

GEOG 2041A – Geography of China Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2024

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 5	October 14-20	December 6	December 7 & 8	December 9-22

September 13, 2024: Last day to add a second-term half course

September 30, 2024: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (observed as a non-instructional day at Western).

October 14, 2024: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30, 2024: 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	pdu28@uwo.ca	By Appointment
Xin Zhou	xzhou629@uwo.ca	

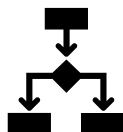
2. Calendar Description

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:



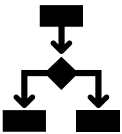
Veeck, Gregory. et al. 2021. (4th ed.) *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
ISBN 9781538140802

Students can purchase the textbook at the University's Book Store
(https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2024A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/GEO2041A)

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 to the new OWL Brightspace learning environment: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace 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

2024

Dates	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignments
Sept 6	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 13	Physical Geographies: Landscapes of Diversity;	Miaopotou Case Study Chap. 2, pp. 22-50	Geographical and Regional perspectives
Sep 20	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
Sep 27	Cities: The Road to an Urban Revolution;	Chap. 5, pp. 116-154	Selected questions for discussion
Oct 4	Population: Demographic Changes and Challenges;	Chap. 6, pp. 155-178	Written Assignment 1
Oct 11	Inequality: Rising Social, Economic, and Spatial Divides;	Chap. 7, pp. 179-206	Test 1
Oct 18	Fall Reading Week	N/A	N/A
Oct 25	Economy: China's Changing Economic Geography;	Chap. 8, pp. 207-234	Interim Group Report
Nov 1	Agriculture: From Antiquity to Revolution to Reform;	Chap. 9, pp. 235-260	
Nov 8	Industry and Energy: A Geohistorical Survey;	Chap. 10, pp. 261-285	Written Assignment 2

Dates	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignments
Nov 15	Trade and Transportation: New Pillars of Growth;	Chap. 11, pp. 286-318	Test 2
Nov 22	The Environment: Crises and Responses;	Chap. 12, pp. 319-347	
Nov 29	Taiwan: An Enduring East Asian Miracle;	Chap. 13, pp. 348-372	Written Assignment 3
Dec 6	Hong Kong and Macau: Postcolonial Futures.	Chap. 14, pp. 373-401	Final Group Report

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.
- The discussion forums will be monitored weekly by teaching assistants

8. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Written Assignments (3 x 5%)	Practice using geographical techniques for skill development, such as map labelling and map interpretation. Provide brief discussions for selected questions. Details on OWL.	15%	Beginning of class as indicated
Tests 2x 30%	Chap. 1-6 and 7-11. Select the best answer to multiple choice questions from lectures and readings; provide short-answers (10-100 words) to questions presented. Tests are in-class and closed-book, about 50 minutes each.	60%	Oct. 11 & Nov. 15



Group Project	Work outside class in assigned groups re China's geography. Groups and topics will be confirmed in class (September 20th). Interim (5%) reports of group member activities and final (20%) written report.	25%	Interim Oct. 25 Final Dec. 6
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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.

- 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

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](#).

General Information about missed work:

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Course Assessments that Require Supporting Documentation

For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation:

Written Test: November 15

Academic Consideration for Course Components with Flexible Deadlines

This course has two tests. The second one requires supporting documentation for academic consideration. The only makeup is offered on Friday November 22nd. If you miss the first test for any reason the weight of the test will be shifted to test 2, making this 60% of the final mark.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

10. Make-up Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in

consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents.

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.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

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

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.

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

17. Important Dates

September 5: Classes resume

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

October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 14-20: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 30: Last day to drop a first term half course or a full course without penalty

December 6: Classes end

December 7 and 8: Study days

December 9-22: Examination Period