

GEOG2126 Globalizing China: The Land and the People (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Professor Christopher Smith (Visiting Professor)

Objectives

The purpose of the course is to provide students with the knowledge needed to understand the process of development in China, with primary focus on the PRC era (post-1949). The lectures, readings and assignments (in and out of class) are intended to help students to better understand the process of economic restructuring and spatial transformation in the context of globalizing world.

Course Synopsis

This is an introductory course about the evolving physical, cultural and political landscape of China. Emphasis is placed on (a) the natural environment and physical setting for development; (b) historical geography and evolution of the landscape; (c) the political system and post-1949 development; and (d) the growth and spatial distribution of the Chinese population.

Lecture Topics

- China in the World
- Natural environment: Physical setting for development
- Historical context: An overview
- Political system and social, economic development
- Population, migration and policy
- Environmental Issues
- Poverty and Inequality in the New China
- Urbanization in China
- Agriculture and Rural Issues
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan

Assessment

Examination 50%; Coursework 50% (consists of in-class monitoring (quiz format) of attendance, comprehension of lecture and reading materials and a research paper 30%)

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- An understanding of the changing relative location of China in the world
- Compare and contrast the different geographic environments among key Chinese regions
- An understanding of the historical evolution of China's land and people
- Knowledge of China's political system and population control policies

Skills:

- Ability to identify the regularity in the spatial distribution of key physical features
- Analytical skills to logically link China's physical environment with human culture and society
- Develop reading and writing skills

Recommended Reading List

1. Veeck, G. et. al. (2011, 2nd edition) *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change*. Rowman & Littlefield.