

GEOG 430A/B & GEOG 692  
UWATERLOO-NANJING FIELD COURSE

## “Field Studies in Chinese Heritage Villages & Mountain Landscapes”

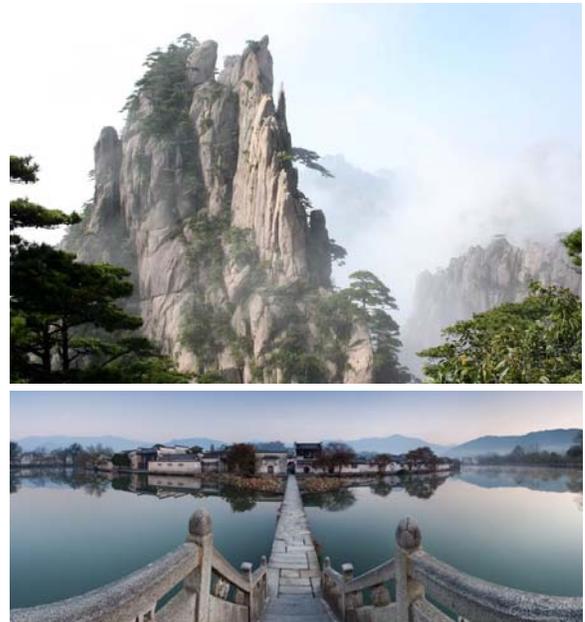
- Collaborative research on geography, geomatics, and tourism special topics -

(Joint undergraduate and graduate field course)

### Course Syllabus – Spring 2016

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This three-week field course will visit some of the most beautiful natural and cultural landscapes in Eastern China. The course involves field studies in Chinese heritage villages and mountain landscapes with interdisciplinary research on geography, geomatics, and tourism studies. Beginning in the vibrant city of Nanjing, we will explore three UNESCO World Heritage sites of Mount Huangshan, Classical Gardens of Suzhou, and Hongcun Ancient Village, as well as Zhouzhuang the "oldest water town in China". In collaboration with Nanjing University, this field course will provide valuable insight into the environmental, economic, and social-cultural dimensions of such natural and cultural landscapes. The course is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.



#### INSTRUCTOR

**Dr. Su-Yin Tan**

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#### COURSE DATES

**Spring Term 2016**

Pre-trip meetings: March-April 2016

Field trip component: April 16 to May 9, 2016 (see travel itinerary)

Research paper due date: End of Spring term (July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016)



#### PREREQUISITE

Instructor consent required. Level at least 3A Honours students. Open to graduate students.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To acquire a basic understanding of geography, tourism, and geomatics topics relevant to managing natural and cultural cities and landscapes in Eastern China (with study sites including Nanjing, Huangshan, Hongcun Village, Zhouzhuang, and Suzhou).
2. To gain an appreciation for interdisciplinary research in geography, tourism, and geomatics, and how such knowledge areas can be applied for managing and conserving areas of high cultural heritage.
3. To foster cultural exchange and to work on collaborative research in an international setting with students and researchers at Nanjing University (NJU).
4. To design, manage, and complete a research project on a selected topic related to course themes.

## COURSE DETAILS

The course involves field studies on Chinese heritage villages and mountain landscapes with interdisciplinary research on geography, geomatics, and tourism for undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Waterloo. The course is in collaboration with **Nanjing University (NJU)**, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in China and a member of the C9 League of elite universities. The program will take students on an intensive three week field trip (24 days including flight duration) to China during the Spring term from **April 16 to May 9, 2016**. We will visit the most beautiful natural and cultural landscapes in Eastern China.



Beginning in the ancient capital city of **Nanjing**, we will conduct field studies in this vibrant capital city of Jiangsu province. Nanjing is the second largest city in Eastern China and has a prominent place in Chinese history and culture. Famous sites include Qinhuai River, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen’s Mausoleum, Purple Mountain, Zhonghua Gate, Confucius Temple, and Xiaoling Tomb, which is inscribed by UNESCO as part of the World Heritage Sites “Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”.

We will then travel to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Huangshan**, a mountain range in southern Anhui province, which is often described as the “loveliest mountain of China” and one of China’s major tourist destinations. Twinned with Canada’s Banff National Park, Huangshan is one of China’s first National Forest Parks. We will learn about how the park is managed to protect its national and cultural heritage, and conduct field measurements and geomatics data collection.

Our route will include **Hongcun Ancient Village**, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site with beautiful surroundings and old village houses of Ming and Qing dynasties. We will explore the natural and cultural landscapes of **Zhouzhuang** the “oldest water town in China” and **Suzhou**, the “Venice of the East” with its world famous Chinese classical gardens. We will learn about unique human and nature interactions in these areas, including environmental, economic, and social-cultural dimensions. In total, our itinerary will include four UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites and a variety of natural and cultural landscapes in Eastern China.

Students are required to conduct independent research projects on a selected topic related to one or more of the field sites and course themes. UW students will be partnered with NJU students, and each pair will develop, implement, and present their project in a research seminar before departing China. UW students will submit a written final project paper after returning to Canada. Interdisciplinary project topics may pertain to special topics in geography, geomatics, and/or tourism, which are the expertise of the course instructor and host university. Project topics will be decided before students depart for China.

## TEACHING ASSISTANT

TBA

Office: TBA

E-mail: TBA

## EVALUATION

Attendance / Participation:	20 %
Project Abstract / Statement:	10 %
Field Research Presentation:	20 %
Field Trip Report or Photo Journal:	10 %
Field Research Project Paper:	40 %

## ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

Students must attend all pre-trip meetings and participate in all field trip activities to receive full credit for this course. Full attendance at all pre- and post-trip activities is mandatory.

Attendance and participation in field course-related activities, workshops, and discussions will be monitored and account for 20% of the total course grade. This grade will be assigned at the instructor's discretion and evaluated holistically, based on activity attendance, participation, and completion of assignments.

## FIELD RESEARCH PROJECT

Students are required to conduct independent research projects, related to one or more of the visited field sites. **UW students will be partnered with NJU students, and each pair will develop a project.** Project topics will be decided prior to the field component of the course (i.e. before departing for China) and agreed upon with the course instructor during pre-trip meetings. A list of potential research topics will be provided, but students may select any topic related to course themes. All field research projects should include some degree of 'primary' data (e.g. field observations, expert opinions and interviews, conversations with locals, etc.) and/or secondary data collection. A **project abstract/statement** will be submitted prior to departure detailing the selected project topic, tentative methodology, and data needs.

The **field component** of the course will involve data collection and analysis for student projects and/or conducting research specific to the geographic area of interest. It will conclude with **field research presentations** delivered by each UW-NJU student group in a public seminar at Nanjing University. Special topics and themes of the field component will touch on geography, geomatics, and/or tourism, which are the expertise of the course instructor and host university. Relevant readings and literature may be provided.

Throughout the trip, instructors and visiting lecturers will provide short lectures in their respective fields that will be relevant to the location of interest and individual student projects. Interdisciplinary perspectives, working in an international and collaborative research environment, and practical field insights are some unique features of this course. Research projects will challenge students to think broadly and strengthen their skills in conducting interdisciplinary research and to think of creative solutions to complex problems.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT OR PHOTO JOURNAL

At the end of the field trip, students will submit a **field trip report or photo journal** detailing their daily activities and experiences from the field trip. The report or photo journal should have detailed information about the destinations/sites visited, the activities engaged in, and personal reflections and observations made during the field trip. Specific questions to be addressed may be provided to students during the field trip. Daily entries should be at least 200 words long (although there is no maximum length restriction) and can include additional research materials, literature references, personal drawings, photographs, etc.

## FIELD RESEARCH PROJECT PAPER

UW students will independently write a **field research project paper** after returning to Canada. The final paper should include a literature-based essay that provides a critical review of the research topic and report of research findings based on collected data and field work. Although due at the end of Spring term, students are encouraged to work on and finish the paper as soon as possible after the field trip ends.

## CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Undergraduate Calendar:

**Note:** *Students should register in both GEOG 430A and 430B components (worth 1.5 credits in total)*

#### **GEOG 430A          Field Research in Regional Geography          (0.5 credits)**

Detailed analysis of a selected region with major emphasis upon a field examination of the region (several weeks duration). Offering dependent upon faculty availability and student enrolment. For additional information on duration, itinerary and travel costs of course offerings, contact the Geography Undergraduate Advisor. Prereq: Level at least 3A Honours students only.

#### **GEOG 430B          Field Research in Regional Geography          (1.0 credits)**

Detailed analysis of a selected region with major emphasis upon a field examination of the region (several weeks duration). Offering dependent upon faculty availability and student enrolment. For additional information on duration, itinerary and travel costs of course offerings, contact the Geography Undergraduate Advisor. Prereq: Level at least 3A Honours students only.

### Graduate Calendar:

#### **GEOG 692          International Study          (0.5 credits)**

The aim of this course is to provide academic credit for a foreign academic learning experience. This will take one of the following formats: study with a foreign expert, a specialized graduate course taken at a foreign institution, or a research/study project abroad conducted under the guidance of an approved advisor. In all instances the plan of study must be approved before a student leaves and in each case a final approved report must be submitted.

## UW POLICIES

### **Unclaimed Assignments:**

Unclaimed assignments will be retained until one month after term grades become official in Quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures.

### **Academic Integrity:**

To create and promote a culture of academic integrity, the behavior of all members of the University of Waterloo is based on honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

<http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Students who are unsure what constitutes an academic offence are requested to visit the on-line tutorial at <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/>

Participants are directed to read Student Academic Discipline Policy #71 in the Undergraduate Calendar regarding plagiarism (or refer to the following web address:

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Polices/policy71.pdf>). Plagiarism offences are normally treated seriously by the University and can result in significant penalties being assessed (e.g. failing grade, suspension or expulsion).

**Research Ethics:**

Please also note that the 'University of Waterloo requires all research conducted by its students, staff, and faculty, which involves humans as participants to undergo prior ethics review and clearance through the Director, Office of Human Research and Animal Care (Office). The ethics review and clearance processes are intended to ensure that projects comply with the Office's Guidelines for Research with Human Participants (Guidelines), as well as those of provincial and federal agencies, and that the safety, rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected. The Guidelines inform researchers about ethical issues and procedures, which are of concern when conducting research with humans (e.g. confidentiality, risks and benefits, informed consent process, etc.). If the development of your research proposal consists of research that involves humans as participants, then please contact the course instructor for guidance and see <http://iris.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/>

**Note for Students with Disabilities:**

The AccessAbility Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AccessAbility Office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Mental Health:**

The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges – physical and / or emotional. **Please note that help is available.** Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services ([www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services)) is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counseling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

**Religious Observances:**

Student needs to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

**Grievance:**

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>. When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

**Discipline:**

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

**Appeals:**

A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 – Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read: Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

## TENTATIVE TRAVEL ITINERARY

Day	Date	Destination	Schedule
<b>Day 0</b>	Sat, Apr-16		<b>Departure from Toronto Pearson International Airport</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	Sun, Apr-17	<b>Nanjing</b>	<b>Arrival day</b>
<b>Day 2</b>	Mon, Apr-18		Visit Nanjing University (NJU) campus; field course orientation and meet NJU students; project workshops
<b>Day 3</b>	Tue, Apr-19		NJU seminars & workshops
<b>Day 4</b>	Wed, Apr-20		Field trip to Zhongshan National Park: Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's Mausoleum scenic area, Xiaoling Tomb scenic area
<b>Day 5</b>	Thu, Apr-21		Field trip to Zhonghua Gate – Laomendong – Confucian Temple – Yuejianglou
<b>Day 6</b>	Fri, Apr-22		Project work day and field work preparation (NJU)
<b>Day 7</b>	Sat, Apr-23	<b>Huangshan</b>	Field trip to Huangshan Tangkou Town and Emerald Valley
<b>Day 8</b>	Sun, Apr-24		Field trip to Huangshan Yungusi (Yungu cableway)– Shixinfeng-Shizifeng – Cloud Dispelling Pavilion
<b>Day 9</b>	Mon, Apr-25		Field trip to Huangshan Cloud Dispelling Pavilion – Xihai Cannon – Guangmingding
<b>Day 10</b>	Tue, Apr-26		Field trip to Huangshan Guangming Summit – Turtle Peak – Lotus Peak – Jade Screen Pavilion – Flying Rock – Welcome Pine Tree – Southern Gate of Huangshan – return to Huangshan Tangkou Town
<b>Day 11</b>	Wed, Apr-27		Huangshan Tangkou Town – synthesis of results, organize data/resources, project discussions
<b>Day 12</b>	Thu, Apr-28	<b>Hongcun Village</b>	Field trip to Hongcun Ancient Village
<b>Day 13</b>	Fri, Apr-29		Field trip to Hongcun Ancient Village – discussions/workshops
<b>Day 14</b>	Sat, Apr-30	<b>Nanjing</b>	Travel back to Nanjing
<b>Day 15</b>	Sun, May-1		Field course research work day (NJU)
<b>Day 16</b>	Mon, May-2	<b>Zhouzhuang Town</b>	Field trip to Watertown – Zhouzhuang Town (Suzhou)
<b>Day 17</b>	Tue, May-3		Field trip to Watertown – Zhouzhuang Town (Suzhou) – discussions/workshops
<b>Day 18</b>	Wed, May-4	<b>Suzhou City</b>	Field trip to Suzhou City – Chinese Classical Garden, Pingjiang Road
<b>Day 19</b>	Thu, May-5		Field trip to Suzhou City – discussions/workshops
<b>Day 20</b>	Fri, May-6	<b>Nanjing</b>	Travel back to Nanjing
<b>Day 21</b>	Sat, May-7		Field course research work day (NJU)
<b>Day 22</b>	Sun, May-8		Field course research seminar – Final presentations (NJU)
<b>Day 23</b>	Mon, May-9		<b>Departure day</b>