

Geography 455: The Geography of China

Spring 2009

University of Arizona,

Department of Geography and Regional Development
Studies

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description:

While this course briefly focuses on the physical elements of China's geography, the majority of the class is centered on China's dynamic cultural geographical landscape. We explore not only the 'facts' about this landscape, but also think about the domestic and global processes that are continually shaping it. Moreover, we reach outside of traditional Chinese studies and apply concepts from geographical and social theory which construct a basis for future analysis of this changing and dynamic place.

Evaluation:

Exam One 30%

Exam Two 30%

Exam Three 30%

Participation & Attendance 10%

Other:

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All work must be the student's own work. Any incidents of copying during exams or plagiarism in reports will be automatically and directly forwarded to the Dean of Students. Enough said

Course Itinerary

Week One: Introduction

2/9 Introduction to Geography and Geographical Concepts

2/11 Western Perceptions of China

Week Two: The Physical Setting

2/16 Landforms, Regions and Geomorphology

2/18 Weather and Climate

Week Three: The Cultural Setting

2/23 Cultural Hearths, Language, Religion

2/25 Ethnicity (*minzu*)

Week Four: Population and Gender

3/2 Theories of Population and the Chinese Context

3/5 Gender Issues

Week Five: Exam, Economic Geography

3/9 *Exam One*

3/11 Regions and Regional Development (1)

Week Six: Economic Geography

3/16 Regions and Regional Development (2)

3/18 Inequality Trends, Poverty and Wealth

Week Seven: Urban China

3/23 Traditional Cities, Modern Cities

3/25 Governance and City-Building

Week Eight: Rural China

3/30 The Countryside

4/1 Present and Past Land Reform

Week Nine: Migration

4/6 Migration (1)

4/8 Migration (2)

Week Ten: Exam, Environmental Issues

4/13 ***Exam Two***

4/15 Environmental Issues (1)

Week Eleven: Environmental Issues

4/20 No Class

4/22 Environmental Issues (2)

Week Twelve: Environmental Issues

4/27 Environmental Issues (3)

4/29 Environmental Issues (4)

Week Thirteen: Globalization and China's Geography

5/4 China and the Global Economy (1)

5/6 China and the Global Economy (2)

Week Fourteen: Other China's

5/11 Tibet

5/13 Diaspora

Week Fifteen (May 18th)

5/18 *Exam Three*