

GEOG 3760 – Geography of China: Environment and Society

Fall 2023. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:50 pm, ENV 345

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Office Hours: Tue 2-3 pm, or by appointment.



Objectives

China is of global significance in many aspects. Developing a comprehensive understanding of China and its relations to the world is important. With an emphasis on the roles of geography/space, the objective of this course is to provide students background knowledge of China to better understand the current and future affairs related to China. Using a combination of the traditional regional geography and topical geography approaches, and new developments in social media and geospatial technologies, the course aims to create an effective teaching and learning environment. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to: (1) describe major geographic features of China, including natural resources and physical environment; (2) describe the overall spatial distribution of Chinese population and ethnic minority groups; and (3) interpret the recent development of China from a geographical perspective.

Required Textbook

China - A Geographical Perspective. Authors: David W. S. Wong, Kenneth K. K. Wong, Him Chung, and James J. Wang. ISBN 9781462533732. Guilford Press (March 2018, 384 pages).

Class Attendance

Attendance will be taken every class session. Excused attendance requires documentation.

Short Essays

Students will complete one essay assigned by the instructor, and one essay on a self-selected topic. Each essay has two single-spaced pages. Turnitin AI Writing Detection will be used for plagiarism check when essays are uploaded to Canvas.

Tests: Students will take two open-book, online tests (60 minutes each) in Canvas.

Course Project

Each student will develop an individual project related to the geography of China, submit a project report of four single-spaced pages (NOT including tables, figures, and references) to Canvas, and deliver a 10-minute project presentation. The topic of the course project should be different from the self-selected essay. Turnitin AI Writing Detection will be used for plagiarism check when project reports are uploaded to Canvas. More details on the requirements will be provided in class.

Extra Credit

The Department of Geography and the Environment does not allow extra credit assignments (work not specified on a course syllabus).

Accommodations

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Grading Structure

Class attendance	10%
Two online tests	30%
Two short essays	20%
Project report	30%
Project presentation	10%
Total	100%

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	8/22	Introduction: A Virtual Tour along the Chinese Border	Chapter 1
	8/24	A Brief History of China (1)	Chapter 1
2	8/29	A Brief History of China (2)	Chapter 2
	8/31	Physical Environment and Resources (1)	Chapter 2
3	9/5	Physical Environment and Resources (2)	Chapter 3
	9/7	Population (1) – Demographic Characteristics	Chapter 3
4	9/12	Population (2) – Ethnic Groups (Short Essay 1, due 10/27)	Chapter 4
	9/14	Agriculture, Food, and Culture (1)	Chapter 4
5	9/19	Agriculture, Food, and Culture (2), Economic Geography (1)	Chapter 5
	9/21	(Conference travel) No class.	Chapter 5
6	9/26	Economic Geography (2)	Chapter 6
	9/28	Urban Geography (1)	Chapter 6
7	10/3	Urban Geography (2)	Chapter 7
	10/5	Online Test 1	Handouts
8	10/10	Rural China	Chapter 8
	10/12	Transportation and E-Commerce (1)	Chapter 8
9	10/17	Transportation and E-Commerce (2)	Chapter 9
	10/19	Environmental Challenges (1)	Chapter 9
10	10/24	Environmental Challenges (2) (Short Essay 2, due 12/8)	Chapter 10
	10/26	Coastal Regions (1)	Chapter 10

11	10/31	Coastal Regions (2)	Chapter 11
	11/2	Peripheral Regions (1)	Chapter 11
12	11/7	Peripheral Regions (2)	Chapter 12
	11/9	Other Regions of the Mainland	Chapter 12
13	11/14	Beyond the Mainland (1)	Chapter 13
	11/16	Beyond the Mainland (2)	Chapter 13
14	11/21	Thanksgiving Break (no class)	
	11/23	Thanksgiving Break (no class)	
15	11/28	Looking Forward	Handouts
	11/30	Online Test 2	
16	12/5	Project Week (work on your project)	
	12/7	(Pre-final, no class)	
17	12/12	Project Presentation (1) (12 minutes per student).	
	12/14	Project Presentation (2) (12 minutes per student). Project report due.	

Academic Dishonesty

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;
- b. Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
- c. The acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university;
- d. Dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or
- e. Any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to:

- a. The knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and
- b. The knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Classroom Courtesy

Please follow these guidelines to avoid disrupting the class:

- (1) Turn off cell phones before arriving.
- (2) Do not arrive late or leave early (except for a bathroom break or emergency).
- (3) Do not sleep or eat during class.
- (4) Do not work on other assignments during class.
- (5) Do not talk when the instructor is lecturing, unless prompted for feedback by the instructor.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Course Evaluation

You will receive an email with a link to the UNT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) Course Evaluation by the end of the semester.