

GEOG 1200 Earth Systems: Atmosphere and Biosphere (3,2,1)

The first part introduces climatology. Emphases are placed on atmospheric motion and climate change. The second part is a comprehensive analysis of the development and characteristics of soil and vegetation on the Earth's surface. Emphasis is placed on their distribution, soil-plant interactions and their significance in human's use of land.

GEOG 1210 Globalization of Economic Activities (3,2,1)

This course introduces students to the world phenomenon of globalization of economic activities. It is imperative for students in Geography to be aware of the basic features and the processes of economic globalization: What is it? Who are the main actors behind it? How did it happen? What are the implications for the spatial organization of economic production and the patterns of urban agglomerations at various geographic scales: the world, the nation, and the region? This course aims at providing a systematic introduction to these basic features.

GEOG 1610 People and the Physical Environment (3,3,0)

Students are introduced to the processes and problems associated with the physical environment in which people live, and examines how humans, in turn, influence and control their surroundings. Contemporary problems such as global warming, ozone depletion and desertification are examined. Special emphasis is given to examples from Hong Kong and China. This course is NOT open to Geography majors.

GEOG 1620 Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta: A Survey (3,2,1)

This course provides a comprehensive and lively guide to the history, culture, geography and economic development of South China. This objective is to be achieved by a series of well-organized lectures and tutorials. Field trips, both in Hong Kong and to the Pearl River Delta, which will provide an invaluable on-site experience to elaborate the types and magnitude of change in South China discussed in lectures, may be organized. It is hoped that this course will constitute an essential gateway to those wishing to acquire a deeper understanding of this dynamic corner of Asia.

GEOG 1630 Geography, Information Technology and Modern Life (3,3,0)

This is an introduction course to the application of geo-spatial information technology. It is designed as a complementary course for non-geography major students for the awareness and understanding of applications of modern technology to geographical issues. The course will emphasize the use of GIS, GPS and remote sensing to solve some common problems and issues in today's industry and the modern life of the society. The currently available resources of geographical data and data processing tools for various typical applications will also be introduced.

GEOG 1640 Energy, Environment and Sustainability (3,3,0)

Climate change and the depletion of energy resources are issues of major international concern in the contemporary world. The focus of this course is on the multiple and intricate relationships between energy, environment and sustainability issues. It allows students to fully understand the subject matter from both the natural science and social science perspectives. Through appropriate real-life examples, the course aims to guide students, in an exploration of viable alternative energy sources and to enable them to embark on a way of life that promotes a clean and sustainable use of energy resources. In addition to classroom learning, the teaching will be supplemented by field visits, demonstrations, group projects and debates.

GEOG 2110 Regional Geography of China (3,2,1)

Regional geography is concerned with geographical synthesis with a specific "region" as its focus. The course is an introductory and

foundation course which aims to familiarize students with broad aspects of development in China, including its human, physical, cultural and economic activities and also their impact on the environment and landscape.

GEOG 2140 Global Environmental Issues and Sustainability (3,2,1)

This course covers environmental problems in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and the biosphere. Sustainability is the over-arching theme of this concept-centred, solution-oriented, and science-based course on contemporary environmental problems. Field and laboratory study form an integral part of the course.

GEOG 2150 Population Geography (3,2,1)

This course aims at familiarizing students with concepts and methodologies to examine population problems and evaluate population policies from a geographical perspective. The course is concerned with conceptualizing and measuring population structure and its dynamics. It explains the way in which populations are distributed through space and over time, together with various factors that generate changes. In particular, the evolving patterns of fertility, mortality and migration are examined from both spatial and temporal perspectives.

GEOG 2160 Energy Problems and the Environment (3,3,0)

An introduction to the causes and effects of the energy problems which have arisen since 1973. The major sources of commercial energy—oil, coal and natural gas—are treated with respect to their characteristics, exploration and development, major uses, world production pattern, pricing and trade. The special role of electricity, together with problems connected with nuclear power, is covered. Furthermore, the nature and the ramifications of the 1973, 1980 and 2008 oil crises are discussed.

GEOG 2180 Urban Geography (3,2,1)

An introduction to contemporary theories of urbanization, urban hierarchy, and the internal structure of the city. Such theories are related to empirical studies in geography and discuss the complex relationships between urban growth and social, economic, technological, and environmental changes in human society. Some field-study may be required.

GEOG 2320 Geography of Pacific Asia (3,3,0)

This course introduces students to various aspects of the geography of Pacific Asia. The major concerns include economic and social progress, political evolution, physical advantages and constraints, resource bases, rural development, urbanization, industrialization and government policies in the economic development. In addition, economic and political relations between countries in the region are discussed. Reference will also be made to the spatial aspects of contemporary issues in Southeast Asia, the Pacific Island Region, Australia and New Zealand.

GEOG 2600 Techniques in Physical Geography (3,2,1)

This course introduces (1) the field and laboratory techniques in geomorphology and biogeography, and (2) the use of meteorological instrument and ways to access and analyse weather maps/images.

GEOG 2800 Geography of Health and the Environment (3,2,1)

Since ancient times, people have worked, lived and multiplied under a wide variety of environmental conditions. According to Chinese medical theory, human health is affected by a lack of equilibrium between body and its surrounding environment. This is especially the case where the ecology of the environment is abnormal. Consequently, geographic variability has long been an important aspect of health studies in both Eastern and Western cultures. This has been expressed in a variety of approaches ranging from geographic pathology to medical ecology, as well as disciplines such as geographical epidemiology, biometeorology, geomedicine, and so forth. This course aims to introduce students to the concepts and techniques in the discipline of

medical geography in general and to examine recent trends in the geographic variation of health.

GEOG 3130 Geographical Thought (3,2,1)

This course aims at introducing geography majors to the more philosophical and methodological discussions in the field. Because what geographers do is complex, and the complexity is ever-changing, they tend to have excelled on different aspects of the field and, conversely, ignored its more philosophical and methodological underpinnings. This course is an attempt to redress this imbalance. It surveys the main trends in Western geographic thought over the last hundred years and investigates in detail a few theories of the last thirty years, including the quantitative revolution, humanistic geography, radical geography, locality studies and post-modernism. A brief introduction to the Chinese geographic thought is also provided as a complement. It is hoped that after taking this course, Geography majors would be able to tackle the philosophical and methodological themes in contemporary geographic thought and make sense of their own identity.

GEOG 3580 Honours Project (3,*,*)

Prerequisite: BSocSc (Hons) in China Studies Year III standing
A required course the purposes of which are to provide actual research experience and an opportunity to undertake a syncretical approach. Students are expected, under the guidance of teaching staff, to conduct a study on aspects of Chinese geography. Identification of a research problem, an understanding of the relevant methodological and theoretical issues, proper use of field and secondary data, adequate citation of the literature, and the writing of a research paper are important ingredients of the research process.

GEOG 3590 Field Camp (0,*,*)

Field camp will be held during the second semester of a student's second year and covers a seven- to nine-day period. Usually it is based in southern China or Southeast Asia. A wide range of geographical field techniques are utilized in the collection of geographic information and for conducting field research into physical, cultural and developmental problems. While no grades or unit credits are given for this camp, the student must complete the programme to the department's satisfaction for graduation.

GEOG 3591-2 Honours Project (3,*,*)

Prerequisite: GEOG 3590 Field Camp
This is an independent honours project to be taken during the third year of study of BSocSc (Hons) in Geography and normally concerns a particular geographic problem relating to Hong Kong. The project topic is to be selected in consultation with a departmental adviser. Evidence of original research and presentation of professional quality is required.

GEOG 3600 Geographical Information Systems (3,2,1)

Prerequisite: GEOG 1150 Cartography
Geographical Information System (GIS) is an information system that is specially designed for handling spatial (or geographical) data. It combines a set of interrelated sub-systems that create, edit, manipulate, analyse and display data both in text and graphic forms. GIS supports spatial analysis and modelling for the discipline of geography (e.g. location, proximity, and spatial distribution), so that it becomes a vital tool for modern geography. With the rapid progress of computing and Internet technology, GIS technology allows easy and fast access to important geographical information on the region, environment and society.

GEOG 3610 Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation (3,2,1)

Remote sensing is defined as the science and art of acquiring information about material objects without being in touch with them. These measurements are possible with advanced airborne and space-borne remote sensing platforms and sensors that are capable of observing any part of the world frequently with various details. It is discovered that each earth cover has its own spectral

reflectance characteristics. The characteristics are so unique that they are called "signature" which enable us to discern the objects from its intermixed background. The final remote sensing process is completed by the analysis of the data using image interpretation and image processing techniques. Some key elements, or cues from the imagery, such as shape, size, pattern, tone or colour, shadow and association, are used to identify a variety of features on earth. The techniques of image interpretation can be further enhanced by the techniques of image processing that can restore, enhance and extract geographical information from original remote sensing images. These altogether yield valuable information on earth resources and living environment of human beings.

GEOG 3620 Advanced Climatology (3,2,1)

Prerequisite: GEOG 1200 Earth Systems: Atmosphere and Biosphere or consent of the instructor

An introduction to synoptic climatological methods and applications, with particular emphasis on the climate of China. Climate change and climate modelling are also discussed and provide a comprehensive introduction to applied climatology.

GEOG 3630 Advanced Quantitative Methods in Geography (3,2,1)

Prerequisite: GEOG 1130 Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Geography or consent of the instructor

This course teaches students the application of quantitative methods to geographic problem solving. Statistical methods that are commonly used in geography and regional analysis and spatial analysis methods are introduced. Emphasis is placed on the application of analytical tools to real-world geographic problems and interpretation of analysis results. Topics include regression models, factor analysis, spatial pattern analysis and cluster analysis, etc. The course also provides students with opportunities to learn one of the most widely used statistical software for social sciences—SPSS.

GEOG 3640 Applied Geomorphology (3,2,1)

An examination of the applied aspects of geomorphology and development of the student's knowledge and understanding of Earth surface processes and landscape development. Emphasis is placed on the interaction of man and the physical environment using case histories throughout the world, but with emphasis on the Southeast Asia. Attention is given to methods of measurement, monitoring and interpretation of collected data from various spheres. Field study will be required.

GEOG 3650 Geography of Economic Development (3,2,1)

An analysis of the economic problems and prospects of developing countries. A variety of ideological perspectives on the development experiences of developing countries are examined, and assessment is made of the different economic strategies which have been used in attempts to alleviate problems.

GEOG 3660 Political Geography (3,3,0)

An examination of how geographical factors affect political organization at national and international levels. The effects of geographic elements such as territory, population, boundaries, and distance from the sea are covered, followed by a treatment of the capital, the core area of a state, selection of a unitary or federal form of government, emergence of the Third World following the dismemberment of the colonial empires, supra-national organizations, and the complex issues involved in the law of the sea treaty. Moreover, certain major theories in political geography are presented.

GEOG 3670 Geography of Transportation (3,3,0)

This is an introductory course of transportation geography. It first introduces some economical and spatial aspects of transportation geography and various transportation systems. In this connection, the basic concepts of supply chain management and logistics will be introduced. This is followed by the introduction of two important transportation analysis methods: spatial interaction