

GEOG 465 Geography of East Asia with a Focus on China (Online, Fall 2021)

Instructor: Dr. Jun Yan

E-mail: jun.yan@wku.edu

Office: EST 432

Meeting/Office Hours: TR 11:10am – 12:30pm or by appointment

Course website: <https://blackboard.wku.com/>

Required Text

Barbara A. Weightman. 2011. ***Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East and Southeast Asia***. 3rd ed. John Wiley & Sons. ISBN: 9780470876282

RECOMMENDED TEXT

David W.S. Wong, Kenneth K.K. Wong, Him Chung, and James J. Wang. 2018. ***China: A Geographical Perspective***. Guilford Press. ISBN: 9781462533732

Periodically some additional reading materials may be made available accordingly.

Required Equipment and Materials

- A computer with reliable Internet access
 - A portal hard drive/flash drive to back up your course files, data, exercises, and assignments.
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Course Description

This is an upper division course covering broad topics and regions in the **geography of East Asia**. The course introduces major sub-disciplines of geomorphology, climatology, demographics, agriculture, industry, economics, social issues, politics, languages, religions, and other pertinent fields in **East Asia**. Students need to understand that each of the sub-disciplines could be an individual course, depending on the depth of the contents. Students should not only understand the general characteristics and phenomena related to the contents from these sub-disciplines, but also need to analyze why certain phenomena take place in certain places. The goal of the course is to help students **synthesize WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW, and WHY** geographic elements help shape the physical, economic, social, and environmental characteristics and patterns of East Asia and its surrounding areas. The course emphasizes both physical and human geography and their close relationships. But more attention will be given to human geography, and how the diverse economic, cultural, religious, and ethnic elements help form the increasingly important role of East Asia in the world. Lastly after the introduction, the course focuses **more on Mainland China**, the most populous country and 2nd largest economy in the world, than other East Asian counties.

Course Objective

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

- ❖ Obtain general geographic knowledge about East Asia, especially Mainland China
- ❖ Know geographic locations of major countries, territories, regions, and cities, and can identify them on a map
- ❖ Obtain basic knowledge of physical geography and human geography of the area
- ❖ Fairly and objectively analyze social issues related to women, children, urbanization, religion, human rights, inequality, and poverty
- ❖ Understand the plural political issues in the area and how they are interrelated to the rest world
- ❖ Appreciate the diverse cultural assets of the area, especially in Mainland China
- ❖ Understand economic strengths, opportunities, and challenges facing the area, especially Mainland China

- ❖ Establish views of sustainable development to deal with the conflicts between development, social justice, politics, and environment in East Asia
- ❖ Know to how use and create interactive web maps (e.g. Google Map, Google Earth , Baidu Map) effectively as a major research tool in data gathering, data analysis, and information dissemination

Class Website

This class uses e-course delivery at WKU Blackboard to enhance the online learning experience of students. The class website contains lecture PPTs, exercises, assignments, other materials related to the course, student grades as a way to monitor progress in the class, and other pertinent information. *Students are expected to check <http://ecourses.wku.edu> weekly to study new class materials & exercise/assignment instructions and submit electronically exercises and assignments.*

Web Attendance Policy

Poor attendance reflects a poor scholastic attitude. Students must study class materials and work on exercises and assignments weekly. It is students' responsibility to visit the class website weekly and maintain an excellent virtual attendance and class participation record. It is also the students' responsibility to communicate regularly with the professor about the progress of the class as well as exercises and assignments. During the scheduled class meeting times, that is, TR 11:10am – 12:30pm, students should be expected to attend Zoom meetings from time to time for important discussions, Q/A, assignment demos, student presentations, etc.

Evaluation And Grading

Student will earn points toward a final grade according to the following schedule:

Item	Percentages
Participation, Mapping Exercises	10
Five Quizzes (Open Book)	15 (3 each)
One Short Presentation: News from the East	5
PPT Presentation Assignment	15
Two Essay Assignments	30 (15 each)
Google Earth Project	25

Students should attend scheduled Zoom meetings as expected, and actively participate in class discussions. In addition, students will learn some basic mapping tools and skills to study geography of East Asia by using three Web GIS/mapping software, namely, **Google Map**, **Google Earth**, and potentially **Baidu Map** (if you are proficient in Chinese) via completing several **mapping exercises and one Google Earth project**. In **Google Earth Project**, two students will form a group and each group will work on a project to develop a tour-based presentation in Google Earth to present basic geography, tourist attractions, things to do, events, activities, etc. in a region (particularly in Mainland China) or a country assigned to each group. In this assignment, students will use Internet and web mapping software to gather data, create interactive web maps, and prepare the presentation in form of custom Google map and Google Earth Project.

Each **quiz** may include map tests and/or multiple-choice questions. Quizzes are open book but timed. Each student will need to prepare and give **a short presentation** (5-10 minutes) to share a piece of trending news from East Asia and discuss it from geographic perspective (e.g. Five Themes of Geography and how it relates to the main topics of our class). Each **individual essay assignment** may include a combination of short answer questions, short essays, movie/documentary review, and/or other related formats. Lastly, in **Presentation Assignment**, each student will prepare a 25~30-minute power point presentation (in **Power Point** file format, **Microsoft Windows**). Specifically, you will decide a county or a place and then choose a topic of relevance to the class that you wish to

investigate in-depth. A power point presentation must be prepared independently by each student at the time to be determined by the selected location and topic.

Grading will follow the below scale:

Average Score	Grade
90 – 100%	A
80 – 89.9%	B
70 – 79.9%	C
60 – 69.9%	D
< 60%	F

***Note:** Please submit all assignments and projects on time. One point will be taken off for each day being late. In fairness to all students in the class, only such events as severe illness or a death in the family are acceptable as excuses for missing an assignment/exam without prior agreement. The instructor reserves the right to require verification. In any event, please call or email the instructor **BEFORE** the assignment or quiz due dates to indicate the problem if possible. With prior agreement or an acceptable excuse, a makeup quiz will normally be given, or a late submission of assignments can be accepted; otherwise, the quiz will be recorded as a failing grade or points will be deducted from the assignment.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone who commits such acts bears the risks of serious punishment. All students will be held responsible for following and abiding by the University's policy on plagiarism and academic integrity. Academic Offenses in the WKU Student Handbook provides a detailed description of the university's policy on plagiarism and cheating. Copies of Academic Offenses can be obtained at: http://www.wku.edu/handbook/group1/12_academic_offenses.html.

Course Withdrawal Policy:

Students who find it necessary to withdraw completely from the university or from this course should report to the Office of Registrar in Potter Hall to initiate Withdrawal procedures before the last Withdrawal date. Students who cease attending class without an official Withdrawal will receive a Failing grade.

WKU Center for Literacy Assistance:

The WKU Center for Literacy is located in Gary A. Ransdell Hall 2066. At the Center for Literacy, students can receive assistance in developing strategies to help reading/studying to learn and writing for evidence and argument. The Center for Literacy offers both individual and small group sessions throughout the semester. More information about the WKU Center for Literacy can be found on the website: <http://www.wku.edu/literacycenter/>.

The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services:

The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.wku.edu/tlc.

University Policies on COVID:

All students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in Kentucky, the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face

coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center (SARC): 270-745-5004 (voice), 270-745-3030 (TTY), or 270-288-0597 (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill.

Special Accommodations

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. The phone number is 745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Other Policies:

The Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences strictly adheres to university policies, procedures, and deadlines regarding student schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of the student to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will a deadline be waived. The Student Schedule Exception Form is used to initiate all waivers. This form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, or undocumented general stress factors are not considered as legitimate circumstance.

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

*Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.*

Tentative Course Outline: Subject to revision as conditions warrant.

Week	Topic, Quiz, and Assignment Dates	Readings
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#1 Syllabus & Introduction Lec#2 Geomorphology Google Earth Project (Sign Up Only) Presentation Assignments (Sign Up Only) 	Weightman Chps 1, 2
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#3 Climatology, Bioregions, and Agriculture Lec#4 Population and Settlements 	Weightman Chps 2, 3
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#5 Culture, Languages, and Religions Lec#6 Geopolitics Lec#7 Development Essay Assignment 1 Assigned 	Weightman Chps 3, 4
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#8 China: Physical Geography & Environment Lec#9 China: A Brief History Quiz #1 (Lectures 1-7) 	Weightman Chp 10
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#10 China: People and Culture Lec#10 China: People and Culture 	Weightman Chp 10
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#11 China: Culture Essay Assignment 1 Due Lec#11 China: Culture Quiz #2 (Lectures 8-10) 	Weightman Chp 10
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#12 China: Geopolitics 	
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#13 China: Development 	Weightman Chp 10
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#13 China: Development Lec#14 Taiwan 	Weightman Chps 10, 12
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#14 Taiwan Lec#15 Japan Essay Assignment 2 Assigned 	Weightman Chps 11
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election Day. No Class on Tuesday Lec#15 Japan Quiz #3 (Lectures 11-14) 	Weightman Chp 11
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#15 Japan Essay Assignment 2 Due 	Weightman Chp 11
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#16 South Korea & North Korea Quiz #4 (Lecture 15) 	Weightman Chp 12
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving, No Class 	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lec#16 South Korea & North Korea Quiz #5 (Lecture 16) 	Weightman Chp 12
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam Week 	