

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Shanghai

Course Code / Title: (SH/URBN 353) Globalization and the Chinese City

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Urban Studies / History, International Relations, Development Studies, East Asian Studies, Sociology, Political Science

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

How are Shanghai and other Chinese cities changing under the forces of globalization, urbanization, marketization, and political decentralization? How does urban life differ for city residents and the migrant population? This course examines these topics and the dynamics of China's urban transformation and contemporary city life. Using interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives, it explores the distinctive characteristics of China's urban development in the context of globalization. The course also addresses the issue of whether the concepts and theories born out of the post-industrial Western urban experience are applicable to urban China. It finally identifies and explains the opportunities and challenges that Chinese cities face, given their current urban development strategies and trajectories. The course includes at least two field-based classes to explore how Shanghai is reshaping its past and designing its future.

Objectives

During the course, students:

- gain a firm understanding of China's own past, values, and institutions as well as the globalization forces shaping profound changes in Chinese cities.
- analyze the nature of Chinese urban space and the characteristics of Chinese urban people and society.
- compare the differences as well as similarities of urban space and city people between Chinese and other world cities.
- conduct research in a Chinese environment and present findings to their peers.

Course Requirements

Students are to attend all class meetings and actively participate in class discussions. Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Weekly reading assignments average 50-80 pages and must be completed before each class. Each student leads class discussion at least once during the semester on a reading she or he has selected. The presentation and questions to the group should focus not on summary but on analyzing the author's findings and arguments and placing the reading in the context of the major themes and critical issues of the course.

Students write three short papers of approximately 800 words each on assigned topics. These are either critical book or essay reviews of class readings, supplemented by knowledge from class

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lectures and discussions, or analytical essays on specific topics. A final take-home essay examination of approximately 1,500 words on a topic provided by the instructor is due at the end of the course.

A group investigative project is required. Group size is two to three students. Topics of inquiry should address a significant urban issue. Methods of inquiry should involve on-site research, case studies, interviews, etc. The group project encourages teamwork and collaboration. Presentations are 20 minutes in length and graded on originality of topic, thoroughness of investigation, soundness of analysis, and quality of teamwork.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Three short papers: 10% each; totaling 30%
- Preparation and discussion: 10% plus 5% for leading class discussion, total of 15%
- Group project: 25%
- Final essay: 30%

Readings

Arkaraprasertkul, Non. *Shanghai Contemporary: The Politics of Built Form*. Verlag: VDM, 2009.

Chen, Chih-jou Jay. "Growing Social Unrest and Emergent Protest Groups in China." In *Rise of China: Beijing's Strategies and Implications for the Asia-Pacific*, edited by Hsin-Huang Hsiao and Cheng-Yi Lin, 87-105. London: Routledge, 2009.

Friedman, Thomas L. *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution - and How It Can Renew America, Release 2.0*. New York: Picador, 2009.

Gaubatz, Piper Rae. *Beyond the Great Wall: Urban Form and Transformation on the Chinese Frontiers*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1996.

Glaeser, Edward. *Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier*. New York: Penguin Books, 2011.

He Shenjiang and Fulong Wu. "Property-led Redevelopment in Post-Reform China: A Case Study of the Xintiandi Redevelopment Project in Shanghai." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 27, no. 1 (2005): 1-23.

Hsing, You-Tien. *The Great Urban Transformation: Politics of Land and Property in China*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

_____. "Land and Territorial Politics in Urban China." *The China Quarterly* 187 (Sept. 2006): 575-591.

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Lee, Ching Kwan and Mark Selden. "China's Durable Inequality: Legacies of Revolution and Pitfalls of Reform." *Japan Focus* 5, no. 1 (2007): 1-26.

Lu, Duanfang, *Remaking Chinese Urban Form: Modernity, Scarcity and Space, 1949-2005*. New York: Routledge, 2006.

Ma, Jiaqi. "The Past, Present, and Future of Preservation in Beijing's Hutongs." *China Building Restoration*, July 28, 2016. Access at: <http://chinabuildingrestoration.com/cultural-heritage/past-present-future-preservation-beijings-hutongs/>

Miller, Tom. *China's Urban Billion: The Story Behind the Biggest Migration in Human History*. London: Zed Books, 2012.

Ren, Xuefei. *Building Globalization: Transnational Architecture Production in Urban China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

_____. *Urban China*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2013.

Shao, Qin. *Shanghai Gone: Domicide and Defiance in a Chinese Megacity*. London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013.

Shi, Mingzheng. "The Changing Dynamics of De(Re)centralization in China: Urban Land Policy and the Transformation of the Built Environment." Unpublished conference paper (2011).

_____. "Must the Walls Be Torn Down: The Cultural Dimension of Urban Planning in China." *Planning History* 22, no. 1 (2000): 8-16.

Wang, Shu-Yi. "In Search of Authenticity in Historic Cities in Transformation: The Case of Pingyao, China." *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change* 9, no. 1 (2010): 18-30.

Wen, Guanzhong James and Jinwu Xiong. "The Hukou and Land Tenure Systems as Two Middle Income Traps—The Case of Modern China." *Frontiers of Economics in China* 9, no. 3 (2014): 438-59.

Woetzel, Jonathan, et. al. *Preparing for China's Urban Billion*. McKinsey Global Institute, 2009.

Wu, Hung. *Remaking Beijing: Tiananmen and the Creation of a Political Space*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

Wu, Weiping and Piper Gaubatz. *The Chinese City*. London: Routledge, 2013.

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Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Themes and approaches to the study of Chinese cities and urban development

Topic 2: Chinese cities in historical perspective

Topic 3: Cultural dimensions of China's urban heritage

Topic 4: Chinese cities under socialism

Topic 5: Market reform and new processes of city building

Topic 6: The new built environment of urban China

Topic 7: Historical preservation in urban renewal

Topic 8: The great migration and rural-urban divide

Topic 9: Political and social costs of urban development; Inequality in urban life

Topic 10: Urban governance and civil society

Topic 11: Urban lifestyles and social change

Topic 12: Sustainable urban development

Topic 13: Global cities in comparative perspective