

GOG 160/EAC 160
Call #'s 7656; 7772
LC 25: T/Th 10.15 - 11.35am

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CHINA IN THE POST-UTOPIAN AGE

This course satisfies the 'Social Sciences' (SS), 'Information Literacy' (IL), and 'Regions Beyond Europe' (BE) categories of the General Education requirements at UAlbany

REQUIRED READING:

John Bryan Starr. 2001. *Understanding China: A Guide to China's Economy, History, and Political Structure*. New York, NY: Hill and Wang Ltd. ISBN: 0-8090-9489-4 (paper)

Suzanne Ogden. (ed). 2005. *Global Studies: China* Eleventh Edition. McGraw-Hill/Dushkin Co. ISBN: 0-07-319872-2 (paper)

WORK ASSIGNMENTS:

Three Examinations, each worth 15% of the total grade (45% in total)

Class Attendance (10%)

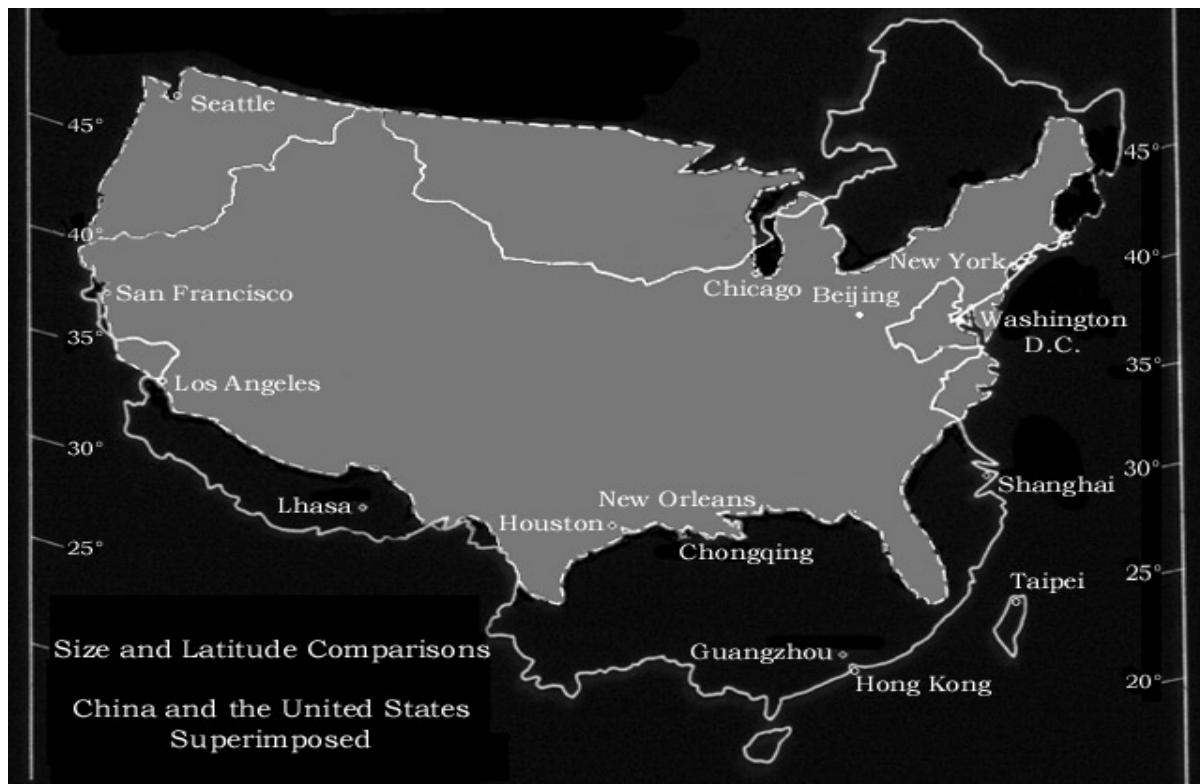
4 Film Quizzes, worth 5% each (20% in total)

3 Information Literacy-Related Projects (25% of total):

- China Mapping Exercise (10%)
- Periodical Article Assignment (10%)
- 3 Library-based electronic Tutorials (5% for completing all three, 0 for less than 3)

Extra Credit Paper option, 4000 words, maximum of 10%, added after the overall grades are assigned

CHINA/USA, GEOGRAPHICALLY COMPARED



OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

GOG 160/EAC160 fulfills the “Information Literacy” category of the UAlbany General Education requirements. An important component of the course will be the integration of library research methods and information evaluation of the course contents and assignments. After taking the course, students should:

- know how to find, evaluate and cite multiple sources of information, using the University Libraries, the Internet, electronic databases, and other sources;
- understand questions concerning the ethical use of information, privacy, plagiarism, copyright and other related issues that promote critical reflection;
- apply knowledge of the APA (American Psychological Association) style by compiling bibliographies for research papers and projects.

GOG 160/Eac 160 fulfills the “Social Sciences” category of the UAlbany General Education requirements. After taking the course, students should:

- be able to understand various social and political institutions in China and critically evaluate their impact on the society and people of China;
- be knowledgeable about the interactions between economic, social, geographic and political forces, and how they shape Chinese society;
- be able to understand graphic presentation of statistical information commonly used in the social sciences.

GOG/EAC 160 satisfies the “Other World Civilizations (Regions Beyond Europe)” category of the UAlbany General Education requirements. After taking the course, students should:

- be familiar with the most significant events and patterns in the history of China, especially during the 20th century, and most significantly focusing on China’s socialist revolution (in 1949), and its current transition away from socialism (into what is referred to in this course as the ‘post-utopian age’);
- be able to identify and describe some of the important geographical ideas and concepts that are appropriate for studying contemporary China; this will include being able to identify on a map of China the major cities, all of the Provinces and Autonomous Regions, and the most important geographical features;
- understand the nature and ramifications of China’s transition away from utopian socialism; be able to interpret the need for modernization (reform) policies by the end of the Maoist era (1978); and to discuss and evaluate the positive and negative political, economic, and social outcomes of China’s modernization project;
- be familiar with the causes and the geographical and social patterns of inequality, poverty, and unemployment in contemporary China; the way those patterns have changed during (as a result of) the reforms; and the extent to which such problems are contributing to political and social instability in China;
- be aware of some the ways that Westerners have traditionally perceived China and the Chinese people, and of the discrepancies that exist between such perceptions and reality;
- be able to illustrate some of the ways in which Chinese cultural values and practices differ from our own, and to identify the major cultural changes that have occurred in China during the ‘post-utopian’ age;
- be aware of the way the political system in contemporary China works; be cognizant of the changes (reforms) that have been made; and aware of the most important changes that still need to be made;
- be aware of the recurrence of sexually-transmitted diseases (STD’s) and the rising threat of HIV/AIDS in China, as well as some of the forces that seem to be correlated with the rising prevalence of such diseases;
- be knowledgeable about the history of Hong Kong as a British colony, and able to understand and appreciate the economic, political, and social changes that have occurred in Hong Kong since the handover to China in 1997;
- be able to appreciate and evaluate the nature of the China/Taiwan relationship, especially the regime’s views on re-unification and Taiwan’s responses, as well as understanding the importance of this issue in other parts of the world;
- be familiar with the causes and consequences of the rapid urbanization that has occurred in contemporary China;
- be able to assess the environmental implications and global consequences of China’s current development policies; and, specifically, be able to evaluate the case China has made for building the Three Gorges Dam;
- understand the importance of contemporary efforts being made by various ‘subaltern’ groups within China to identify themselves, to protect themselves against the state, and to resist the potentially destructive forces of advanced capitalism; this will include an appreciation of the status and treatment of women, the infringement of human rights involved in the ‘one-child’ policy, the treatment of political dissidents, and policies towards minority groups;
- be familiar with some of the major developments that have occurred in Chinese literature and the Chinese film industry since the beginning of the reform era (in the PRC as well as in Hong Kong and Taiwan); and able to understand and critique the representations of China that are being made in the literature and films that are released in the West.

EXPLANATION OF WORK ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM

A. Three Examinations (in class), each worth 15% (45% in total)

All three examinations will consist of multiple choice questions (with four options). The questions will be based on the readings, the content of the lectures, and the Mapping project (see below). The second and third examinations are non-cumulative, with the exception of the geographical data from your Mapping project.

Note: make-up exams are only possible if you have a valid excuse for not being in class on the day the exam is scheduled. If you have such an excuse, you must either bring it to me (the Instructor), or contact me (by phone or by Email) at least one day before the exam. The only exception to this (one day before) rule would be an extreme emergency situation which prevents you from being able to contact me. See item #1 in the **Important Notes** section at the end of the syllabus for situations that will be accepted as valid excuses in such cases.

B. Class Attendance, worth 10% of the total grade (1 percentage point for each class)

Because the two exams are based mainly on the content of the lectures, you need to attend class frequently. As an incentive, attendance credit will be given. The procedure is as follows: attendance will be taken fifteen times throughout the semester. Sometimes attendance will be taken in the form of a mini-quiz, based on the content of that day's lecture; other times it will require you to write a paragraph on a specific topic related to the lecture material. You will be assigned ½ point for being in class, and another ½ point for completing the assignment correctly. Note: students who come to class at or close to the end, or who leave part-way through will not be credited for attendance. If you have a valid excuse for not attending class on the day of an attendance quiz, you need to bring it to me (the Instructor) before the day of the lecture; unless it is an emergency situation (see item #1 in the **Important Notes** section at the end of the syllabus).

C. Three Information Literacy-Related Projects (25% of total):

1. Library-based Information Literacy Tutorials (5% if you do all three, 0 if less than 3)

As part of information literacy component of this course, you are required to complete three interactive tutorials, which can be accessed through the website of the university library (see the URLs provided below). At the end of each tutorial there is an option for you to identify yourself and your Instructor (**Christopher Smith**). You must enter this information to receive credit for completing the tutorials. You will then automatically be sent an email confirming your completion of each tutorial. Please save the email until you have confirmation from the instructor that you have received credit for the tutorials.

The three tutorials you must complete are:

Researching 101: a guide to information formats, searching the library's online catalogs, and effectively searching article databases (see: <http://library.albany.edu/usered/tut/index.html>);

Evaluating Internet Sites 101: developed to help users evaluate Internet sites (see: <http://library.albany.edu/usered/webeval/index.html>);

Plagiarism 101: a tutorial designed to help students identify and avoid plagiarism in their work (see: <http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html>).

The tutorial project is assigned on the first day of class (1/24/06) and all three must be completed by April 4th (4/4/06)

2. Mapping Project (10%)

All students will produce a map of China with the following features clearly identified: a) the names and correct locations of all the Provinces, Autonomous Regions, and Special Administrative Regions; b) the major cities (those with populations in excess of 3 million); c) the major rivers and mountain ranges; d) the surrounding seas and oceans; and e) the names of the countries that are directly bordering China. Blank maps for this project will be handed out in class, but the information must be collected on your own, using at least eight sources, including atlases, books, printed encyclopedias, and the Internet. At least three different types of materials must

be used; for example, you could obtain information from four web sites, two atlases, and two printed encyclopedias . You must build a bibliography (on a separate typed page) of all of the sources you have used in constructing your map, using the APA style, as discussed in class. To get full points you must have all of the above information shown legibly on your map.

The mapping exercise is assigned on the first day of class (1/24/06), and must be submitted by February 2nd (2/7/06) in class

3. Periodical Article Assignment (10%)

Select a topic from the following list to be covered in the course: rural economic reform; housing reform; population growth; and migration. Using the *Ebsco Academic Search Premier* database, locate two scholarly journal articles (not including book reviews) and one article from either a newspaper or a magazine. The two journal articles you select for this assignment must have a bibliography to be considered scholarly.

For each of the three articles, briefly describe, in your own words: a) the content of the article; b) why you think it would benefit students taking this class to read this article; and c) which lecture in GOG/EAC 160 could this article be assigned to, and which reading could it either supplement or replace?

Please make note of the following:

- make sure you identify which topic you have selected for this exercise;
- each of your summaries should be printed and be no more than 250 words (provide an exact word-count).
- Note that your summary must be different from the abstract provided by the journal;
- for each of the three articles, attach a print-out of the brief citation and abstract from the *Ebsco* database to your own written description.

The periodical exercise is assigned on the first day of class (1/24/06), and must be submitted by March 16th (3/16/06) in class

D. Four Film Exercises (20%)

During the semester five films will be shown in class, accompanied by a short quiz requiring brief (one sentence or one paragraph) answers, in which students are asked to interpret and evaluate the films, and to discuss their significance in relation to the readings and the lecture materials for the course. You must do at least four of the five film quizzes, each of which is worth a maximum of 5% points. If you complete all five film quizzes, your best four grades will be recorded; or you may choose to skip one of the five.

Please make note of the following:

- to get a good grade on these exercises you must supplement your own knowledge and ideas with material from print and electronic sources, to augment your understanding and interpretation of the films. There are numerous China-based sites that discuss and evaluate films, as well as regular film criticism websites; and many academic books and research articles dealing with Chinese films, some of which are online;
- you must be in class to see the film and to collect the original version of the assignment sheet. Only answers submitted with the original version of the quiz sheet will be graded;
- your answers to the questions must be printed on a separate page and stapled to the quiz sheet;
- make sure your name and Albany ID# are on both sheets;
- you are limited to one printed page for your answers, using no smaller than an 11point font, with half-inch margins;
- you must provide full references to all of the sources you use in your answers (either the URL of the websites, or a full citation to the library sources), and each item or point you make that is not your own idea must be referenced, using the APA style;
- it is not possible to make-up any of the film quizzes, so you must make every effort to do at least four of them.

The film quizzes are assigned as indicated on the syllabus, and each one must be submitted exactly one week after the date the film was shown (in class)

E. Extra Credit Paper (10% maximum)

Students have the option of writing an essay as an Extra Credit project in this course. The maximum score for this paper is 10, which will be added as percentage points to your final score after the grades have been assigned (in other words, the extra credit score does not influence the overall grades for the class, or the 'curve'). Students choosing this option need to select a recently published book about contemporary China that could contribute to the content of this course: GOG/EAC 160. The book must have been published within the last five years. In the paper you are required to: a) *describe* the overall content of the book you have chosen (maximum 1000 words); b) *critique* the book, in other words, what are its strengths and weaknesses? (maximum 2000 words); and c) *indicate* how and in what ways the book could have contributed to the content of this course and to student understanding of modern China (maximum 2000 words). Please make note of the following:

- students wishing to write an Extra Credit paper must submit a printed proposal (one page maximum) by March 2nd (3/2), either in class or sent as an Email attachment to the Instructor: cjsmith@albany.edu. The proposal must include a brief description of the proposed book and the reasons why you think it is an appropriate choice for this assignment;
- the book you select for this paper must be submitted with your review essay, which means you must either borrow or buy a copy of the book, or check one out from a library (it will be returned to you within one week);
- 10% is the maximum score you can receive for this paper; if it is poorly written, a poor choice, or if you do not follow the rules, you could receive a significantly lower grade;
- the maximum length of the paper is 4000 words. You must provide an exact word count, and papers that are more than 10% too long or 10% too short will not be graded;
- the paper must be word-processed, fully referenced (APA style) and written in clear and concise English prose;
- if you do not submit the proposal by the due date (3/2/06), your paper will not be graded.

The extra credit paper is assigned on the first day of class (1/24/06), and is due March 4th (4/4/06) in class

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1. You will not be allowed to do make-ups of any of the exams unless you receive specific permission from the Instructor, in advance (at least one day before the exam in question). Only major illnesses, personal or family emergencies, sporting or military commitments, and having two or more exams on the same day are acceptable as excuses. In all cases appropriate and/or official documentation is required. The film quizzes cannot be made-up.**
- 2. Assignments submitted after the due dates will not be graded, unless arrangements have been made with the Instructor, in advance (see item #1 above for acceptable excuses).**

SYLLABUS: CHINA IN THE POST-UTOPIAN AGE

PART I CHINA: PEOPLE AND PLACES

DATES	TOPIC	READING
1. 1/24	Introduction: Western perceptions, Chinese realities	Ogden, 1-7, Starr, 3-18
2. 1/26	China geography: diversity of lives and landscapes in the PRC	Starr 19-39
3. 1/31	<u>Information Literacy A</u> ; and China's dynastic history	Starr 40-53; Ogden 93-9
4. 2/2	Raising the red flag: revolutionary China, post 1949	Ogden 7-11; 21-4; 31-4
5. 2/7	Film #1: <i>Yellow Earth</i> (Dir: Chen Kaige)	None assigned
6. 2/9	Political and economic transformations, post-1978	Starr 54-71; Ogden 24-8; 34-8; 158-163
7. 2/14	<u>Information Literacy B</u> ; and China's population geography	Starr 108-126; Ogden 11-13
8. 2/16	China: the world's most urbanized nation?	Starr 127-145
No classes 2/21; 2/23		

PART II CHINA GLOBALIZING

DATES	TOPIC	READING
9. 2/28	Exam #1 (in class)	
10. 3/2	China: a new global economic power?	Starr 72-89; Ogden 111-3
11. 3/7	Film #2: <i>Suzhou River</i> (Dir: Lou Ye)	None assigned
12. 3/9	China's 'one child' policy	Ogden 117-9; 125-130; 197-212
13. 3/14	China's women in the new Millennium	Starr 191-203; Ogden 13-14; 120-124
14. 3/16	Film #3: <i>Durian, Durian</i> (Dir: Fruit Chan)	None assigned
15. 3/21	Hong Kong: China's gateway to the world?	Starr 253-274; Ogden 46-68;
16. 3/23	Taiwan: global enemy or integral part of China?	Starr 275-299; Ogden 69-92; 219-230
17. 3/28	Global environmental consequences of China's development	Starr 176-190; Ogden 131-140
18. 3/30	Film #4: <i>The River</i> (Dir: Tsai Ming-liang)	None assigned
19. 4/4	Death and disease: China's health care challenges	None assigned
20. 4/6	China's minorities: problems and prospects	Starr 162-175; Ogden 14-16

PART III CHINA UNRAVELLING OR CONSOLIDATING?

DATES	TOPIC	READING
No classes 4/11; 4/13		
21. 4/18	Exam #2 (in class)	
22. 4/20	The threat of chaos and social unrest	Ogden 108-110; 147-157
23. 4/25	Film #5: <i>Blind Shaft</i> (Dir: Yang Li)	None assigned
24. 4/27	Consumption patterns and new cultural trends	Ogden 100-107; 114-6; 144-6
25. 5/2	Political and literary resistance	None assigned
26. 5/4	The evolution of filmmaking in the new China	None assigned
27. 5/9	Exam #3 (in class)	