

Geog 2041A – Geography of China

Course Outline: Section 650 Distance Studies 2022

1. Course Information

Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
Online	Asynchronous	Asynchronous

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



Classes Start	Classes End	Last Day to Add	Last Day to Drop	Exams
May 9	July 29	May 13	June 13	August 2-5

May 23, 2022: Victoria Day Holiday

July 1, 2022: Canada Day

August 1, 2022: Civic Holiday



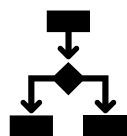
Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Clare Gordon	cgordon@uwo.ca	Friday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm or Course OWL Forums Q&A



- Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom Friday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Students will be able to drop into session via the course OWL site.
- Students who cannot find answers in the course material or Course Outline can post such questions at the Questions and Answers area under OWL Forums which are checked at least once every 48 hours.

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.
 Course Weight: 0.5
 Antirequisite(s): None
 Prerequisite(s): None
 Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

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

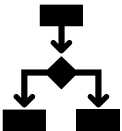
Publisher's link below:

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

4. Course Objectives and Format

This course provides students with a comprehensive view of 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 while this vast ancient civilization has emerge 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 role, 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. All PPT slides used to support lectures will be posted on OWL.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Online asynchronous	N/A	4 hours	weekly

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

[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](#).

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. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Lecture Topics	Readings & Assignments
1	May 9-13	Course Overview; Introduction: China's Path and Progress;	NGC Video: <i>China from Above</i> ; Chap. 1, pp. 1-21
2	May 16-20	Physical Geographies: Landscape of Diversity;	Chap. 2, pp. 22-50
3	May 23-27	History: Ancient Roots and Binding Traditions;	Chap. 3, pp. 51-86 Assignment 1
4	May 30-June 3	Politics: The Central Kingdom in a Globalized World; Cities: The Road to an Urban Revolution;	Chap. 4, pp. 87-115 Chap. 5, pp. 116-154
5	June 6-10	Population: Demographic Changes and Challenges;	Chap. 6, pp. 155-178 Assignment 2
6	June 13-17	Inequality: Rising Social, Economic, and Spatial Divides;	Chap. 7, pp. 179-206
7	June 20-24	Economy: China's Changing Economic Geography;	Chap. 8, pp. 207-234 Mid-term Examination
8	June 28-July 1	Agriculture: From Antiquity to Revolution to Reform;	Chap. 9, pp. 235-260
9	July 4-8	Industry and Energy: A Geohistorical Survey;	Chap. 10, pp. 261-285 Assignment 3
10	July 11-15	Trade and Transportation: New Pillars of Growth;	Chap. 11, pp. 286-318
11	July 18-22	The Environment: Crises and Responses;	Chap. 12, pp. 319-347
12	July 25-29	Taiwan: An Enduring East Asian Miracle; Hong Kong and Macau: Postcolonial Futures	Chap. 13, pp. 348-372; Chap. 14, pp. 373-401



7. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible.
- Students can also participate by interacting in the forums with their peers and instructors.

8. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 48 hours.
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements.
- 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](#).
- Q&A will be monitored daily; students will receive a response within 48 hours.
- This course will use OWL Forums for discussions.
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion Forums so that everyone can access answers to questions.

9. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Assignment 1	Reading maps for regional comparisons	10%	May 27
Assignment 2	Tracing landscape changes over time and space	10%	June 10
Mid-term Examination	Map labelling, map-interpretation, multiple-choice questions, and short answer questions. 1 hour in length	30%	June 24
Assignment 3	Evaluating fresh water distribution patterns	10%	July 8
Final Examination	Same format as the mid-term, covering content of the course with emphasis on week 6 and onwards.	40%	August 2-5 (TBD by the Registrar's Office)



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

All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified.

Details with instructions are posted on OWL.

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 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. The Dean's office 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% per day.

Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report.

A missed 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 one opportunity to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence between May and August, 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 final exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar
- 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 once between May and August

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.**

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

[Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

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 examination.

12. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations.

13. 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. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online 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(s) and 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.



14. Online Proctoring Notice and Guidelines

Tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using Zoom. You will be required to keep your camera on for the entire session, hold up your student card for identification purposes, and share your screen with the invigilator if asked to do so at any time during the exam. The exam session will **not** be recorded.*

More information about the use of Zoom for exam invigilation is available in the Online Proctoring Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>.

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements are available at the following link:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>.

* Please note that Zoom servers are located outside Canada. If you would prefer to use only your first name or a nickname to login to Zoom, please discuss this with your instructor in advance of the test or examination.

15. Use of Recordings

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

16. Statements concerning Online Etiquette

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the general considerations of "netiquette":

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

17. 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.

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

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. Support Services

Western’s Support Services
Student Development Centre

21. Important Dates

May 9: First day of classes

May 13: Last day to add

June 13: Last day to drop

May 23: Victoria Day

July 1: Canada Day

July 29: Classes end

August 2-5: Exams