

GGR343 The Changing Geography of China

Time: Winter 2018, Thursday 4-7 pm

Location: Sidney Smith 2125

Instructor: Chao Wang

Office: Sidney Smith 5004

Office Hours: Tuesday 3-5 pm

Email: icschao.wang@mail.utoronto.ca

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to socio-spatial change and continuity in China. It aims to provide concepts from human geography to examine a wide range of key spatial patterns (regional divide, rural-urban divide, socio-spatial divide) and processes (industrialization, urbanization, globalization) that have shaped China's human landscapes since 1949. After exploring the basic physical and human geographical contexts of China, the course will focus on different aspects of China's on-going development trajectories that are closely in relation to major geographical issues, including geographical unevenness, industrial and agricultural development, cultural landscape, urban governance, migration, and environment. This course adopts both 'top-down' and 'bottom up' approaches to understand not only the forces behind the changing landscapes but also how people react to, adapt to, and sometimes struggle with the changes.

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



Objectives of the Course

1. Introduce important aspects of human geography in China.
2. Introduce key concepts and debates from geography for an understanding of China's socio-spatial transformation.
3. Students will be able to identify and understand major geographical issues in China since 1949.
4. Students will explore and be able to understand the development trajectories shaping China's urban and rural areas.
5. Students will enhance their critical thinking and writing skills.

Course Evaluation and Deadlines

In-class writing exercises 10%

Writing assignments:

Assignment #1 15% March 1 (750-1000 words)
Assignment #2 25% March 29 (1000-1500 words)

Mid-term 20% February 15 (Room – to be announced)

Final Exam 30% TBA

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/>.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

- Coming to the class and completing the readings are key for your success in this course. The lectures for this course will be designed to link up with the required readings. For the writing assignments, you will need to be engaging with ideas from the lectures. I suggest you do an initial review of the readings, focusing on core arguments and context, each week before the class and revisit them after the class.
- You do not need to grasp every single detail of the course material. What I encourage is to make sense how the main idea is presented and how different approaches are used by different authors to frame their questions and understandings. I also encourage you to compare and make connections between the readings in order to develop your own critical understanding of specific topic.
- **“Recommended readings” are NOT REQUIRED.** They are supplementary to the required readings, in most cases selected because they provide an alternative perspective. I encourage you to use them to supplement the assigned readings and lectures. You may find them useful based on your interests in the

topic or need for further insights for your assignments.

- 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: January 4 Introduction

Jacques, M. (2009) "Concluding remarks: the eight differences that define China," in *When China Rules the World* (Allen Lane an imprint of Penguin Books), pp. 415-435

Yu, H. (2011) "Disparity," in *China in Ten Words* (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group), pp. 142-162

Week 2: January 11 Physical landscape, Regions, and Frontiers

Fitzgerald, J. (2002) "The province in history," In Fitzgerald (ed.) *Rethinking China's Provinces*, (London and New York: Routledge), pp.11-39

Gaubatz, P.R. (1996) "The Chinese frontiers," in *Beyond the Great Wall: Urban Form and Transformation on the Chinese Frontiers* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press), pp.13-44

Recommended:

Carlson, A. (2012) "New Chinese discussions about securing China's territorial frontier," *Orbis*, 56:3, pp.412-442

Week 3: January 18 Locating China's Development in the Global Political Economy

Arrighi, G. (2007) "Origins and dynamics of the Chinese ascent," in *Adam Smith in Beijing* (London and New York: Verso), pp. 351-378

Andreas, J. (2008) "Changing colors in China," *New Left Review*, 54, pp. 123-142

Recommended:

Harvey, D. & Paik, N. (2017) "How capital operates and where the world and China are going: a conversation between David Harvey and Paik Nak-chung," *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, 18:2, pp. 251-268

Week 4: January 25 Regional Disparity

Goodman, D. (2002) "The politics of the West: equality, nation-building and colonisation," *Provincial China*, 7:2, pp. 127-150

Donaldson, J. (2015) "Regional development policy and regional inequality," in Goodman (ed.) *Handbook of the Politics of China* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar), pp. 187-204

Recommended:

Su, X.B. (2012) "Transnational regionalization and the rescaling of the Chinese state," *Environment and Planning A*, 44, pp.1327 – 1347

Week 5: February 1 Rural-Urban Divide I: Socialist Industrialization and Its legacies

Wu, F.L. (2015) "Planning during socialist period and its legacies," in *Planning for Growth: Urban and Regional Planning in China* (London & New York: Routledge), pp. 22-50

Lu, D.F. (2006) "Work unit urbanism," In *Remaking Chinese Urban Form: Modernity, Scarcity and Space, 1949-2005* (London & New York: Routledge), pp. 47-79

Recommended:

Naughton, B. (2007) "The socialist era, 1949-1978: big push industrialization and policy instability," in *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press), pp. 55-84

Week 6: February 8 Rural-Urban Divide II: Institutions and Development Pathway

Chan, KW. (2015) "Five decades of the Chinese hukou system," in Iredale and Guo (eds.) *Handbook of Chinese Migration* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar), pp. 23-47.

Yan, H.R. (2012) "Gender, migration, and rural-urban relations in post-socialist China," in Barber and Lem (eds) *Migration in the 21st Century: Political Economy and Ethnography* pp.196-214

Day, A. F. (2013) "'Deconstructing modernization' Wen Tiejun and 'sannong wenti,'" in *The Peasant in Postsocialist China: History, Politics, and Capitalism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp.92-127

Recommended:

Gao, M.C.F. (1999) "Reforms since the late 1970s," in *Gao Village* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press), pp. 171-199.

Week 7: February 15 *Midterm exam >> See Blackboard for room assignment.

Week 8: March 1 Experiencing Urbanization

***Assignment 1 due at the beginning of the class**

Wallis, C. (2013) "My big first urban purchase: mobile technology and modern subjectivity," in *Technomobility in China: Young Migrant Women and Mobile Phone* (NYU Press), pp. 79-106

Cho, M. Y. (2013) "Gambling on a new home," in *The Specter of the People: Urban Poverty in Northeast China*. (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press), pp. 46-67

Bach, J. (2010) "'They come in peasants and leave citizens': Urban Villages and the Making of Shenzhen, China," *Cultural Anthropology*, 25:3, pp. 421-458

Recommended:

McGee, et al. (2007) "'Seeing like a state': the urbanization project in post 1978 China," in *China's Urban Space: Development Under Market Socialism* (Routledge), pp. 29-45

Week 9: March 8 Seeking Urbanity

Pan, T.S. (2011) "Place attachment, communal memory, and the moral underpinnings of gentrification in postreform Shanghai," in Kleinman et al. (eds.), *Deep China: The Moral Life of the Person, What Anthropology and Psychiatry Tell Us About China Today*. (University of California Press), pp. 152-175

Farquhar, J. and Zhang, Q.C. (2012) "City life," in *Ten Thousand Things: Nurturing Life in Contemporary Beijing* (MIT Press), pp.49-99 (first half of the chapter)

Oakes, T. (2016) "Villagizing the city: turning rural ethnic heritage into urban modernity in southwest

China," *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 22:10, pp. 751-765.

Recommended:

Ren, X.F. (2011) "Olympic spectacles, critical architecture, and new state space," in *Building Globalization: Transnational Architecture Production in Urban China* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), pp.140-166

Week 10: March 15 Space of Rurality

Park, C.H. (2014) "Nongjiale tourism and contested space in rural China," *Modern China*, 40:5, pp. 519-548

Wilczak, J. (2017) "Making the countryside more like the countryside? Rural planning and metropolitan visions in post-quake Chengdu," *Geoforum*, 78, pp. 110-118

Recommended:

Mugger, E. (2002) "Dancing fools: politics of culture and place in a 'Traditional Nationality Festival'," *Modern China*, 28:1, pp. 3-38

Week 11: March 22 Contesting space

Hsing, Y. (2010) "Grassroots resistance: property rights and residents' rights," in *The Great Urban Transformation: Politics of Land and Property in China* (Oxford Press), pp. 60-89

Lora-Wainwright, A. (2014) "Grassroots perspectives on relocation: Threats and opportunities," in Teets and Hurst (eds.), *Local Governance Innovation in China* (New York: Routledge), pp. 42-59.

Zhang, A. (2014) "Rational resistance: Homeowner contention against waste incineration in Guangzhou," *China Perspectives*, 2014:2, pp.45-52

Recommended:

Perry, E. (2008) "Chinese conceptions of 'rights': From Mencius to Mao—and now," *Perspectives on Politics*, 6:1, pp. 37-50

Week 12: March 29 Greening China?

***Assignment 2 due at the beginning of the class**

May, S. (2011) "Ecological urbanization: Calculating value in an age of global climate change," in Roy and Ong (eds.) *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*, pp. 98-126.

Boland, A. and Zhu, J. (2012) "Public participation in China's green communities: Mobilizing memories and structuring incentives," *Geoforum*, 43(1): 147-157.

Wrap up and Introduction to the Final Exam

Guidelines

Course Evaluation

(1) In-class writing exercises (10%)

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 2% 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.

(2) Tests (50%)

- **Midterm test (2 hours, room to be announced):** A midterm test will be given during the period of class in Week 7 (Feb 15). It will be a combination of map questions, short answer questions and one long answer question. The test will 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.

(3) Assignments (40%)

The assignments required in this course include two 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.

- **Assignment 1 (15%, 750-1000 words):** This assignment requires a short response based on course readings related to themes covered during Week 2 to Week 6. The assignment is due at the beginning of class on March 1. After 4:20 pm, it will be considered late.
- **Assignment 2 (25%, 1000-1500 words):** This assignment requires an essay based on the readings from Week 8 to Week 11. The assignment is due at the beginning of class on March 29. After 4:20 pm, it will be considered late.

More details about the assignments (1 & 2) will be included in the assignment instructions to be circulated later in the term. They also will be explained in class.

Assignment Submission and 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. The printed version of the essay is **due at the beginning of class**. Anything handed in after the 4:20 pm (Thursday, class day) deadline will be considered one day late. There will be a late-penalty of 5% for each day late (including weekends).

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 4:20 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).

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. I will respond to emails within two working days.

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>

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). **No photographs or video (and audio) recordings are permitted in lectures under any circumstances.**

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 Assignment 1.

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://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/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.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/code/the-code-of-behaviour-on-academic-matters>. Students are expected to abide by this code.