GOG 160

CHINA: PEOPLE AND PLACE

Fall, 2017

Instructor:

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Office Hours:
TTH 2:45-3:45 (AS 215)
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& by appointment

General Education Requirements

☐ This course meets the requirements of the following two categories:

- International Perspectives
- Social Sciences

An introduction of China as an emerging power in the context of globalization

- Physical environment
- History
- Politics
- Economic reform
- Urbanization and migration
- Cities in transition
- Population and family planning
- Traditions and cultural changes
- Inequality, poverty
- Environmental problems
- Hong Kong/Taiwan

Text/Readings


☐ Several films

Grading/Assignments

Three examinations 50%
Class participation/reading quizzes 15%
Class discussion; news on China
Guest research talks
One map project 8%
Two position papers 15%
Three film quizzes 12%
Policies
- No make-up for in-class quizzes
- No early or make-up exams
- Late assignments
  - <48 hours after due date, eligible for 80 points.
  - 48 - 72 hours, eligible for 50 points.
  - > 72 hours, receive no points
- Writings must be word-processed
- Sources must be provided for cited information

What does “China” mean to you?
(from last class)
- Made in China
- No democracy
- Modernized cities
- Kyoto treaty
- Population
- Rapid development
- Imbalanced sex ratio
- N. Korea
- Cancer villages
- Low wages
- Territorial conflicts
- Table tennis
- BRICS
- Smoking, cancer

Visualizing China
- China in image

Tian'anmen Square
Forbidden City

Socialism/Communism

Chinese are more likely to support capitalism

The National Stadium (Bird’s Nest)

National Aquatic Center (Water Cube)
Pudong New District, Shanghai

Shenzhen

Wangfujin, Beijing

Xidan, Beijing

The first Wal-Mart Supercenter, Shenzhen
China as the World’s Factory

Big in high-tech industries

China is becoming mobile

- WeChat’s world: China’s WeChat shows the way to social media’s future, by The Economist
- It’s Time For Facebook To Copy WeChat, by Forbes

Local farmers market
Traditional Street

Still the Kingdom of Bicycles?

Beijing

High speed train

The first Maglev Train in Shanghai

Public Housing
The No. 1 Village in China: Huaxi Village

Food is essential

The generation of the 1980s: 80 hou

The generation of the 1990s: 90 hou

Majiang (Mahjong), a national recreation?

An aging society

China in numbers

- 1.3 billion population, 21% of world population on 6.5% of the earth's land
- 3rd largest country in territory
- 2nd largest economy, double-digit growth rate
- The largest exporter – "Made in China"
- 3rd largest importer – a huge market
- The largest auto marker and auto market
- The largest consumer of steel, cement, grain, coal and copper in the world.
China in Numbers

- No. 1 in foreign exchange reserve ($4 trillion), equal to a $2,500 per head for the entire population
- The largest holder of U.S. Treasury
- One of the most favored nations for investment
- Per capita income of almost $6,000 in 2008 (in 1980 it was $1,100).
- The largest number of mobile phone (>1 Billion) and Internet user (731 M in 2016, 53% of pop)

China in Maps

China, the third largest country in the world, is slightly larger than the United States. Only Russia and Canada are larger than China.

CHINA
Area Comparison

- China: 3,006,400 sq. mi. (7,824,000 sq. km)
- Contiguous U.S.: 982,691 sq. mi. (2,531,359 sq. km)
Comparisons: USA and China

Perceiving China
- Huge gap between our perceptions and the reality
- China as a complex/multifaceted entity
  - Socialism – capitalism
  - Traditions – Western cultures
  - Poverty – wealth and economic growth
  - Megacities – rural villages
  - Population growth – family planning - aging
  - Migration control – massive migration
  - Cheap products – high-tech industries
  - An open mind is needed
  - Focusing on understanding China
  - A geographical perspective:
    - spatial organization; human-environment relations

Creative Tensions?

Yin and Yang in Harmony

Taoism