

Geog383: Physical and cultural geography of China – Course outline (Fall 2017)



Section / Number	A01 / 11824
Term	September 6 to December 1, 2017
Lectures	Tue, Wed, Fri: 13:30 to 14:20
Room	CLE C110
Instructor	Dr Bernard Henin
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Course web page:	coursespaces.uvic.ca

Course description

This course is an introduction to the physical and human geography of China. Topics include physical environment, culture, demographics, agriculture, urbanization, industrialization and environmental challenges. The goal is to examine the geographical aspects of modernization and development in China.

Learning outcomes

The specific objectives of the course are to develop a critical understanding of the processes of change in China. Students will understand the challenges faced by China in its rapid development process. The course requires students to undertake a significant amount of research on China's development. By doing this, students will also expand their research and writing skills in regional analysis.

Required texts

Veeck, G., Clifton P., Smith C. J. and Huang, Y. 2016. *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change*, 3rd Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

This is a comprehensive textbook on China's geography. It covers most of the themes explored in the lectures, including environment, culture, demographics, agriculture, industrialization and urbanization.

Wu, Weiping and Gaubatz, Piper. 2013. *The Chinese City*. London and New York: Routledge.

This insightful book addresses the urbanization process in contemporary China. It investigates the challenges faced by China's cities.

Other course materials

Readings from books and journals will be assigned during lectures. These will be available through the UVIC library and websites in the public domain.

A number of videos will be shown in class to illustrate the course material and stimulate discussions in class. Most of these videos are available on-line.

Course requirements

Tests in class

The lecture material will be the subject of FOUR written tests during the term (dates are indicated in the timetable).

Term paper

You will research an issue related to the content of the course and write a term paper based on this research. The paper should be a critical essay on the topic chosen.

Short presentation

This exercise consists in presenting the essence of your research to the class at the end of the term. You will have 5 minutes to present the issues investigated and your research objectives (4 slides allowed). The presentations are scheduled for the last three days of classes (see timetable).

The research paper and presentation assignments are described on the webpage for the course (CourseSpaces). Consult the write-ups for details.

Note: You must hand in a valid paper to pass the course.

Evaluation scheme

4 tests in class (midterms)	Total: 60% (15% each)
Term paper	35%
Short presentation (of research objectives)	5%
Total	100%

Course syllabus

The course syllabus is available on the website for the course. You will find all information related to the course: schedule of activities, summaries of each topic, reading lists, and assignment descriptions (tests, term paper, presentations).

List of topics covered in class

Topic 1. China's physical environment

Topic 2. History, culture and politics

Topic 3. Population

Topic 4. Agriculture

Topic 5. Industry, resources and trade

Topic 6. Urbanization

Topic 7. Regions, spatial inequality and ethnic minorities

Topic 8. Environmental problems

Topic 9. Conclusion: China's prospects and challenges

Weekly calendar

Week	Date (Tue)		Date (Wed)		Date (Fri)	
1			Sep 6	Topic 1	Sep 8	Topic 1
2	Sep 12	Topic 1	Sep 13	Topic 2	Sep 15	Topic 2
3	Sep 19	Topic 2	Sep 20	Topic 3	Sep 22	Topic 3
4	Sep 26	Topic 3	Sep 27	Test 1: Topic 1 & Topic 2 (15%)	Sep 29	Topic 4
5	Oct 3	Topic 4	Oct 4	Topic 4	Oct 6	Topic 5
6	Oct 10	Topic 5	Oct 11	Topic 5	Oct 13	Topic 5 / Topic 6
7	Oct 17	Test 2: Topic 3 & Topic 4 (15%)	Oct 18	Topic 6	Oct 20	Topic 6
8	Oct 24	Topic 6	Oct 25	Topic 6	Oct 27	Topic 7
9	Oct 31	Topic 7	Nov 1	Topic 7	Nov 3	Test 3: Topic 5 & Topic 6 (15%)
10	Nov 7	Topic 8 Project outline	Nov 8	Topic 8	Nov 10	Topic 8
11	Nov 14	READING BREAK	Nov 15	READING BREAK	Nov 17	Topic 9
12	Nov 21	Topic 9 / Review	Nov 22	Test 4: Topic 7, 8, 9 (15%)	Nov 24	Presentations (5%)
13	Nov 28	Presentations	Nov 29	Presentations	Dec 1	Presentations
Monday, Dec 4		Paper (35%) due 12:00pm (Word file by Email) — Can be sent at an earlier date, but late papers will normally <u>not</u> be accepted.				

Notes

- Tests: a study guide will be posted for each of the four tests.
- Project outline: one page containing a title, a list of objectives, and a few references (books, journal articles, reports). It is unmarked; it is only used for feedback.
- Presentations: 5 minutes per student; 4 slides allowed; attendance is expected.

Performance report

The instructor will provide students with an updated report on their performance on a regular basis. Students are advised to consult the instructor before the last withdrawal day to ensure all available options have been reviewed.

Grading system

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

Academic integrity

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat.**

Policy on Academic Integrity: <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see <http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/students/resources/expectations/>. Plagiarism in writing term papers will not be tolerated. Plagiarism detection software will be used in case of doubt.

Disclaimer

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (<http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Positivity and safety

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

Geography Department information

- Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>
- Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield – geogadvisor@uvic.ca