

GEOG 530 Spring 2020 – Geography of China (Online)

TR 2:10-3:30

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Office Hours: TR 11-12 or by appointment

Course Description

The course will examine China's diverse physical environments, politics, economies, and cultures across her vast territory. Students will learn to adopt a relational and spatial perspective to study the contemporary issues in China.

In Curriculum

The course fulfills the following university requirements: DISCOVERY World Cultures. Furthermore, the course is an elective for International Affairs major/minor and Asian Studies minor.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize key climates, landforms, water bodies, and administrative units;
- Identify key contemporary issues and their historical roots;
- Explain the contemporary issues in the Chinese contexts with Chinese eyes;
- Compare the contemporary issues in China with similar issues in the US;
- Investigate a specific contemporary issue in a specific place in China.

Required Texts

Veeck, Gregory. 2016. *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change*. 3rd Edition. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

Hessler, Peter. 2010. *Country Driving: A Journey through China from Farm to Factory*. New York: Harper. Textbooks are available at UNH bookstore and Durham Book Exchange.

Course Format

The course is based on both lectures and in-class discussions. In general, I will lecture half of the class and leave the rest of the time to discussions. Into the semester, we will gradually give more weights to discussions.

Requirements

There are two parts contributing to the final grade of the course: class participation and term project.

- **Class participation:** All students are expected to attend the classes, actively participate in discussions. All students will also be expected to read about 30 pages of reading every week. To better prepare the in-class discussion, individual students are required to prepare at least *one question every week* and submit it on Canvas, when there is a reading assigned. Questions should be directly related to either the reading of that week or the content presented in the previous class. These should be *real* questions – that is, the things you do not know. Be prepared to raise it in class.

- **Term Project:** As the term project, students will be asked to study a specific issue in a specific place in China. A group can have up to two students. The project has four steps, each resulting a written report. Every step is worth 50 points. (1) The first step is to identify a specific city or province in China that you want to visit or study. Students will use both class materials and online resources to study the city/province's physical environment, politics, economy, and culture in general. (2) Students will need to identify a specific contemporary issue in the chosen place. Students need to study the issue's history and contemporary developments. (3) Students then need to compare the issue in China with similar issues in the US. (4) Students need to compile all the materials into a final report and give a presentation to class.

Component	Total points
Questions and Participation	20%
Term Project (4)	80%
Total	100%

- **Final grade:** there will be *no round-ups*. All lines are hard and non-negotiable. Following is the grade scheme percentage.

A	100 – 94	A-	<94 – 90
B+	<90 – 87	B	<87 – 84
B-	<84 – 80	C+	<80 – 77
C	<77 – 74	C-	<74 – 70
D+	<70 – 67	D	<67 – 64
D-	<64 – 61	F	<61 – 0

- **Class Notes:** After each lecture (not before), I will upload the slides onto MyCourses. I do so because I do not want you to write down every word I say in class. Even though these notes are important for the quizzes and exams, try to be a smart notes taker. In fact, the questions I post before each class should become your guideline of taking notes. If you miss a class, it is *your responsibility* to borrow notes from your peers.
- **Classroom Behavior:** To insure a climate of learning for all, disruptive or inappropriate behavior (repeated outbursts, disrespect for the ideas of others, etc.) may result in exclusion (removal) from this class. As a reminder, cell phone/PDA, etc. use, including text messaging, is not permitted in this class by Faculty Senate rule unless by instructor permission. Laptops and tablets are allowed to be used only for the purpose of taking notes and doing data labs. Using laptops and tablets for any other reasons will be seen as a violation of the class policy. Each time of violating the electronic devices policy will result in *1% from your final grade*.
- **Make-ups and Late Work:** Since we allow dropping the lowest grades, there will be *no make-up* for tests unless you meet the following condition. If you expect to miss more than one test AND you participate in an approved intercollegiate team, please notify me *before the class* and you may be allowed to take a make-up. You must also have your notice signed off by your coach or a representative of your team. Any other travel needs do not qualify for make-ups. Any kind of emergency including the medical ones must be reported to the college. The college will inform all your professors and so you do not need to deal with each of us individually.

Every 24 hours past due will be penalized by 10% of the grade of that assignment. Should you have a college/university approved activity delaying your submission, please let me know at least *24 hours before* the deadline.

- **University Academic Honesty Statement:** The University does not tolerate any kind of academic dishonesty. When you are working on a writing assignment, do not cut and paste from other sources. Be sure to quote and cite any words that are not your own and be sure to attribute ideas to their original source even when paraphrasing. You may fail the class by not following the rules. If you are not sure about what constitutes academic misconduct, ask the instructor or see the university's Students Rights, Rules and Responsibilities handbook, available at <http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/>
- **Emotional and Mental Health Distress:** Your academic success in this course is very important to me. If during the semester, you find emotional or mental health issues are affecting that success, please contact the University's Counseling Center (3rd floor Smith Hall: 603-862-2090/TTY:7-1-1) which provides counseling appointments and other mental health services. You may find more information about UNH Conseling Center at <http://www.unh.edu/counseling-center/homepage>
- **Special accommodations:** The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you have questions about the process, please contact DSS at (603) 862-2607 or disability.office@unh.edu. If you are registered with DSS, and eligible for accommodations that you would like to utilize in this course, please forward that information to me in a timely manner so that we can meet privately in my office to review those accommodations. For more information, please visit <http://www.unh.edu/disabilityservices>.

Syllabus Changes

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates, when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.

Course Schedule

Feb 2/4: Course Overview and Introduction

- Veeck Chapter 1

Feb 9/11: Physical Environment and Early Human Activities

- Veeck Chapter 2

Feb 16/18: History

- Veeck Chapter 3

Feb 23/25: Chinese Philosophy

- Confucius. "Zhong Yong (Doctrine of the Mean)". *Li Ji (Book of Rites)*.
<http://www.acmuller.net/con-dao/docofmean.html#div-3>
- Zehou, Li. 1999. "The Dual Variation of Enlightenment and Nationalism: (Excerpt)." *Contemporary Chinese Thought* 31 (2): 40–43. doi:10.2753/CSP1097-1467310240.
- **Feb 11: Term Project Step #1 starts**

Mar 2/4: Politics

- Veeck Chapter 4

Mar 9/11: Economy

- Veeck Chapter 8

Mar 16/18: Population

- Veeck Chapter 6
- **Mar 3: Term Project Step #2; Step #1 due**

Mar 23/25: Regional Geographies: Northwest

- Hessler Book I - I

Mar 30/Apr 1: Regional Geographies: East and Central China Plain

- Hessler Book I - I

Apr 6/8: Spring Recess: No class

Apr 13/15: Regional Geographies: Northeast

- Hessler Book I - I
- **Mar 31: Term Project Step #3; Step #2 due**

Apr 20/22: Regional Geographies: Southeast

- Hessler Book II – I and II

Apr 27/29: Regional Geographies: Southwest

- Hessler Book III – I and II

May 4/6: China in the World

- **Apr 21: Term Project Step #4; Step #3 due**

May 11: Presentations and Review Session

- **Step #4 Presentation due**
- **Step #4 Final Paper due on May 5**