

Geography 3640-001 Geography of China and Asia

Instructor: Dr. Y. Dennis Wei, Professor Email: wei@geog.utah.edu
Class: TH 10:45AM-12:05PM, Fall 2019 Office Hours: F 9:30 AM-11:30 AM, 4729 GC
Class Room: GC 5680 Phone Number: 801-585--0545
Personal Website: <http://content.csbs.utah.edu/~weiy/>

Course Description and Methods:

Knowledge of Asia is fundamental to learning in the 21st century. Officially a “socialist market economy with Chinese characteristics,” China is an emerging power undergoing market transition. Understanding such culturally rich countries like China is a challenging task. This course elaborates on the specifics of Asia and special attention is paid to development and change and the challenges of the earth’s environment that shapes human behaviors in Asia.

This course aims to foster a better understanding of the complex relationships between human/economic activities and the regional/physical world. We examine contemporary conditions of human institutions, behavior and culture, but also provide a historical overview of current urbanization and development issues in Asia from a geographical perspective. Topics include physical environment, resources, population geography, economic geography, urbanization, sustainable development, and integration into the global economy. The emphasis will be on natural resources and environment, human/economic geographical patterns, diverse development environments, and linkages between China and Asia.

Students will be introduced to basic concepts and theories in geography, such as cities, regions urbanization, migration and geographical inequality, which provide a framework for understanding contemporary issues. Students learn how geography and cross-border economic activities shape human/economic activities in China and Asia, such as the process of urbanization and regional distribution of foreign investment. This course will use a combination of lecture, class discussion, readings, assignments, and student presentations. PPT lecture notes will be posted on Canvas.

Learning Outcomes: Through class activities, students will be able to identify important geographical features, gain familiarity with significant geographical patterns of resources, population, urbanization and development activities, and understand the dynamics of Asia. Overall, students will gain a much-improved appreciation of geographical foundations and diversity of human activities in China and Asia.

Satisfying International Requirement & Social/Behavior Sciences Requirement

Required Textbooks and Readings:

1. Gregory Veeck, Clifton W. Pannell, Youqin Huang and Shuming Bao. 2016. *China’s Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic and Social Change*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield. Available at the Bookstore.
2. Nijman, J., P.O. Muller and H.J. de Blij. 2016. *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*, Chapters 8-10. Wiley.
3. Extra readings provided by the instructor. Available on Canvas.

Course Evaluation: Your grade will be based on class attendance/participation, assignments, and exams. Your final grade will be computed as follows:

Class Attendance/Participation:	9%
Pop Quizzes	7%
Final Project Presentation	2%
Regular Assignments:	20%
Assignment 1	7%
Assignment 2	2%
Assignment 3	11%
Four Video Assignments:	6%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	35%

Regular attendance and participation are required and extra points will be given to active participants. I have 9 in-class pop quizzes, which reflect your attendance, and each student is allowed to have two excused absences (7 points). Midterm and final exams are taken in class and are closed book exams. Exam questions come from textbooks, lecture materials, and additional readings provided by the instructor. The final exam is not cumulative. Students should submit assignments on time, and no make-up or earlier exams will be given except for emergency situations beyond your control or legitimate conflicts due to recognized University/U.S. Government activities. Extra points (1-2 points) will be given to students with active class participation and excellent final project/presentation.

There are 3 regular assignments and 4 video assignments in this class. All the assignments will be available on Canvas (<https://utah.instructure.com/>). Regular assignment 1 involves maps and Q&A. Regular assignments 2 and 3 are the group project proposal and report. You will first submit a one-page proposal (Assignment 2) on the research project. Your project presentation will use power point and every group member is required to present. The final reports should include references, and tables, maps and graphs are encouraged. The final reports that show creativity, originality, and analysis, based on primary and secondary data, are given higher scores, and can even be given extra credits. You are required to submit your assignments on time digitally via Canvas except for the map assignment.

Course Outline:

Week 1 Introduction

(8/19-8/25) Introduction (Veeck et al., Chapter 1)

Week 2 Physical Geographies, Location, and Regions

(8/26-9/1) Physical Geographies (Veeck et al., Chapter 2)

China: A Geographical Preface (Gamer, Chapter 2)

Administrative Divisions of the People's Republic of China

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China

Week 3 History and Development Process

(9/2-9/8) History (Veeck et al., Chapter 3)

- Week 4** **Understanding Economic/Institutional Reforms**
(9/9-9/15) Politics (Veeck et al., Chapter 4)
- Week 5** **Managing China's Population and Human Resources**
(9/16-9/22) Population (Veeck et al., Chapter 6)
- Week 6** **Dealing with Chinese Urbanization, Culture and Society**
(9/23-9/29) Cities (Veeck et al., Chapter 5)
Differences and Etiquette (Plafker, 2007, Doing Business in China)
- Week 7** **Cellular Economies? Economic Geography**
(9/30-10/6) **Midterm Exam**
Economy (Veeck et al., Chapter 8)
- Week 8** **Fall Break: No Class**
(10/7-10/13)
- Week 9** **Capitalizing from Globalization: Industry, FDI and Trade**
(10/14-10/20) Industry (Veeck et al., Chapter 10)
Trade and Transportation (Veeck et al., Chapter 11)
- Week 10** **Inequality and the Countryside and: An Unequal Society**
(10/21-10/27) Inequality (Veeck et al., Chapter 7)
Agriculture (Veeck et al., Chapter 9)
- Week 11** **Paying for Prosperity: The Environment**
(10/28-11/3) The Environment (Veeck et al., Chapter 12)
- Week 12** **Regional Integration: Hong Kong and Taiwan**
(11/4-11/10) Hong Kong (Veeck et al., Chapter 14)
Taiwan (Veeck et al., Chapter 13)
- Week 13** **The Asian Century: Rise of East Asia**
(11/11-11/17) The East Asia Realm (Nijman, Chapter 9)
- Week 14** **Geographical Fragmentation: Southeast Asia**
(11/18-11/24) The Southeast Asia Realm (Nijman, Chapter 10)
- Week 15** **An Emerging Giant: South Asia & Beyond**
(11/25-12/2) The South Asia Realm (Nijman, Chapter 8)
- November 28-December 1 Thanksgiving Break: No class**
- Week 16** **Student Presentation & Conclusion**
(12/3-12/5)
- 12/5** **Class End**

12/9-12/13 Final Exam Period

12/11 Final Exam: 10:30am-12:30pm, Friday, GC 5680

Class Participation and Expectations: Students are expected to be in class on time, and behave properly (no sleeping, no food, no phone communication et al.). Attendance is required of all students; possible exceptions include serious illness (providing doctors' notes) or a legitimate conflict due to recognized University/U.S. Government activities. Students are expected to take exams and hand in assignments at the times scheduled. All assignments must be typed unless otherwise noted.

Academic Policies: Students should adhere to the University of Utah's Student Code of conduct. All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. To plagiarize means to take someone else's words and/or ideas (or pattern of ideas) and to present them to the reader as if they are yours. In this course, there will be individual assignments and group assignments. It is important that your individual assignments be completed with your thoughts alone. When you use someone else's ideas and/or words, you either quote that person directly or you provide an exact source citation for those ideas paraphrased or summarized. for more information, visit:

- a. Student Code: <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>
- b. Accommodation Policy (see Section Q): <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

ADA Accommodations: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Safety & Wellness: Your safety is our top priority. In an emergency, dial 911 or seek a nearby emergency phone (throughout campus). Report any crimes or suspicious people to 801-585-COPS; this number will get you to a dispatch officer at the University of Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS; dps.utah.edu). If at any time, you would like to be escorted by a security officer to or from areas on campus, DPS will help — just give a call.

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

The University of Utah seeks to provide a safe and healthy experience for students, employees, and others who make use of campus facilities. In support of this goal, the University has established confidential resources and support services to assist students who may have been affected by harassment, abusive relationships, or sexual misconduct. A detailed listing of University Resources for campus safety can be found at <https://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/campussafety.php>

Your well-being is key to your personal safety. If you are in crisis, call 801-587-3000; help is close. The university has additional excellent resources to promote emotional and physical wellness, including the Counseling Center (<https://counselingcenter.utah.edu>), the Wellness Center (<https://wellness.utah.edu>), and the Women's Resource Center (<https://womenscenter.utah.edu>). Counselors and advocates in these centers can help guide you to other resources to address a range of issues, including substance abuse and addiction.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Undocumented Student Support Statement: Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact—those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles to engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream Center. Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence. The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families. To learn more, please contact the Dream Center at 801.213.3697 or visit dream.utah.edu.