

GEOG3104 Globalizing China: Development issues (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Professor George C S Lin

Objectives

To assist students to better understand the process of economic restructuring and spatial transformation in the context of a socialist developing country.

Course Synopsis

China's space economy has undergone profound transformation over the past half a century. This course offers a selective evaluation of a number of issues that are critical to understanding China's ongoing economic and spatial transformation. Emphasis is placed on development strategies, agriculture, industry, transport, trade, and urban and regional development since 1949. The driving forces operating behind the scenes of economic transformation and the (un)intended consequences are critically evaluated.

Lecture Topics

- Theoretical context and framework for development studies
- Agriculture and rural development: policies, production and distribution
- Industrialization: performance, structure and regional pattern
- Transportation: policies, networks, and territorial organization
- Foreign economic relations: open-door policy, special economic zones, and trade
- Urbanization, urban system and urban planning
- Uneven landscape: macro regions, spatial inequality, and regional development

Assessment

Examination (two hours) 50%; Coursework 50% (consists of an essay).

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Compare and contrast China's economic landscape before and after the 1978 reforms
- Appreciation of the distinct pattern and process of China's economic transformation
- An understanding of how state policies help transform China's economic landscapes
- Awareness of the complexity of changing regional inequality

Skills:

- Ability to evaluate the causes and consequences of China's economic reforms
- Analytical skills to link state policies with the transformation of China's space economy
- Ability to analyze China's development issues in a theoretical and international perspective

Recommended Reading List

1. Veeck, Gregory, et al (2011) *China's Geography: Globalization and the dynamics of political, economic, and social change*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
2. Wu, Weiping and Gaubatz, Piper (2013) *The Chinese City*. New York: Routledge.