

Contemporary Mongolia: Livelihoods, Economies and Environments

Geography 294-01

Carnegie 06A

MWF 12:00pm – 1:00pm

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Office Hours: M/W 11 am-12 pm; Wed 1-2
or by appointment

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description and Objectives

The “land without fences” has long existed in the minds of travellers as a place of extensive landscapes and nomadic cultures. After emerging from more than 60 years of communism, Mongolia transitioned to a democratic form of governance and capitalist economy in 1989 and by 2013 the *Economist* listed Mongolia as having the fastest growing economy in the world (*The Economist* 2013). Along with these monumental changes in governance structure and economy, Mongolia’s peoples are now witness to profound changes in livelihoods and are experiencing a rapid transition involving new and emerging economies. This course takes a thematic, geographic perspective on the contemporary issues facing Mongolia and its citizens and bringing together such themes as development, gender, environment, migration, ethnicity and culture in this rapidly changing region of the world. Our task for the semester will be to consider the multiplicity of changes occurring across Mongolia and contextualize these within broader debates within the discipline of geography.

J.A. 2013. “The fastest growing economies in 2013: Speed is not everything.” *The Economist*, 2 Jan. Accessed 15 December 2014.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/theworldin2013/2013/01/fastest-growing-economies-2013>

Textbooks

Student Atlas, 9th Edition. DK, Penguin Random House, Inc.

****Additional Readings will be available via Moodle or Library Reserves.*

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance

Attendance will be taken during each class period. Your attendance counts towards your participation grade. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to make-up any assignments or work that you missed. I do ask that you PLEASE BE ON TIME to avoid disrupting the class.

Exams will consist of short answer, essay, and applied problem-solving questions. There are three exams in this course, including a mid-term and a final exam. Each exam covers lectures, readings, guest lectures and any additional material that we have discussed in class. The final exam is comprehensive.

Classroom Policies

The first and most important classroom policy is to BE COURTEOUS! This includes:

- If you arrive late or need to leave early, do so with a minimum of disruption.
- Please turn-off all beepers, pagers, cell phones, etc. during class.
- Be polite when others are speaking, there is enough time to discuss all perspectives.

Discussion and Class Participation

Participating in class is an important component of your grade. You should attend each class period and be prepared to discuss the weekly readings. Please complete the readings before coming to class. I frequently call on students to give a brief overview of an article that we've read or respond to specific questions about a reading. By taking notes while you read the assigned articles and books you will be more prepared to participate in discussion.

3 Question Rule: Asking questions following in-class presentations or guest lectures is an acquired skill. Such skills only improve with practice. The 3 Question Rule requires that three questions be asked following every presentation that occurs in this classroom. As a general rule, we will not move on to the next presentation until at least three questions have been asked of the presenter(s). Questions can come in a variety of forms, for example, asking for clarification, or more information. Think critically, ask questions.

Writing Assignments

Over the course of the semester you will complete three short argumentative essays. The topics will be based on our readings, lectures, and discussions. You will receive more explicit instructions and details about each assignment as we progress through the semester.

Final Research Paper & Presentation

This is a slightly longer writing assignment based on a topic of your choice, as long as it relates to our study of Mongolia. The paper is due at the end of the semester. Two presentations per week, every Friday, are scheduled. These brief presentations will be based on your topic and allow you to explore with your classmates the topic you have chosen for the final paper. Specific details will be discussed in class.

Make-up and Late Assignments:

Exams: Students are expected to take exams at the scheduled time. If extreme circumstances make it impossible to take an exam at the scheduled time, please notify me as far in advance as possible or as soon as possible after an unanticipated emergency.

Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted for partial credit only.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable and dishonest. In this class I expect you to complete and turn in your own work and to follow established academic practices regarding proper use and citation of materials and ideas that are not your own. Engaging in cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade in this class. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please see me.

A Note about Disabilities:

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Contact the Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Landreman, at 696-6220 to make an appointment. Students are encouraged to address any learning needs or accommodations with me as soon as possible. Additional information regarding the accommodations process for students with disabilities can be found at: www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/.

Health and Well-Being

Here at Macalester, you are encouraged to make your well-being a priority throughout this semester and your career here. Investing time into taking care of yourself will help you engage more fully in your academic experience. Remember that beyond being a student, you are a human being carrying your own experiences, thoughts, emotions, and identities with you. It is important to acknowledge any stressors you may be facing, which can be mental, emotional, physical, financial, etc., and how they can have an academic impact. I encourage you to remember that sleeping, moving your body, and connecting with others can be strategies to help you be resilient at Macalester. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, please reach out to one of the resources listed below.

Grading Scale – based on 800 points

300 = Exams (3 @ 100 points each)

150 = Argumentative Essays (3 essays @ 50 pts each)

50 = Revised version of one essay

250 = Final Research Paper

Proposed topic = 15

Outline & Bibliography = 35

Draft paper = 50

Final paper = 100

Discussion / Presentation = 50

50 = Map Quizzes (2 @ 25 pts each)

50 = Participation (including attendance)

A = 94+	A- = 90.0 – 93.9%	
B+ = 87.0% - 89.9%;	B = 83.0 – 86.9%;	B- = 80.0 - 82.9%
C+ = 77.0% - 79.9%;	C = 73.0 – 76.9%;	C- = 70.0 – 72.9%
D+ = 67.0% - 69.9%;	D = 63.0 – 66.9%;	D- = 60.0 – 62.9%

General Schedule: Dates are approximate – we will adjust as needed.

Week	Date	Topic	Deadlines	Readings
Pre-Semester	Aug 30	Introductions! Course overview and logistics		
1	Sept 2	<i>No Classes – Labor Day</i>		
	Sept 4	What is Geography and how do we approach the study of Mongolia?		Cummings 2012; Pattison 1964
	Sept 6	Getting to Know Mongolia: Political Geographies and a bit of History		Brunn & Toops 2012; Altangerel 2001
2	Sept 9	History (brief) cont'd (sleep 101)		Buuma 2001
	Sept 11	Writing, writing, writing...writing a college essay....		
	Sept 13	Getting to Know Mongolia: Landscapes and Environments	Map Quiz 1 (the region)	Brunn & Toops 2012
3	Sept 16	Library Visit. Meet in L206, in the Library.		Brunn & Toops 2012
	Sept 18	Contemporary Mongolia – Economic Overview and Intro to Mining		Reeves 2011; Murray 2003
	Sept 20	VIDEO & Discussion: “Mongolia: Mining Challenges a Civilization”	Research Topic for Final Paper and Topic Presentation Due	
4	Sept 23	Two perspectives on mining	Map Quiz 2 (the country)	
	Sept 25	Discussion and drafting the first essay		
	Sept 27	UlaanBaatar – cityscapes, history and nationalism		Diener & Hagan 2013
5	Sept 30	Ulaanbaatar – A City Emerging	1 st Essay Due Thursday at midnight	Cui et al., 2019; Pollution podcast
	Oct 2	Internal Migration in Mongolia – Ger districts		Terbish and Rawsthorne 2018
	Oct 4	<i>TOPIC PRESENTATIONS 1&2</i>		TBA

6	Oct 7	Pastoralism and the changing countryside livelihoods		Fernandez-Gimenez 1999; Goldstein 1994
	Oct 9	Pastoralism and the question of Privatizing Land		Barcus 2017
	Oct 11	<i>TOPIC PRESENTATIONS 3&4</i>		TBA
7	Oct 14	Library Visit. Meet in L206, in the Library.	Essay 2 Due Wednesday at midnight	
	Oct 16	Catch-up day (Sleep 101)		
	Oct 18	<i>TOPIC PRESENTATIONS 5&6</i>		TBA
8 Fall Break	Oct 21	Exam 1 Review & Catch-up		
	Oct 23	Exam 1		
	Oct 25	FALL BREAK (Oct 24-27)		
9	Oct 28	Tourism as economic development		Buckley et al. 2008
	Oct 30	Tourism, cont'd	Outline & Working Bibliography Due	Bumochir & Gantulga 2019
	Nov 1	<i>TOPIC PRESENTATIONS 7&8</i>		TBA
10	Nov 4	In-class writing day		
	Nov 6	Nationalism and National Identity	Essay 3 Due Thursday at midnight	Sneath 2010, Batbayer 2002
	Nov 8	<i>TOPIC PRESENTATIONS 9&10</i>		TBA
11	Nov 11	Guest visit: Prof. Dan Trudeau and Qualitative Methods Class Presentation		
	Nov 13	Discussion & Writing (Sleep 101)		
	Nov 15	<i>TOPIC PRESENTATIONS 11&12</i>		TBA
12	Nov 18	Ethnic identity and ethnicities around Mongolia		Buyandelgeriyn 2007
	Nov 20	Mongolian Kazakhs: A case study	Draft research paper due Thursday at midnight / Peer Review	Barcus & Werner 2015
	Nov 22	<i>TOPIC PRESENT. 13&14</i>		TBA

13 Thanks- giving Break	Nov 25	Mongolian Kazakhs, cont'd		Barcus & Werner 2010; Post 2014
	Nov 27	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
	Nov 29	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
14	Dec 2	Discussion, Writing & Peer Review Feedback		
	Dec 4	EXAM 2		
	Dec 6	<i>TOPIC PRESENTATIONS 15&16</i>		TBA
15	Dec 9	Writing workshop		
	Dec 11	Writing workshop		
	Dec 13	Writing workshop	<i>Revised Final Paper Due at midnight</i>	
	FINAL EXAM	Saturday, December 14, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.		