

GGR343H1F: The Changing Geography of China

Fall 2015

Meeting Time:	Thursdays, 5-7 pm
Meeting Place:	SS2125
Instructor:	Leqian Yu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 3-5 pm in SS5004, or by appointment
Email:	leqian.yu@utoronto.ca

Course Description

Welcome to GGR343 The Changing Geography of China! This course explores patterns of socio-spatial change and continuity in China since 1949. After introductory lectures on the basic physical and human geographical contexts, the course will focus on key aspects of China's on-going transition from a planned to market economy and the interconnected development trajectories shaping urban and rural areas since the reforms began three decades ago. Special attention will be paid to the major geographical aspects of the transformation, such as geographical unevenness, urbanization and globalization, and the complex interactions between the built and social environments.

The overall aims of the course are to:

- Introduce important geographical features of China
- Develop an understanding of key issues of contemporary China's socio-spatial transformations
- Develop an understanding of key concepts in human geography in the context of China
- Develop ability to evaluate different sources of information about China
- Enhance critical thinking and writing skills

This is a third-year social science course, and you will be expected to perform at an upper year level by demonstrating critical thinking and independent study skills. You are not required to have prior knowledge of China or Chinese, but should have taken at least one full-course equivalent in geography (or related social science).

Course Evaluation and Deadlines*

In-class writing exercises	5 %	
Midterm test	20 %	October 29 (location TBA)
Review paper 1 (750-1000 words)	20 %	November 5 (beginning of class)
Review paper 2 (1000-1500 words)	25 %	December 3 (beginning of class)
Final exam	30 %	During exam period (location TBA)

*For details, please refer to Page 4 "Details on Course Evaluation".

Course Materials

All required course readings, unless otherwise noted, are available on the Blackboard course page through the University of Toronto Libraries.

The Blackboard course page is available on the Blackboard site: <http://portal.utoronto.ca/>.

The Blackboard course page will also contain selected slides from each lecture. Please note that you are responsible for all materials covered in class as well as assigned readings. Both will be included in tests and written assignments. A good portion of class time will be used to present materials that complement the readings while slides only contain brief textual outline of each lecture. If you miss class you could be missing materials that is important for tests and your written assignments.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Lectures and class discussions will be based on the required readings, so please come to class having read them. I reserve the right to adjust the following course schedule in order to better meet the needs of the class. I will notify you via blackboard of any revisions.

Week 1 (September 17): Introduction: China's geographical imaginations

- **Latham, A.** (2001). China in the contemporary American geopolitical imagination. *Asian Affairs: An American Review*, 28(3), 138-145.

Week 2 (September 24): Physical and cultural landscapes

- **Veeck, G. et al.** (2007). China's natural environments. In G. Veeck et al. (Eds.), *China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change* (15-42). 2nd Edition. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- **Blum, S.** (2000). China's many faces: ethnic, cultural, and religious pluralism. In T. Weston and Lo. Jensen (Eds.), *China Beyond the Headlines* (69-95). Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Week 3 (October 1): Scale relations and spatial administrative hierarchy

- **Cartier, C.** (2005). Scale relations and China's spatial administrative hierarchy. In L.J.C. Ma and F.L. Wu (Eds.), *Restructuring the Chinese City: Changing Society, Economy and Space* (19-33). London & New York: Routledge.

Week 4 (October 8): Regional development

- **Wang, M. et al.** (2002). China's puzzle game: Four spatial shifts of development. In M. Webber et al. (Eds.) *China's Transition to a Global Economy* (113-142). New York: Palgrave.
- **Goodman, D.** (2002). The politics of the West: equality, nation-building and colonization. *Provincial China*, 7(2), 127-150.

Week 5 (October 15): Urban-rural relations 1: institutions

- **Lippit, V.** (1997). The Maoist period, 1949-1978: mobilizational collectivism, primitive accumulation, and industrialization. In C. Hudson (Ed.) *The China Handbook* (3-15). Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn.
- **Chan, K.W.** (2009). The Chinese *hukou* system at 50. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 50(2), 197-221.
- **McGee, T. et al.** (2007). Seeing like a state: the urbanization project in post-1978 China. In T. McGee et al. (Eds.) *China's Urban Space: Development under Market Socialism* (Excerpt: pp. 29-46). London & New York: Routledge.

Week 6 (October 22): Urban-rural relations 2: spaces of rurality

- **Yan, H.R.** (2008). The emaciation of the rural: "no way out" In *New Masters, New Servants: Migration, Development, and Women Workers in China* (25-52). Durham: Duke University Press.
- **Park, C.H.** (2014). *Nongjiale* tourism and contested space in rural China. *Modern China*, 40(5), 519-548.

Week 7 (October 29): Midterm test (location to be announced)

Week 8 (November 5): City building

Review Paper 1 due at the beginning of class

- **Hsing, Y.T.** (2010). Metropolitan governance, real-estate projects and capital accumulation. In *The Great Urban Transformation: Politics of Land and Property in China* (93-121). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- **Shin, H.B.** (2010). Urban conservation and revalorisation of dilapidated historic quarters: The case of Nanluoguxiang in Beijing. *Cities*, 27(2010), S43-S54.

Week 9 (November 12): Urban neighborhoods

- **Lu, D.F.** (2006). Work unit urbanism. In *Remaking Chinese Urban Form: Modernity, Scarcity and Space, 1949-2005* (47-79). London & New York: Routledge.
- **Pow, C.P.** (2009). Maintaining order and civility: purified spaces and the paradox of gated living. In *Gated Communities in China: Class, Privilege and the Moral Politics of the Good Life* (108-134). London & New York: Routledge.

Week 10 (November 19): Contested urban space

- **Zhang, L.** (2006). Contesting spatial modernity in late-socialist China. *Current Anthropology* 47(3), 461-484.
- **Boland, A. and Zhu, J.G.** (2012). Public participation in China's green communities: mobilizing memories and structuring incentives. *Geoforum*, 43(1): 147-157.

Week 11 (November 26): Environmental governance

- **Hoffman, L.** (2011). Urban modeling and contemporary technologies of city-building in China: The production of regimes of green urbanisms. In A. Roy and A. Ong (Eds.). *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global* (55-76). Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

- **Zackey, J.** (2007). Peasant perspectives on deforestation in Southwest China. *Mountain Research and Development*, 27(2), 153-161.

Week 12 (December 3) : China in the global era

Review Paper 2 due at the beginning of class

- **Hanser, A.** (2009). Yellow peril consumerism: China, North America, and an era of global trade. In K. Merkel-Hess et al. (Eds.), *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance* (290-299). Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- **Sautman, B. & Yan, H.R.** (2008). Fu Manchu in Africa?: the distorted portrayal of China's presence in the continent. *South Africa Labour Bulletin*, 31(5), 34-38.
- **Set of short media reports** on investment in China. [Links to be added in Blackboard]

Details on Course Evaluation

In-class writing exercises (5%)

There will be six short in-class writing exercises. The in-class writing exercises will be simple questions based on the readings and class material for that day. Evaluation will be based on both the number and quality of the writing exercises you submit. Each writing exercise is worth 1% of the final course grade. I will choose the top five (out of six) of the responses you submit for your final mark of this part. If you miss the class for legitimate reasons (please refer to “Extensions and missed tests”), you have the option to submit a one-page reading response to the readings for that class in lieu of an in-class writing exercise. All such writing exercises must be submitted no later than one week after the missed class.

Tests (50%)

- **Midterm test (2 hours):** A midterm test will be given during the period of class in Week 7 (October 29). It will be a combination of map questions, multiple choice questions and short answer questions. Map questions will cover locations of China's provinces, major cities and geographical features. Multiple choices will cover basic geographical and historical facts. The test will also cover course concepts discussed in the first six weeks. This test will be worth 20% of the course grade.
- **Final exam (3 hours):** The final exam will include long and short answer questions that cover the whole term. I will provide study tips closer to the final date. The exam will be worth 30% of the course grade.

Written assignments (45%)

The written assignments required in this course include two review papers. They should involve little if any library research. The goals of the assignments are to encourage you to do a close reading of course readings and related academic sources, to present a thoughtful synthesis and critical analysis of the ideas presented, and to strengthen your academic writing. The papers must:

- a) summarize the authors' main arguments;
- b) identify the authors' theoretical and methodological approaches;
- c) attempt to identify the authors' explicit or implicit values;
- d) make connections between the course readings and related academic sources
- e) evaluate how the readings provide insight into the course themes discussed in the lectures

- **Review Paper 1 (750-1000 words):** Review Paper 1 (due November 5) will be a review based on course readings related to themes covered during Week 2 to Week 6. It will be worth 20% of the course grade.
- **Review Paper 2 (1000-1500 words):** Review Paper 2 (due December 3) will be a review of the course readings and supplementary readings related to course themes covered during Week 8 to Week 10. This second assignment builds on skills developed in Review Paper 1, but will ask you to engage with broader range of sources. It will be worth 25% of the course grade.

More details about the assignments will be provided in class.

Ground Rules

- **Electronic devices:** All cell phones and other communications devices must be set on silent during class. Do not answer your phone or text message during class. If you use a laptop for taking notes, please do so in a way that does not disturb other students or distract the instructor (i.e., quiet on the keyboard, do not use computer for non-class related activities, turn off the internet function). I would like to make the front three rows on the left half of the room “keyboard free” zones to address the distraction problems for those who do not use computers in class. If you wish to record any part of the lectures please get permission from me first. If you are given permission to make personal audio recordings of lectures, you agree to the following terms: You may not under any circumstances distribute audio recordings in any form (websites, email, file sharing, or any other means). You may not share audio recordings with other students without the explicit prior permission of the instructor. No photographs or video recordings are permitted in lectures under any circumstances.
- **Email policy:** Email correspondence should be carried out in a professional and courteous manner. Please use your UofT email account for correspondences and limit email content to very short questions. Please conduct as much course business as possible in-person after class or during office hours. You are encouraged to be in contact with each other to discuss the course, assignments, and “nuts and bolts” questions. Please only contact me via email as a last resort. I will respond to emails within two working days.
- **Assignment submission:** Written assignments for this class are to be submitted in both a print and electronic form. Time of submission is based on receipt of the print version. The hardcopy print versions of Review Paper 1 & Review Paper 2 are due at the beginning of class (Thursday 5 pm) and these should be submitted in the classroom (SS2125). Contact me in advance if you need to submit your assignment early so that we can make arrangements for that.

The electronic versions of your assignments should be submitted to Turnitin.com no later than 5 pm on the day after you submit the hard copy. For example, if you submit your paper on time, by Thursday 5 pm, you should post your electronic version by Friday 5 pm. The biggest risk here is that you will forget to follow through on the electronic submission. To minimize this risk, try to upload the assignment as you are printing out your final version and confirm you receive your electronic receipt via email. Remember also that the paper you

submit electronically to turnitin.com must be the same version you hand in to me (I check for this). More information regarding Turnitin.com is provided on Page 6.

- **Late penalty:** Both print and electronic submissions are required, with time of submission based on receipt of print version, and electronic to follow within one day. Anything handed in after the 5 pm deadline will be considered one day late (including assignments handed in after class has begun). There will be a late-penalty of 3% for each day late (including weekends). For example, if you hand in your paper on Friday, your mark will drop by 3%; if you hand it in on the following Monday, your mark will drop by 12%. All late assignments should be handed in to the assignment drop box just outside the Main Office (SS5047) of the Department of Geography. The office is open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Late assignments are due before the Main Office closes at the end of the day you decide to submit it. This is normally at 5pm sharp, so you should not wait until the last minute. Once the Main Office is closed, assignments will not be accepted and you will have to return the next day (and it will be counted another day late). In order to be fair, I will not accept assignments more than one week after the due date unless you have obtained prior permission from me in the case of documented illness or other extenuating circumstances (see next point).
- **Extensions and missed tests:** Extensions on assignments will be granted in the case of illness or other emergencies. For illness, you must have a health care professional fill out the official University of Toronto medical certificate. Please consult your College Registrar if you are having difficulties during the term that prevent you from completing your course work. If you miss the test due to illness or other emergency, email me as soon as possible, no later than one week from the date of the test.

Submission of Assignments via Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their assignments to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site (www.turnitin.com). If you have an objection to the use of Turnitin for the submission of your work, please contact me to discuss alternatives, which may include submission of your working draft. Note that I will be setting up the Turnitin account such that your assignments will be stored only in the U of T institutional repository (i.e., not with Turnitin.com in the USA). Instructions on use of the system will be provided with Review Paper 1. General information is available from the University of Toronto's Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation, at: <http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/guide-students.htm>. This information will also be made available on the course Blackboard site.

Accessibility Services

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>

Academic Integrity

While I encourage you to have others read and comment on your assignments, I expect that the papers that you submit to be your own work. Note also that using information directly from sources such as books, articles, videos, the Internet or work of fellow students without proper citation is considered plagiarism. Quotation marks are required when using someone else's words. Changing a few words in a sentence is not enough to make it your own. More fundamentally, for this course, we are not interested in reading a regurgitation of authors' ideas – we are interested in your ideas about the materials you will be interpreting. You also should not be submitting any academic work for which you have previously obtained (or are currently seeking) credit without first discussing this with me.

For some useful information on documenting sources and problems of plagiarism, see “How not to plagiarize” at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

Be aware that cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Nor should you submit any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought. The Department and University treat these all as serious offenses and sanctions are severe. You should be familiar with the university's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters:

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>. Students are expected to abide by this code.

Useful Links

- University Library <http://onereach.library.utoronto.ca/>
- Academic Success Centre <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc>
- University of Toronto Advice on Academic Writing <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice>
- Learning in a Writing Centre <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning>
- English Language Learning <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>
- Learning Objectives for Writing in GGR http://geography.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/WIT-GGR_Writing_Objectives.pdf