

GEOG OF CHINA
Fall Qtr. 2004 Dr.
John Alwin

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- 1) Jasper Becker, *The Chinese* (Oxford University Press, 2000)
- 2) Thomas Weston and Lionel Jensen, *China Beyond the Headlines* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000)
- 3) Elizabeth Economy, *The River Runs Black* (Cornell University Press, 2004)

WHY A GEOGRAPHY OF CHINA?

China is not only the world's most populous country, it also rapidly is becoming one of the most important engines of economic growth. Perhaps now other part of the planet is being more changed by globalization. And nowhere else in the world do these changes have more global implications. During your lifetime, the world's geopolitical, geocultural, and geoeconomic patterns and realities will change dramatically as China roars back into global dominance, as was the case for recorded history prior to the early 1800s. America will be challenged, a prospect that is certain to introduce new misunderstandings and spatial tensions.

And expanded knowledge about, and understanding of, China will be essential in the unfolding decades if the positive possibilities of what might be are to be realized.

EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students should have acquired a(n):

- 1) improved knowledge of China's geography;
 - 2) enhanced mental map of China;
 - 3) insight into how geography provides a powerful lens through which to view contemporary China;
 - 4) expanded understanding of China's changing relationship to the global community;
 - 5) knowledge of how China's historical geographies have influenced today's geographies;
 - 6) up-to-date understanding of the dramatic changes associated with newer, Deng Geographies
 - 7) appreciation of the cultural ecology of the massive growth of the Chinese economy and its rising living standard;
 - 8) a foundation for a lifetime of learning more about China's fascinating geography.
- 6) Mao Geographies

GRADING

- 1) **Class Attendance/Informed Participation:** It will be assumed that students in this 400-level course have a genuine interest in China and its geography. And it will be assumed that students attend class, have done the assigned readings, and are ready to contribute. I have studied China for years and have made at least a dozen trips to the Middle Kingdom, but I still have much to learn. Thus, please consider this class to be a shared odyssey to China in which we all contribute and we all learn more.

In consideration of your regular attendance, and active/informed contribution, you may earn up to 100 points.

- 2) **Take-home Mid-term and Last Exam:** You will be given two, take-home exams, one just after the midpoint in the term and one at the end of the course. At least 7 days will be allowed for working on the exam. Plan that these will be major undertakings. At the upper division, I think exams should be concentrated learning experiences that give you an opportunity to contemplate, integrate, and synthesize. Most you already probably have done enough memorizing for multiple choice and True/False exams! Your Mid-Term will have a value of 125 points and the Last Exam will have a value of 150 points. This Last Exam will be passed out the last day of class (Thursday) and will be due in by 5:00 PM on Thursday night of Finals Week. **These last exams MUST NOT BE PUT IN MY MAILBOX. PLEASE SLIDE ALL LAST EXAMS UNDER MY OFFICE DOOR-LIND117C.**
- 3) **Place Name Quizzes:** Early in the quarter you will be given two place name quizzes, worth 25 points each. They will be taken from a list of Chinese places provided to you along with appropriate outline maps.
- 4) **Out-of-class Assignments:** A couple to a few times during the quarter you will be given short assignments that will be due in the next class period. These will have a value of 15 points each.

PRELIMINARY & GENERAL ORGANIZATIONAL OUTLINE

- 1) Introduction to Course
- 2) Geography
- 3) Regional Geography
- 4) China's Physical Geography
- 5) China's Historical Geography

6) Mao Geographies

7) Deng Geographies

8) China's Contemporary Geographies: The People's Level

9) The Cost of Rampant Growth: Challenging Environmental Issues