

GEOG 2041A – Geography of China Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2023

1. Course Information

*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 7	October 30-November 5	December 8	December 9	December 10-22

September 15, 2023: Last day to add a second-term half course

October 9, 2023: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 13, 2023: 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

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Pai Du Xin Zhou	pdu28@uwo.ca xzhou629@uwo.ca	By Appointment

2. Calendar Description

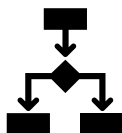
This course adopts a geographic approach to understanding contemporary China. It examines how transformations of China's land, people, economy, and society are recasting internal regional divisions and repositioning China in a rapidly changing world.

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 purchase the textbook at the University's Book Store

(https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023A&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:

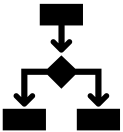
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781538140796/China's-Geography-Globalization-and-the-Dynamics-of-Political-Economic-and-Social-Change-Fourth-Edition>

Please be advised that the Book Store does not provide any supports for external sites.

4. Course Objectives and Format

This course provides students with a comprehensive view on a rapidly changing China, its geographic conditions 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: <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](#). [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. Course Content and Schedule

2023

Week	Dates	Lecture Topics	Readings & Assignments
1	Sep 8	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>
2	Sep 15	Physical Geographies: Landscapes of Diversity;	Chap. 2, pp. 22-50 Geographical and Regional perspectives
3	Sep 22	History: Ancient Roots and Binding Traditions; Politics: The Central Kingdom in a Globalized World;	Chap. 3, pp. 51-86 Chap. 4, pp. 87-115 Group Project membership
4	Sep 29	<i>UWO - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</i>	N/A
5	Oct 6	Cities: The Road to an Urban Revolution;	Chap. 5, pp. 116-154
6	Oct 13	Population: Demographic Changes and Challenges; Inequality: Rising Social, Economic, and Spatial Divides;	Chap. 6, pp. 155-178 Chap. 7, pp. 179-206
7	Oct 20	Economy: China's Changing Economic Geography;	Chap. 8, pp. 207-234 Mid-term Examination
8	Oct 27	Agriculture: From Antiquity to Revolution to Reform;	Chap. 9, pp. 235-260 Interim Group Report
9	Nov 3	<i>Fall Study Break</i>	N/A
10	Nov 10	Industry and Energy: A Geohistorical Survey;	Chap. 10, pp. 261-285
11	Nov 17	Trade and Transportation: New Pillars of Growth;	Chap. 11, pp. 286-318
12	Nov 24	The Environment: Crises and Responses;	Chap. 12, pp. 319-347
13	Dec 1	Taiwan: An Enduring East Asian Miracle;	Chap. 13, pp. 348-372
14	Dec 8	Hong Kong and Macau: Postcolonial Futures	Chap. 14, pp. 373-401 Final Group Report



6. 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.



7. 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 attend classes and have their questions addressed there, so that everyone can benefit from hearing different perspectives in the questions raised and answered.
- Forums will be monitored regularly by the instructor or teaching assistants.

8. Evaluation

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



Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Mid-term Examination	Map labelling, map-interpretation, multiple-choice questions, and short answer questions, weeks 1-5 lectures and readings. 100 minutes in length.	35%	October 20
Group Project	Work outside class in assigned groups on topics re China's geography. Groups and topics will be confirmed in class (September 22). Interim (5%) reports of group member activities and final (20%) written report.	25%	Interim Oct. 27 Final Dec. 8
Final Examination	Same Format as the mid-term, covering content of the course with emphasis on lectures and readings after the mid-term examination. 120 minutes in length.	40%	TBD by the Registrar's Office

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course. Everyone is expected to attend the scheduled classes and to complete the evaluations.

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

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 should contact the instructor within 24 hours of the scheduled assessment.

- 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 of a missed item 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.

9. 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

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student

was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students](#)

[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](#).

10. 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.

11. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during the examinations.

12. 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(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.



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. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. Support Services

Western's Support Services
Student Development Centre

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

18. Important Dates

September 7: Classes resume

September 15: Last day to add a first term half course

October 9: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 30-November 5: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 13: 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 10-22: Examination Period