

## **GEOG 2041A – Geography of China Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2019**

### **1. Course Information**

#### 1.1. Classroom Location:

Class Location and Time: UCC 56, Friday, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

#### 1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Clare Gordon  
Office: SSC 2223  
Office Hours: Friday 12:30 pm -1:20 pm  
Phone: 661-2111 x82828  
Email: [cgordon@uwo.ca](mailto: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. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.  
ISBN 978-1442252561

### **4. Course Objectives and Format**

This course provides students with a comprehensive view on a rapidly changing China and its geographic condition and realities. 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.

## 5. 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;
- 4) critical reasoning and presentation skills; research project and teamwork; communication.

## 6. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Quizzes (8)	40%	In-class as indicated
Tests (2)	40%	Oct. 4 & Nov. 1
Group Project	20%	November 29

### Evaluation Component Description (more details on OWL)

Quizzes (8 x 5%)	practice using geographical techniques for skill development, such as map labelling and map-interpretation, from lectures and readings in previous weeks; in class, about 10 minutes each.
Tests (2 x 20%)	Chap. 1-5 and 6-10; in class, about 50 minutes each select the best answer to multiple-choice questions, provide short-answers (10-100 words) to questions presented.
Group Project (20%)	work outside class in assigned groups on topics re China's geography; Groups and topics will be confirmed in class (September 20th). interim (5%) reports of group member activities and final (15%) written report.

## Class Schedule

2019 DATE	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignments
Sept. 6	Course Overview; Introduction: China's Path and Progress	PPT slides of the week; Chap. 1, pp. 1-20	Preview textbook "Questions for Discussion"
Sept. 13	Physical Geographies: Landscape of Diversity	Chap. 2, pp. 21-49	Quiz 1
Sept. 20	History: Ancient Roots and Biding Traditions	Chap. 3, pp. 50-85	Quiz 2
Sept. 27	Politics: The Central Kingdom in a Globalized World	Chap. 4, pp. 86-116	Quiz 3
Oct. 4	Cities: The Road to an Urban Revolution	Chap. 5, pp. 117-154	Test 1
Oct. 11	Population: Demographic Changes and Challenges	Chap. 6, pp. 155-181	Quiz 4
Oct. 18	Inequality: Rising Social, Economic, and Spatial Divides	Chap. 7, pp. 182-211	Quiz 5
Oct. 25	Economy: A Preface to China's Changing Economic Geography; Agriculture: From Antiquity to Revolution to Reform	Chap. 8, pp. 212-240 Chap. 9, pp. 241-266	Quiz 6
Nov. 1	Industry: Transition to the Factory of the World	Chap. 10, pp. 267-291	Test 2
Nov. 8	<i>No Classes</i>	<i>Fall Reading Week</i>	
Nov. 15	Trade and Transportation: New Pillars of Growth; The Environment: Crises and Response	Chap. 11, pp. 292-308 Chap. 12, pp. 309-339	Quiz 7
Nov. 22	Taiwan: An Enduring East Asian Miracle	Chap. 13, pp. 340-363	Quiz 8
Nov. 29	Hong Kong & Macau: Postcolonial Futures	Chap. 14, pp. 364-395	Group Project

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as for the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Everyone is expected to attend the scheduled classes and complete in-class evaluations. Demands from other courses, family issues, sleep requirements, transportation problems, or job interviews, etc. are not acceptable excuses for missing assignments of this course. Nevertheless, if extenuating circumstances arise, students may

request academic consideration on medical or non-medical grounds. **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.**

For Western's NEW [Policy on Accommodation for Illnesses](#) please refer to the Academic Calendar' section on [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#).

## Requesting Academic Consideration

If a student fails to complete any assignment, they should expect to receive a grade of zero for the work missed. Nevertheless, students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

Procedures for requesting academic consideration for work **10% or more** of course grade

- (i) Submitting a [Self-Reported Absence form](#) provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) For [medical absences](#), submitting to Academic Counselling a [Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; see the [Policy on Accommodation for Illness](#); or
- (iii) For [non-medical absences](#), submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Procedures for requesting academic consideration for work **under 10%** of course grade

- (i) For [medical absences](#), the student informs the Instructor that they wish to be accommodated for medical reasons; the Instructor may require the student to submit medical documentation to the Faculty Dean's Office for a decision.
- (ii) For [non-medical absences](#), the student informs their Instructor that they wish to be accommodated for non-medical reasons; the student should be prepared to provide documentation; the Instructor will decide whether accommodation will be extended.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- **Students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability.** Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability are responsible, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, to determine if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability. Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.
- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

## 7. Make-up Examinations

Make-ups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the scheduled 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 quizzes and tests.

## 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.

## 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. 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.

## 12. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)  
[Student Development Centre](#)

## 13. Important Dates

The Department of Geography will hold five general *makeup* examinations on Fridays, in Room SSC 1004, from 9:00 to 11:00, on the following dates:

- October 18
- October 21
- November 1
- November 15
- November 22

September 5: Classes resume

September 13: Last day to add a first term half course

October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 4 to November 10: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

November 30: Last day to drop a full course without penalty

December 5: Classes end

December 6 and 7: Study days

December 8-19: Examination Period