

# **GEOG 5960 – Human Geography Topics (Geography of China: Environment and Society)**

Fall 2020. Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 10:50 am

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Virtual Office Hours (through the Zoom URL): T & Th, 10:50 – 11:30 am.



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## **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 in order 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 (3) interpret the recent development of China from historical and geographical perspectives.

## **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. Missing 6 class sessions can result in a WF or F for the course.

**Tests:** Students will take two online tests (60 minutes each) in Canvas.

**Short Essays:** Students will complete **two** short essays (2 single-spaced pages) assigned by the instructor.

## **Course Project**

Each student will develop an individual project related to the geography of China, submit a project report of 6 single-spaced pages (NOT including tables, figures, and references) to Canvas, and deliver a 10-minute project presentation. The project report should include at least 10 references. 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).

## Grading Structure

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Class attendance (automatically taken in Zoom meetings)                                     | 10%         |
| Class activity (“Participation” and “Page Views” in Canvas. Low: 5%; medium: 7%; high: 10%) | 10%         |
| Two online tests  | 20%         |
| Two short essays  | 20%         |
| Project report  | 30%         |
| Project presentation  | 10%         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>100%</b> |

## Schedule

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Reading</b> |
|-------------|-------------|--|----------------|
| 1           | 8/25        | Introduction   | Chapter 1      |
|             | 8/27        | A Brief History of China (1)   | Handouts       |
| 2           | 9/1         | A Brief History of China (2)   | Handouts       |
|             | 9/3         | Physical Environment and Resources (1)   | Chapter 2      |
| 3           | 9/8         | Physical Environment and Resources (2)   | Handouts       |
|             | 9/10        | Population (1) – Demographic Characteristics   | Chapter 3      |
| 4           | 9/15        | Population (2) – Ethnic Groups ( <b>Short Essay 1, due 10/27</b> )                     | Handouts       |
|             | 9/17        | Agriculture, Food, and Culture (1)   | Chapter 4      |
| 5           | 9/22        | Agriculture, Food, and Culture (2)   | Handouts       |
|             | 9/24        | Economic Geography (1)   | Chapter 5      |
| 6           | 9/29        | Economic Geography (2)   | Handouts       |
|             | 10/1        | Urban Geography (1)  | Chapter 6      |
| 7           | 10/6        | Urban Geography (2)  | Handouts       |
|             | 10/8        | <b>Online Test 1</b>   |                |
| 8           | 10/13       | Rural China  | Chapter 7      |
|             | 10/15       | Transportation and E-Commerce (1)  | Chapter 8      |
| 9           | 10/20       | Transportation and E-Commerce (2)  | Handouts       |
|             | 10/22       | Environmental Challenges (1)   | Chapter 9      |
| 10          | 10/27       | Environmental Challenges (2) ( <b>Short Essay 2, due 12/10</b> )                       | Handouts       |
|             | 10/29       | Coastal Regions (1)  | Chapter 10     |
| 11          | 11/3        | Coastal Regions (2)  | Handouts       |
|             | 11/5        | Peripheral Regions (1)   | Chapter 11     |
| 12          | 11/10       | Peripheral Regions (2)   | Handouts       |
|             | 11/12       | Beyond the Mainland (1)  | Chapter 12     |
| 13          | 11/17       | Beyond the Mainland (2)  | Handouts       |
|             | 11/19       | Looking Forward  | Chapter 13     |
| 14          | 11/24       | <b>Online Test 2</b>   |                |
|             | 11/26       | <b>Thanksgiving Day (no class)</b>   |                |
| 15          | 12/1        | (Work on your project)   |                |
|             | 12/3        | <b>Project Presentation (1)</b> (8 minutes per student)                                |                |
| 16          | 12/8        | <b>Project Presentation (2)</b> (8 minutes per student)                                |                |
|             | 12/10       | <b>Project Presentation (3)</b> (8 minutes per student).<br><b>Project report due.</b> |                |

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.