

GEOG 2041A – Geography of China Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2021

This course is taught in-person

1. Course Information



	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	In-person	Friday/10:30am-12:30pm	UCC 56

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6

Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 8	November 1-7	December 8	December 9	December 10-21

September 16, 2021: Last day to add a first-term half course

October 11, 2021: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 12, 2021: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Clare Gordon	cgordon@uwo.ca	Friday 12:30pm - 1:30pm or By Appointment

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Yongjun He Bo Shan Xin Zhou	yhe563@uwo.ca bshan3@uwo.ca xzhou629@uwo.ca	By Appointment

2. Calendar Description

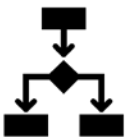
This course adopts a geographic approach to understanding contemporary China. It examines how transformations of China's land, people, economy, and society are recasting internal regional divisions and repositioning China in a rapidly changing world.

2 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): None

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility



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

All resources will be posted in OWL

Required textbook:

Veeck, Gregory. et al. 2021. (4th ed.) *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
ISBN 9781538140802



Students can order through the Book Store's website at: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/GEO2041A

An e-text version is available but not through the Book Store's online platform. To purchase an e-text version, if they prefer, students can go to the link:

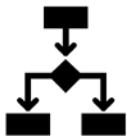
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781538140796/China's-Geography-Globalization-and-the-Dynamics-of-Political-Economic-and-Social-Change-Fourth-Edition>

Please be advised that the Book Store does not provide any supports for external sites; this link is a courtesy the Book Store provides for the students given the circumstances for this year.

4. Course Objectives and Format

This course provides students with a comprehensive view on a rapidly changing China, 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 while 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 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. All PPT slides used to support lectures will be posted on OWL.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will have



- knowledge of the geography of China: population, environmental, cultural, political, and economic characteristics;
- use of geographical concepts and techniques: reading and working with map data and satellite images of China;
- understanding of the regions of China: natural (physical) settings, socio-economic regions, and recasting regions;
- critical reasoning and presentation skills: research project and teamwork; communication.

6. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours.
- For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- Students should post all course-related content on the OWL Forum so that everyone can access answers to questions.
- Forums will be monitored regularly by instructors or teaching assistants.

7. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

8. Course Content and Schedule

2021

Dates	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignments
Sep 10	Course Overview; Introduction: China's Path and Progress;	PPT Slides of the week Chap. 1, pp. 1-21	NGC Video: <i>China from Above</i>
Sep 17	Physical Geographies: Landscape of Diversity;	Chap. 2, pp. 22-50	Quiz 1
Sep 24	History: Ancient Roots and Biding Traditions; Politics: The Central Kingdom in a Globalized World;	Chap. 3, pp. 51-86 Chap. 4, pp. 87-115	Quiz 2 Group Project Membership
Oct 1	Cities: The Road to an Urban Revolution;	Chap. 5, pp. 116-154	Quiz 3
Oct 8	Population: Demographic Changes and Challenges;	Chap. 6, pp. 155-178	Test 1
Oct 15	Inequality: Rising Social, Economic, and Spatial Divides;	Chap. 7, pp. 179-206	Quiz 4
Oct 22	Economy: China's Changing Economic Geography;	Chap. 8, pp. 207-234	Quiz 5
Oct 29	Agriculture: From Antiquity to Revolution to Reform;	Chap. 9, pp. 235-260	Quiz 6 Interim Report
Nov 5	<i>No Regular Classes</i>	<i>Fall Reading Week</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Nov 12	Industry and Energy: A Geohistorical Survey; Trade and Transportation: New Pillars of Growth;	Chap. 10, pp. 261-285 Chap. 11, pp. 286-318	Test 2
Nov 19	The Environment: Crises and Responses;	Chap. 12, pp. 319-347	Quiz 7
Nov 26	Taiwan: An Enduring East Asian Miracle;	Chap. 13, pp. 348-372	Quiz 8
Dec 3	Hong Kong and Macau: Postcolonial Futures	Chap. 14, pp. 373-401	Final Report



9. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. More details on OWL.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Quizzes (8 x 5%)	Practice using geographical techniques for skill development, such as map labelling and map-interpretation. Also, select the best answer to multiple-choice questions, from lectures and readings in previous weeks. In-class, about 10 minutes each.	40%	In-class as indicated
Tests (2 x 20%)	Chap. 1-5 and 6-10. Select the best answer to multiple-choice questions; provide short-answers (10-100 words) to questions presented. In-class, about 50 minutes each.	40%	Oct. 8 & Nov. 12
Group Project	Work outside class in assigned groups on topics re China's geography. Groups and topics will be confirmed in class (September 24th). Interim (5%) reports of group member activities and final (15%) written report.	20%	Interim Oct. 29 Final Dec. 3



Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Everyone is expected to attend the scheduled classes and to 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.

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed assessments worth less than 10% of the course grade must submit documentation to the Academic Counselling office of their home faculty and provide documentation within 48 hours of the scheduled assessment. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted. In addition, the student must notify the course instructor within the same 48 hours to avoid receiving a grade of zero.



- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10%/day.
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report.
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; the weight will be transferred to the final grade.

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.

10. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

11. Make-up Examinations

Makeups 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.

12. Use of Electronic Devices

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

13. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

14. Information on COVID-19

Masking Guidelines

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling).

15. 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.

16. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment 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.

17. 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.

18. Support Services

Western's Support Services
Student Development Centre

19. Important Dates

September 8: Classes resume

September 16: Last day to add a first term half course

October 11: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 1 to November 7: 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 8: Classes end

December 9: Study day

December 10-21: Examination Period