

GEOG2101 Globalizing China I: Resources, Politics, and Population (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Prof Jack Williams (Visiting Professor)

Objectives

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

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

Assessment

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

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.