

GEOG2150 Introduction to China's Environment and Sustainable Development Issues**TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT:** Annual; 1st Semester**CREDITS:** 6**COURSE TEACHER(S):** Professor Liqing PENG**ASSESSMENT:**

EXAMINATION 50 %	COURSEWORK 50 %
• 2 hours	• 1 group term paper

OBJECTIVES:

The course aims to enhance students' understanding of the environmental issues in China, the strategy for tackling them and the prospect of achieving sustainability for such a great country.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

China is prone to natural resources degradation due to its geographic characteristics and its large population. Environmental problems have been accelerated by not only the rapid economic growth of recent years but also the high intensity of energy use, particularly in the industrial sector. These factors combined with economic and pricing policies failing to account for the intrinsic value of natural resources have led to their over-exploitation. This course provides a general overview of China's natural environment; examines its institutional, legislative and administrative frameworks in environment protection and nature conservation; and discusses the government's strategies for environmental protection and sustainable development.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Geographical background. The state of the environment in China
- Underlying causes for environmental degradation
- Concepts and approaches related to urban environments and sustainable development
- National policy, institution, laws and regulations
- Policy instruments for environmental management
- State's policy and strategy for sustainable development

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Day, K.A. (Ed.) (2005) China's Environment and the Challenge of Sustainable Development, Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe.
- Economy, E. (2010) The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to:		Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)*						Course Assessment Methods
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	gain an overview of the state of the environment in China	✓	✓					Exam
2	obtain a comprehensive knowledge of the strategy and policy framework for environment protection and nature conservation in China		✓		✓			Exam
3	describe key urban natural systems and apply major concepts and approaches related to urban environments and sustainable development			✓				Term paper & exam
4	enhance their understanding of government's policy and strategies for sustainable development				✓			Term paper & exam
5	evaluate the causes of environmental problems in China			✓	✓			Term paper & exam
6	think critically about the relationship between economic development and environmental protection in China					✓	✓	Term paper & exam

***Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

PLO1 critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;

PLO2 demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;

PLO3 identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;

PLO4 integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;

PLO5 participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and

PLO6 effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.