose of the pre-departure training is to help you prepare to live and study abroad.

You are also required to enter your travel information within **Western's International Travel Registry**. You can access the Travel Registry form through your application in Atlas. As well, please refer to the [Safety Abroad for Students website](#) for instructions on how to complete the Travel Registry.

In case of illness, consult the [Policy on Accommodation for Illness](#).

For Western's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC please refer to the [Academic Handbook](#).

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.

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

7. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided 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 tests and examinations.

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.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

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.

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.

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

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. The Student Services website provides greater detail about the University's policy on [medical accommodation](#). This site provides links to 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.

12. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

13. Support Services

[Student Support Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)