

Course Syllabus

GOG160 CHINA: PEOPLE AND PLACE

Fall, 2017

Professor: Youqin Huang

Class Hours & Location: TTH 1:15PM - 2:35PM, LC4

Contact & Office hours: yhuang@albany.edu, TTh 2:45–3:45 (AS 215) and by appointment

This course satisfies the ‘International Perspectives’ and ‘Social Sciences’ categories of the General Education requirements at UAlbany

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a systematic introduction of China as an emerging political and economic power in the context of globalization. This course aims to help students better understand China. Main topics include historical evolution, uneven physical and social geography, economic reform, rapid urbanization, population growth and family planning, environmental change, tradition and culture change, and persisting and emerging problems.

2. TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Gregory Veeck, Clifton W. Pannell, Youqin Huang and Suming Bao, 2016. *China’s Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change* (3rd Edition). Roman & Littlefield Publishers. ISBN 978-442252554 or 9781-442252561 (required).

Plus: Several films that will be provided to you.

3. WORK ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Three examinations	50%
Class participation/reading quizzes	15%
One mapping project	8%
Two position papers	15%
Three Film quizzes	12%

4. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 This course satisfies the “International Perspectives” category of the General Education requirements. After taking the course, students should be able to:

- describe the most significant events and patterns in the recent history of China, especially the socialist revolution in 1949 and its current transition toward a market economy.
- identify important geographical features on a map of China, describe the spatial pattern of resource distribution and how they affect uneven regional development;

- describe the nature and ramifications of China's transition away from socialism; interpret the need for modernization (reform) policies; and evaluate positive and negative political, economic, and social outcomes of China's modernization project;
- identify the causes and consequences of massive internal migration and the rapid urbanization that has occurred in China in reform era;
- evaluate the pressure of a large and growing population, and the need for family planning; and be able to evaluate the social and economic impact of the one-child policy;
- assess the environmental implications and global consequences of China's development policies;
- illustrate some of the ways in which Chinese cultural values and practices differ from our own, and to identify the major cultural changes during the reform era;
- describe the history of Hong Kong as a British colony and the economic, political, and social changes since its handover to China; evaluate the nature of the China/Taiwan relationship and its importance to the USA and the rest of the world;

4.2 This course satisfies the "Social Sciences" category of the General Education requirements. After taking the course, students should be able to:

- describe various social and political institutions in China and critically evaluate their impact on the society and people
- evaluate the interactions between economic, social, geographic and political forces, and how they shape the society
- read graphic presentation of information commonly used in social sciences

5. EXPLANATION OF WORK ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM

5.1 Three Examinations worth 50% in total

All examinations consist of multiple-choice questions and they are not cumulative. The questions will be based on the textbook, readings, and lectures. You will not be allowed to do make-ups of any of the exams unless you receive specific permission from the Instructor, in advance. Only major illnesses, personal or family emergencies, sporting or military commitments, and having three or more exams on the same day are acceptable as excuses. In all cases appropriate documentation is required.

5.2 Class Attendance and Reading Quizzes, worth 15% of the total grade

You need to attend classes in order to do well in this class. Attendance will be taken at ten randomly selected dates throughout the semester. Sometimes attendance will be taken in the form of a mini-quiz, based on the reading for that day or the previous lecture. In those cases, you will be assigned half of the credit for being in class, and the other half for completing the quiz correctly. In addition, you are expected to read news on China and share it with the class, and actively participate in class discussion. Participation in class discussion accounts for half of the credit for class attendance.

UAlbany Confucius Institute organizes four research presentations by well-known China scholars from all over the U.S. Students are required to attend these guest lectures on the following Fridays at 3:00 pm on Sept. 22nd, Oct 13th, Nov. 3rd and Nov. 17th. Thursday's class in that week will be cancelled. Details about these talks will be provided in class, and at <http://www.albany.edu/confucius>. A sign-up sheet will be provided to record students' attendance for these guest lectures.

5.3 Film Quizzes (12%)

Three feature films will be watched outside of the class. Each film is accompanied by a film quiz, which should be submitted a week after the film quiz is assigned.

5.4 Mapping Exercise (8%)

All students will produce a map of China, which includes:

- a) the names and correct locations of all the Provinces, Autonomous Regions, and Special Administrative Regions;
- b) major cities (those with populations in excess of 5 million);
- c) major rivers (at least Yellow river, Yangtze River, Pearl River, Hei River), mountain ranges (e.g. Himalayas, Kunlun Mountains, Qinling Mountains; Altun Mountains, Xing'an Range), and plateaus.
- d) surrounding seas and oceans; and
- e) the names of the countries that are directly bordering China.

Blank maps for this project will be provided to you, but the information must be collected on your own, using atlases, books, encyclopedias, and the Internet. You must build a bibliography (on a separate typed page) of all of the sources you have used, using the MLA style. For information on how to cite using MLA style, see <http://library.albany.edu/cfox?type=mla>. There will be exam questions that come directly from the map. The geographic facts and mapping material will not be covered systematically in class.

5.5 Position papers (15%)

Two position papers on two controversial issues are required. You are expected to conduct your own research on the issue, and write about your position in a 2 page (double space) paper. In addition to clearly stating your position, you need to provide reasons and evidences for your position. You can use all forms of references for your research, such as books, journal articles, news, and the Internet. You need to list all references you used for your paper at the end of the paper, with proper in-text citation. Papers are due one week after they are assigned. Grades are assigned not based on your position, but on the quality of your research and how well you reason and support your position. In other words, there is no wrong/correct position/answer, but the emphasis is to explain your position well -- "why" or "why not". Depending on the time, a debate on the issue will be held in class.

Two papers are on the following issues:

- 1) Does Diaoyu Island belong to China or Japan? Why?
- 2) If you were the leader of China, would you adopt the one-child policy? Why?

6. COURSE POLICY

Late submission: Homework assignments turned in on the due date are eligible for 100 point. If you choose to turn it in after the due date, but within 48 hours, it will be eligible for 80 points.

Assignments turned in after 48 hours will be eligible for 50 points. Assignments turned in after 72 hours receive no points, but I will give feedback.

Make-ups: there are no make-ups for in-class quizzes. General there is no make-ups for exams as well, except under extreme conditions or emergencies beyond your control, in which case a written request must be submitted together with documentation (e.g. Physician's note) as early as possible

Plagiarism and cheating: the instructor is required to report any student behavior that has the appearance of cheating or plagiarism to the graduate dean. Penalties can be quite severe, and can include

1) failure of course; 2) suspension from the university; 3) expulsion from the university; 4) a notation in your permanent transcripts. You cannot afford to enter professional life with any of these stains on your permanent record.

- In individual test/quiz situations, please keep your eyes on your own work
- In individual assignments, make sure you do your own work
- In papers, makes sure you properly cite and document any sources from which you have borrowed ideas or language, including books, journal articles, magazines, and the internet. Any information cited from these sources should be acknowledged with both in-text citation and full reference at the end of the paper.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topics/Activities	Readings	Important Dates
		I: China in Time and Space		
1	08/29	Introduction	Chapter 1	
	08/31	Natural Environments	Chapter 2 Video: <i>China's Mega Dam</i>	Map exercise assigned
2	09/05	Natural Environments		
	09/07	Historical Context	Chapter 3	
3	09/12	Historical Context	Film: <i>To Live</i>	Map due; Film quiz #1 assigned
	09/14	Politics	Chapter 4	Paper #1 assigned
4	09/19	Politics		
	09/21	No Class		
	9/22	Research Talk (on 9/22 at 3:00 pm)		
5	09/26	Join the world community		Debate #1
	09/28	Exam #1		Exam #1
		II: Modernizing China		
6	10/03	Economic reform	Chapter 8	
	10/05	Agriculture, Industry	Chapter 9-10 <i>China rises: food is heaven</i>	
7	10/10	Trade and Transportation	Chapter 11	
	10/12	Research Talk (on 10/13 at 3:00 pm)		
8	10/17	Urbanization and Migration	Chapter 5 Film: <i>The Last Train Home</i> Film: <i>China Blue</i>	
	10/19	Chinese cities in transition	Film: <i>Shower</i>	Film quiz #2 assigned
9	10/24	Chinese cities in transition		Paper #2 assigned
	10/26	Population and family planning	Chapter 6	
10	10/31	Population and family planning		Debate #2
	11/02	Research Talk (on 11/3 at 3:00)		
11	11/07	Exam #2		Exam #2
		III: Traditions and Changes		
	11/09	Traditions and culture changes	Film: <i>Eat, Drink, Man and Woman</i>	Film quiz #3 assigned
12	11/14	Environmental problems	Chapter 12; <i>China's Cancer Village; Under the Dome</i>	
	11/16	Research Talk (on 11/17 at 3:00 pm)		
13	11/21	Social and spatial inequalities	Chapter 7 <i>China rises: city of dreams</i>	
	11/23	No class (Thanksgiving)		
14	11/28	Taiwan	Chapter 13	
	11/30	Hong Kong, Macao	Chapter 14	
15	12/05	Review		
	12/07	Exam #3		

