

COURSE DETAIL

TRANSFORMING CHINA

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Utrecht University

Program(s)

Utrecht University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Development Studies

UCEAP Course Number

100

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

TRANSFORMING CHINA

UCEAP Transcript Title

TRANSFORMING CHINA

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

Course goals

Please note: the information in the course manual is binding.

This course is developed as an integrative course that links to spatial planning, human geography (economic, social, spatial, and political aspects), sustainability, and other disciplines through addressing themes from each of these in the context of a large emerging and transforming country.

At the end of the course, participants are expected/able to:

- describe and understand the historical evolution of the country and the forces that have shaped its recent development;
- understand economic, political, social, and geographical transformation in China;
- grasp regional and urban dynamics, development issues, and sustainability challenges in contemporary China;
- critically assess recent policies, governance changes, and planning transitions as a response to address the challenges;
- assess different discourses on the meanings for global and local development processes of China's changing connections to and influence on the world.

Content

China's rapid economic rise from the early 1980s has captured the world's imagination. So does the profound social, cultural, and spatial transformation that the country has been undergoing and continues to undergo at an unprecedented scale. The latter is visible in every corner of the country, no matter how remote.

Rapid economic development has led to a number of sustainable challenges regarding environmental problems, issues of migrant integration, an aging

population, and social inequality. Indeed, social, economic, and environmental sustainability and stability have come under pressure. It has been recognized that adjustment of the growth model - pursued by China's leadership over the past decades - is imperative in order to not only sustain growth but also to achieve a broad-based increase in the standard of living and solve imbalances in development during the rapid urbanization process. In the meanwhile the main features of a new development model and path are clear. A range of reforms has been devised. What are the issues associated with the 'old' model of urbanization? What is the substance of the 'new' model of urbanization? What are the new institutional arrangements, governance models, planning practices, and social and environmental policies to address sustainability challenges? What outcomes are produced?

Besides, China is increasingly manifesting itself in, and impacting, other regions on the globe through rapidly growing production, trade, investment, and people flows; its role in institutions of regional and global governance is changing. China going global and its growing impact (combined with the domestic issues) have given rise to substantial scientific discourse and public debate, in many parts of the world. What are the new foreign policy initiatives and how do they influence the world?

The course addresses the above questions. It starts by discussing the evolution of China and its historical development with a focus on the 19th and 20th centuries. Next, attention is given to the country's diversity, and the patterns of economic, social, and geographical transformation. Subsequently, the institutional forces, governance, and urban planning that have shaped China's dynamics over the past decades are scrutinized. In this framework issues, *unity* focuses on the regional patterns of change, the position of ethnic minorities in the 'periphery', and the rural-urban divide; *stability* focuses on urbanization and unequal development, issues of migrant integration, and social and geographical fragmentation; and *sustainability* emphasizes on the aging population, energy issues, and environmental and social problems. It also discusses emerging planning practices and policies (e.g., collaborative planning/governance, smart /green city initiatives, sponge city, micro-regeneration) to address sustainability

challenges.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

GEO3-3042

Host Institution Course Title

TRANSFORMING CHINA

Host Institution Campus

Utrecht University

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Human Geography & Planning

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