Urbanizing Asia

IDS 4930
Fall Semester 2018
University of Florida
International Studies Program

Course Information:

Instructor: Timothy Karis, PhD
Course location: Matherly Hall, #2
Course time: Tuesday, 1:55-2:45/Thursday: 1:55-3:50
Office location: Keene-Flint Hall, #21
Office hours: Monday, 1:30-2:30/Tuesday, 3:00-5:00/Thursday, 4:00-5:00

Course Description:

Cities across Asia are booming, attracting increased academic interest as the transformations to urban economies, built environments, and cultural orientations call for fresh analysis. This class uses interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives to explore the drivers and impacts of urbanization in Asia, focusing on the interactions between wider structural forces (urban planning and design practices, global capitalism, city and state policies) and the experiences of people themselves navigating life in the city. Topics covered include the relationships between modernism and urbanism, patterns of migration to Asian cities, suburbanization and residential segregation, informal labor, rights to urban space, and the effects of globalization on urban economies. The class employs case studies from Hong Kong, Singapore, Mumbai, Hanoi, Bangkok, Tokyo, and elsewhere.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students will achieve an understanding of:

- The applicability of theories developed in Western contexts to Asian cities
- The sources of power that drive the production of urban space
- How the growth and transformation of cities can support social inequality
- Urban peripheries (aka “slums”) in Asia as sites of political and economic innovation
- How to approach the city as an object of analysis in composing a research paper
Course Texts:

3. Additional readings will be made available on the class Canvas site.

Student Responsibilities:

Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments and to attend all lectures and film screenings (barring an emergency). Please come to class on time and well prepared to make the most out of our time. This class will involve lectures, small group work, and wider class discussions as appropriate. Your active participation figures in your final grade, so please raise your hand at any time with questions or comments. Please always maintain respect for your classmates when discussing sometimes controversial subjects. You may take notes on your laptop, but please do not browse websites or distract others. This syllabus is a living document responsive to student interests, current events, and the pace of class, and therefore subject to change. You should regularly check the class Canvas site for readings, announcements, and updated information about assignments and class activities.

Student Evaluation:

Your grade will be based on three take-home quizzes (essay format), a final research paper (8-10 pages), and your class participation and attendance.

Research Paper: For your final research paper, you will select a city somewhere in Asia (or a city elsewhere with a large Asian immigrant community) and add to a portfolio of scholarly and journalistic materials relating to your city over the course of the term, particularly those that address the themes we cover in class. These portfolios will be checked periodically to steer you toward useful sources. By the end of the course, you will perform a critical analysis of your city, using your portfolio and applying the frameworks discussed in class (as well as additional approaches you find useful) to write an 8-10 page paper. More detailed information regarding paper expectations, portfolio requirements, and due dates will be distributed in class.

The course grading breakdown is as follows:

Quiz #1: 15%
Quiz #2: 15%
Quiz #3: 15%
Research paper portfolio: 10%
Research paper: 30%
Class attendance and participation: 15%
**Academic Honesty:**

Please do not engage in plagiarism or any other behaviors that would violate of the University of Florida Academic Honesty Policy. You can find a copy of the University of Florida Academic Honesty Policy using the link that follows. It is the student’s responsibility to read, understand, and abide by the policy:


**Accommodations:**

Testing accommodations and other needs will be addressed for students with proper documentation. Please make sure to inform the professor in writing of any needed accommodations during the first two weeks of class.

**Course Schedule:**

**PART 1: Producing and Navigating Urban Environments**

**Thursday, 8/23:** Introducing the class, syllabus review

**Tuesday, 8/28:** Situating Urbanization in Asia

*Readings*


**Thursday, 8/30:** Power and Urban Space: Domesticating the City

*Readings*

Tuesday, 9/4: The Colonial and Postcolonial City in Asia

Readings


Thursday, 9/6: Modernism and Urbanism

Readings


Tuesday, 9/11: Modernism and Urbanism, cont.

Readings


Thursday, 9/13: Urban Order and Disorder

Readings


Tuesday, 9/18: Globalization, Modernity, and Urban Migration in Thailand

Readings


Readings


Readings


Readings


→ ***TAKE-HOME QUIZ ASSIGNMENT #1 DISTRIBUTED***

Part II: Socioeconomic Inequality in Urban Asia: Perceptions and Prospects

Tuesday, 10/2:  Elites and the Global City

Readings


Thursday, 10/4:  “Planet of Slums” in the Global South?

Readings

1. Davis, Mike (2006). The Urban Climacteric and The Prevalence of Slums, in *Planet of Slums* (excerpt, ~30 pp.)
Tuesday, 10/9: Economic and Political Innovation in “Slums”


→ ***TAKE-HOME QUIZ ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE (10/9)***

Thursday, 10/11: Economic and Political Innovation in “Slums,” cont.

Readings


***IN-CLASS FILM SCREENING: Dhavari, Slum for Sale (2010)***

Tuesday, 10/16: Gentrification in Comparative Perspective

Readings


Thursday, 10/18: Gentrification in Comparative Perspective, cont.

Readings


Tuesday, 10/23: Social Class and the Real Estate Engine in Urban China

Readings

1. Li Zhang (2010). In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis, introduction and chapter 1
Thursday, 10/25:  Social Class and the Real Estate Engine in Urban China, cont.

Readings


Tuesday, 10/30:  Social Class and the Real Estate Engine in Urban China, cont.

Readings


→ ***TAKE-HOME QUIZ ASSIGNMENT #2 DISTRIBUTED***

Thursday, 11/1:  Social Class and the Real Estate Engine in Urban China, cont.

Readings

1. Li Zhang (2010). *In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis*, chapters 6-7

Tuesday, 11/6:  State Projects and Evictions in Beijing, China

Readings


***IN-CLASS FILM SCREENING: Meishi Street (2006)***
Part III: Membership and Rights to the City in Asia

Thursday, 11/8: Cities and Citizenship

Readings


→ ***TAKE-HOME QUIZ ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE (11/13)***

Tuesday, 11/13: Contesting Urban Citizenship in Southeast Asia

Readings


Thursday, 11/15: Diasporic Asian Cities

Readings


Tuesday, 11/20: Diasporic Asian Cities, cont.

Readings

1. Vora, N. (2013). Impossible Citizens: Dubai’s Indian Diaspora (pp. 117-143)

→ ***TAKE-HOME QUIZ ASSIGNMENT #3 DISTRIBUTED***

Thursday, 11/22: No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday
Tuesday, 11/27:  Diasporic Asian Cities, cont.

Readings


Thursday, 11/29:  Concluding Case: Sushi and Urban Identities in Tokyo

Readings


→ **TAKE-HOME QUIZ ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE (11/29)**

Tuesday, 12/4:  Course Wrap-Up: No Readings

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→ FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE DATE: 12/13