Course Description

In recent decades the ancient civilization of China has been significantly affected by the development of socialism from 1950s and the spread of global capitalist economy from 1980s. On another hand, the rapid growth of China also has significant impacts on the global world. This course starts from this background to examine and explain the changing physical environment, history, economy, and society of China from a geographic perspective, with a systematic analysis of the patterns and processes of change, such as the physical environment, resources, development policy, globalization, industrialization, urbanization, and regional development. Topics include economic growth and environmental wellbeing, population control, food security, internal migration, urbanization, and regional inequalities, diverse cities and regions, and integration into the global economy.

Course Content

1. An introduction to China (Chapter 1)
2. China: A geographic preface (Chapter 2)
3. China: The historic context (Chapters 3, 12, and 13)
4. China’s politics (Chapter 4)
5. China’s economy (Chapter 5)
6. China’s population growth and control policy (Chapters 8 and 10)
7. Regional development and spatial inequalities in China (Chapters 2 and 8)
8. Regions in China (Chapters 2 and 8)
9. Urbanization in China (Chapter 8)
10. Yangtze River Region & the Three Gorges Dam (Chapters 4, 5 and 9)
11. China’s environmental problems (Chapter 9)
12. China’s international relations (Chapter 7)
13. China beyond heartland: Tibet (Chapter 6)
14. Beyond the Mainland: Overseas Chinese and Taiwan (Chapter 6)
15. China's future: Opportunities and challenges (Chapter 14)
Textbook


Method of Course Presentation

Lectures, student discussions, and video presentations.

CourseLink Page

This course has a CourseLink page that contains schedule, course outline, course materials, quizzes, assignments (include map assignments, short discussion papers, and term paper), discussion forum, and grade book.

Methods of Evaluation

1. Map assignments – 0%

Two map assignments will be given to familiarize you with the basic geographic features of China. You don’t need to turn in these assignments but similar questions may be used in the final exam.

2. Quizzes – 15% (individual) (3% x 5) NO LATE SUBMISSION

Five quizzes will be given to examine your readings on the textbook or assigned articles. Please ensure your quizzes are properly submitted.

3. Short discussion papers (individual) – 15% (5% x 3)

Three short discussion papers (double-space, 6-page maximum for each paper) need to be developed based on topics and literature provided. Grades will be evaluated based on quality of arguments and discussions.

4. In-class discussions – 10% (1% x 10)

From the 2nd to the 11th lectures, a 20 to 30 minute time slot will be allocated for in-class discussions on various topics. Grades will be assigned based on participation.
5. Term paper (approximately 3,000 words) – proposal, 0%; paper 20% (Optional)

You are encouraged to prepare a term paper of approximately 3,000 words for the course. You may select a topic from a suggested list (which are based on lectures and reading materials) or decide a topic based on your interest. Please note that you should have my approval of your topic. Also, the three discussion paper topics should not be used for your term paper. As an incentive, a term paper grade higher than that of the final exam will be counted based on the 20% allocation. Otherwise the term paper grade will be dropped and the 20% allocation will be added to that of the final examination. If you decide not to prepare a term paper, the 20% allocation will also be added to that of your final exam.

6. Final examination – 40%

The final examination covers readings, assignments, and lectures in the entire term.

Timeline

1. Quizzes: See Courselink “Assignment” page
4. Final examination: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, December 7th, 2017 (Thursday).

Student Responsibilities

You are required to attend all lectures and to do the assigned readings. Course assignments include two map assignments, five quizzes, three short discussion papers, and one term paper. Only one attempt is arranged for taking a quiz during a two week period. No additional attempts and/or no extension are granted for quizzes. You don’t need to submit map assignments. Late short discussion papers and term paper will be penalized at the rate of 10 percent per day, NOT including weekends. Students whose short discussion papers and term paper are late because of a valid medical reason, family emergency, or other reason accepted by me will not be penalized. (Do NOT ask your TA for an extension; that’s my job.) Documentation from a physician or from Counselling Services (x53244) may be required.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, cheating on assignments and exams etc.) is a serious offence at the University of Guelph. Consult the Undergraduate Calendar for offences, penalties and procedures relating to academic misconduct. An example of academic misconduct that might occur in this course is a student copying Quizze answers from another student.
University Standard Statements

E-mail Communication
As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement
When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

Drop Date
The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is November 3rd, 2017. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments
Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility
The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community’s shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/

Academic Misconduct
The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University’s policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct.
Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Recording of Materials**
Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

**Resources**
The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.