

GEOG 4037: Geography of China (A GIS Approach)

Sample syllabus for Spring 2011

Instructor: Dr. Fahui Wang
Contact: Office phone 225-578-6629, E-mail fwang@lsu.edu
Lectures: Tuesday 9:00am-10:30am in 245 Howe-Russell-Kniffen
Labs: Thursday 9:00am-10:30am in 260 Howe-Russell-Kniffen
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30am-12:00noon in 262A Howe-Russell-Kniffen
Teaching assistant: TBA

Course Description:

Regional analysis of China. Natural environment and resources, historic roots and traditions, demographic changes, agriculture and rural development, urbanization and urban problems, industry, transportation and trade. Geographic perspectives applied to contemporary issues. 3 credit hours.

Course Objective:

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. appreciate the natural landscape and environment of China
2. understand the uniqueness and diversity of cultures of China and their relationships with natural environment
3. understand the population growth and challenges in China
4. understand the rural and urban contrasts, urbanization and urban problems in China
5. understand impacts of globalization on the economy and trade in China
6. recognize the roles of China in global politics
7. know the tourist attractions

Physical or Learning Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Office of Disability Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Office of Disability Services, 112 Johnston Hall, 225-578-5919. I look forward to talking with you soon to learn how I may be helpful in enhancing your academic success in this course.

Evaluation:

- (1) **Class Projects:** accounting for 36% of your grade. Class projects are designed to build your basic analytical skills of geography and increase your comfort with the major concepts discussed in class. All class projects come with data and detailed instructions.
- (2) **Close-book exam:** accounting for 40% of your grade, multiple-choice and short-essay questions in the 13th week.

- (3) Final **independent project**: a comprehensive project is designed for you to integrate skills you have acquired from the previous class projects with important concepts discussed in class; accounting for 24% of your grade.

Policy:

- Late answers to exercises will not be accepted.
- No make-up exams, nor exams in advance, may be scheduled unless you provide evidence for legitimate absence reasons.

A letter grade will be initially assigned to each of the six exercises, and the equivalent numerical score (A = 4, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3 ...) will be reported on Moodle. **Please resolve any disagreements with me and report any discrepancies in records to me by May 1 (Thursday).** The scores for the exam will also be posted on Moodle. A final numerical score for the course is calculated as the weighted average of all three components. Based on the final score, a final letter grade is assigned. Based on my experience in the past, usually the top 30% get A, the next 30% get B, then 25% C, 10% D, and 5% F.

PREREQUISITES: None

TEXTBOOK (Required)

Gregory Veeck, Clifton W. Pannell, Christopher J. Smith and Youqin Huang, 2007, *China's Geography*, Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

COURSE OUTLINES (a tentative plan, subject to change)

1. Natural environments (Chapter 2)
Project 1: Exploring the physical geography of China in GIS
2. Historic roots and traditions (Chapter 3)
3. Demographic changes and challenges (Chapter 5)
Project 2: Analyzing population geography of China in GIS
4. Agriculture and rural development (Chapter 8)
Project 3: Interpreting Arable Land and Agricultural Productivity in China in GIS
5. Urbanization and urban problems (Chapters 6, 9)
Project 4: Interpreting the System of Cities and Urbanization in China
Project 5: Visualizing and Modeling Population Density Patterns in Beijing 1990-2000
6. Industry (Chapters 7, 10)
Project 6: Analyzing the Economic Development in China 1982-2006
7. Political geography of emerging China (Chapter 4)
8. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan (Chapters 11-13)

Exam (Proposed date: April 12, 2011 in class)

Final Independent Project (Report due May 12, 2011 @11:30pm on Moodle)