GEOG 3720 Seminar in Environmental Planning and Management (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: GEOG 2140 Environmental Conservation or consent of the instructor

A discussion of the major approaches to environmental planning and management. Focus is placed on the long-term well-being of this planet and its inhabitants which require the development of a sustainable society—one that conserves natural resources, recycles, reduces pollution, and controls population growth. The legal, technical, and practical solutions to these problems are also examined.

GEOG 3730 Seminar in Energy Problems (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: GEOG 2160 Energy Problems and the Environment or consent of the instructor

Partly built upon GEOG 2160 Energy Problems and the Environment, this course focuses on the construction of national energy policies. Apart from the factors discussed in the previous course, other factors that affect the formulation of a national energy policy are treated, including environmental factors like thermal and air pollution, patterns of sectoral consumption of energy, energy intensiveness of economy, energy conservation, and the role of non-conventional sources such as wind, solar and geothermal energy. Case studies of energy policies of selected Asian countries are covered, together with substantial research on an energy topic.

GEOG 3740 Urban Cultural Landscape (3,3,0) (E)

This course looks into the urban landscape, specifically (1) its evolution and changes, (2) its symbolic meanings and effects on urban living, as well as (3) issues in relation to its planning and design. It also introduces students to the practices of some professions, such as urban design, landscape architecture, and public art, which deal with culture and urban landscapes.

GEOG 3750 Seminar in Urban Geography (3,3,0) (tbc)

Prerequisite: GEOG 2180 Urban Geography

An in-depth study of selected topics in urban geography. Students are guided through specific research on concrete urban problems both in Hong Kong and in mainland China. Analytical techniques and theoretical issues are stressed throughout the course. Some field study in Hong Kong and mainland China may be required.

GEOG 3760 Urban Development and Planning in Hong Kong (3,2,1) (E)

Prerequisite: GEOG 3710 Urban Planning or consent of the instructor

Urban Hong Kong has developed rapidly since the 1950s. The built environment has expanded from the one concentrated on the two sides of the Victoria Harbour to the one encroaching into the New Territories and even spreading across the boundary to Shenzhen. What are the salient features of urban development, both in the inner city and at the periphery? Is it business-biased? Is it over-dominated by the property sector? How to interpret its growth pattern and dynamics? What is the role of the Hong Kong Government? What is about urban planning? It is the objective of this course to address these questions by drawing on the latest informed theories and many empirical studies. This course would be of interest to anyone who dares to know more about urban Hong Kong and develop an urban model within the broader contexts of China, Asia and the West.

GEOG 3790 Seminar in Social Geography (3,3,0) (tbc)

An analysis of (1) the scope and nature of social geography, (2) the interactive relationships between social processes and the characteristics of places, (3) the significance of both public and private institutions in the transformation of the environment, and (4) the nature and characteristics of social problems in urban and rural societies. Fieldwork may be required.

GEOG 3830 Population Geography of China (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: GEOG 2150 Population Geography or SOC 2220 Population Studies

An in-depth analysis of China's population from a spatial point of view. Specifically the course will examine the integration of population planning in socialist China and its relationship with the four modernizations.

GEOG 3840 Energy Development in China (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: GEOG 2160 Energy Problems and the Environment or consent of the instructor

In the past two decades, momentous changes occurred in the Chinese energy sector, including changes in the institutional framework—moving from state allocation to the market economy—and with respect to individual energy industries. By the mid-1990s, the problem of energy shortage had largely been resolved, yet the country had become a net oil importer, and is projected to import an increasingly larger amount in the future, with serious implications for the security of energy supply and future oil import outlay. The course takes a comprehensive survey of the Chinese energy sector, including the resource endowment, energy policy since the 1980s, the major energy industries like oil, coal, natural gas, electricity—HEP and nuclear included—and the international energy trade of China. Current issues such as the Three Gorges Dam and the West–East Pipeline are also dealt with.

GEOG 3850 Resource Management in China (3,2,1) (P)

This course introduces the concepts, knowledge and skills in natural resource evaluation and management, with the emphasis on and the real-world cases in China. The course is presented in two major parts. The first part begins with the introduction to the concepts about the natural resources and their distribution in China. This is followed by an extensive study on methodology for land and water resource evaluation. The second part presents details about the nature, distribution and utilisation of natural resources in China. The environmental conservation and sustainable development in relation to natural resources are also discussed in the subject. Laboratory works for this course focus on resource assessment methods with the aid of remote sensing and geographical information system (GIS) technology. A field excursion to China's mainland is also used to practise field methods for land resource evaluation, and the first-hand experience in the regional natural resources management.

GEOG 3860 Problems in the Physical Geography of China (3,3,0) (tbc)

Prerequisite: GEOG 2110 Regional Geography of China

An examination of how the various physical processes interact with China's socio-political milieu to effect the current physical landscapes and the kinds of environmental problems that the country has to face. A problem-oriented approach, with a view to improving the management of China's physical/environmental system, is adopted.

GEOG 3870 Geography of Environmental Hazards (3,3,0) (E)

Natural hazards research in a geographical context are introduced. The course provides a comprehensive introduction to the causes of climatic and geological hazards, and human response and adjustment.

GEOG 3880 Rural and Agricultural Development in China (3,2,1) (C)

Prerequisite: GEOG 2110 Regional Geography of China or consent of the instructor

An examination of (1) the physical and historical factors affecting China's agriculture, (2) institutional changes since 1949 in China's rural sector, and (3) underlying contemporary problems and programmes concerning agricultural growth and rural development. Field study in China may be required.