

## GEOG 2041B – Geography of China

### Course Outline: Section 650 Winter 2024

#### 1. Course Information

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



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 8	February 19-23	April 8	April 9 & 10	April 11-30

January 16, 2024: Last day to add a second-term half course

February 19, 2024: Family Day

March 7, 2024: Last day to drop a second term half course without academic penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
<b>Dr. Clare Gordon</b>	cgordon@uwo.ca	By Appointment

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
<b>TBA</b>	TBA	By Appointment



- Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom.
- Students will be able to sign up via the course OWL site.
- Non-mandatory synchronous sessions will be held on Fridays January 12 & 19.
- 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.

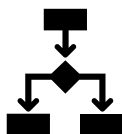
2 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.5

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): None

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility



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 on OWL

Required textbook:

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



Available for purchase at the Book Store at Western:

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023B&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/GEO2041B](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/GEO2041B)

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

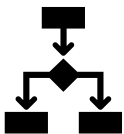
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781538140796/China's-Geography-Globalization-and-the-Dynamics-of-Political-Economic-and-Social-Change-Fourth-Edition>

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.



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](#). [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. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Lecture Topics	Readings & Assignments
1	January 8-12	Course Overview; Chapter 1	Details on OWL
2	January 15-19	Chapter 2	Mini Written 1
3	January 22-26	Chapter 3	Quiz 1
4	January 29-February 2	Chapter 4	Quiz 2
5	February 5-9	Chapter 5	Quiz 3
6	February 12-16	Chapters 6 & 7	Quiz 4
	February 19-23	Reading Week	N/A
7	February 26-March 1	Chapter 8	Quiz 5
8	March 4-8	Chapter 9	Quiz 6
9	March 11-15	Chapter 10	Mini Written 2
10	March 18-22	Chapter 11	
11	March 25-29	Chapter 12	
12	April 1-5	Chapters 13 & 14	



## 7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 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 regularly; students will receive a response within 48 hours.
- This course will use the OWL Forums for discussions.
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forums so that everyone can access answers to questions.
- The discussion forums will be monitored regularly by the instructor or teaching assistants.

## 8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Participation	Forum discussions	10%	Entire course
Quizzes	Multiple-choice questions (6 x 5% each)	30%	Feb. 2, 9, 16; Mar. 1, 8, 15; Fridays 11:55 pm
Mini Assignments	Written map interpretations (2 x 5% each)	10%	Jan. 26; Mar. 22; Fridays 11:55 pm
Final Examination	Map labelling, map- interpretation, multiple- choice questions, and short answer questions; 2 hours in length.	50%	TBD by the Registrar's Office

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

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.
- Virtual proctoring will be used.
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions.
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days.

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 tests and 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. 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](#).

## 14. 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.

## 15. 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.

## 16. 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](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](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

## **17. Important Dates**

Monday January 8: Classes resume

Tuesday January 16: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 19: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 17 to February 25: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

Thursday March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without academic penalty

Friday March 29: Good Friday – Department Office Closed

Monday April 8: Classes end

April 9 and 10: Study days

April 11-30: Examination Period