

Urban Trends and Futures in Japan/East Asia

Section 1

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【Course Outline / Description】

This course examines the multidimensionality of contemporary East Asian cities through an interdisciplinary approach. To this end, the course reviews state-of-the-art theoretical and empirical literatures relating to Northeast and Southeast Asian cities. Emphasis throughout the course is placed on cities as spaces of everyday life and spaces of socio-economic change.

East Asian cities have increasingly undergone socio-economic and socio-spatial restructuring in order to respond to local and global processes. Thus, while attending to global drivers of change, the course examines the local/regional dynamics of East Asian cityscapes to shed light onto current urban challenges and prospects. The course adopts both, comparative and (country) case study approaches.

Key topics include urban socio-spatial exclusion, gentrification, peri-urbanization, and environmental sustainability, among others.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to understand the global, regional, and local processes shaping the imagery, form and function of contemporary Japanese/East Asian cities. Likewise, students are expected to critically analyze the key challenges these cities face in the foreseeable future.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Teaching Methods

Teaching is delivered using a combination of lectures and group discussions (see in-class exercises below). The inclusion of roundtable, think-pair-share, and role-playing exercises throughout the course will be contingent upon the number of students registered.

Attendance

In principle, students must attend all class meetings.

*This syllabus is subject to changes and/or revisions during the term. Necessary revisions will be announced in class with prior notice.

	Schedule of Instruction	Work outside of Classroom Activities
Lesson 1	Course Introduction	No scheduled readings
Lesson 2	Urban Studies: An overview	Reading assignment: Scott & Storper (2014). The nature of cities: The Scope and Limits of Urban Theory. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, DOI:10.1111/1468-2427.12134
Lesson 3	Asian Cities: Key issues and theoretical approaches	Reading assignment: Ren & Luger (2014). Comparative Urbanism and the Asian City. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, DOI:10.1111/1468-2427.12140
Lesson 4	In-class exercise	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 5	Urban transformation in East Asia	Reading assignment: Yeung (2011). Rethinking Asian cities and urbanization: Four transformations in four decades. Asian Geographer 28 (1): 65-78
Lesson 6	The contemporary urban form/function of Southeast Asian cities	Reading assignment: Goh & Bunnell (2013). Re-centering Southeast Asian Cities. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 37(3): 825-833.
Lesson 7	China's urban growth	Reading assignment: Farell & Westlund (2018). China's rapid urban ascent: an examination into the components of urban growth. Asian Geographer 35 (1): 85-100.
Lesson 8	In-class exercise	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 9	Peri-urbanization processes	Reading assignment: Webster et al (2014). The new face of peri-urbanization in East Asia: Modern production zones, middle-class lifestyles, and rising expectations. Journal of Urban Affairs 36 (1): 315-329.
Lesson 10	Cities by and for the people in East Asia	Reading assignment: Cabannes et al (2018). Cities by and for the People. Introduction. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
Lesson 11	Social inequality and spatial exclusion	Reading assignment: World Bank (2014). Access to Affordable and Low-income Housing in East Asia and the Pacific. Washington: World Bank, Ch. 2.
Lesson 12	Gentrification and regeneration	Reading assignment: Ko et al (2018). Gentrification in East Asian Cities. IIAS-The Newsletter 79.
Lesson 13	Mid-term review	No scheduled readings (guide)
Lesson 14	Mid-term exam	No scheduled readings
Lesson 15	Vernacular architecture (Taipei)	Reading assignment: Lin & Chen (2015). The Modern Vernacular Reassessed: The Socioarchitectural Origin of the Taipei Walkup Apartments. Journal of Urban History 4 (5): 908-926.
Lesson 16	Urban heritage preservation	Reading assignment: TBA

Lesson 17	Open contents proposal	No scheduled readings
Lesson 18	Urban tourism in East Asia	Reading assignment: Gillen (2010). Tourism and Entrepreneurialism in Southeast Asian Cities. <i>Geography Compass</i> 4 (4): 370–382.
Lesson 19	No class - Fall break	No scheduled readings
Lesson 20	Public space and political activism in East Asian cities	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 21	Queer East Asian cities	Reading assignment: Yue & Leung (2017). Notes towards the queer Asian city: Singapore and Hong Kong. <i>Urban Studies</i> 54(3): 747–764.
Lesson 22	In-class exercise	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 23	Urban shrinkage in Japan/East Asia	Reading assignment: Matanle, P. (2017). Towards an Asia-Pacific 'Depopulation Dividend' in the 21st Century: Regional Growth and Shrinkage in Japan and New Zealand. <i>The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus</i> 15 (6 /5): 1-27.
Lesson 24	Environmental sustainability in East Asian cities	Reading assignment: Ostojic et al (2013). <i>Energising Green Cities in East Asia</i> . Washington: World Bank, Overview.
Lesson 25	In-class exercise	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 26	Climate-resilient East Asian cities	Reading Assignment: Westphal et al (2013). <i>Economics of Climate Change in East Asia</i> . Washington: World Bank, Executive Summary.
Lesson 27	Open-contents	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 28	Individual presentations	No scheduled readings
Lesson 29	Individual presentations	No scheduled readings
Lesson 30	Course final review and course conclusions	In-class final review

Assignments

Attitude and Participation:

Students are expected to actively discuss and critically evaluate the assigned readings. In addition, students are expected to keep up with news on East Asian cities in leading newspapers and specialized magazines. Students will be marked on overall attitude in the classroom and quality of participation.

*Open Contents Week:

A week of the syllabus is open for students to co-create its topic/contents. Each student will submit a proposal inclusive of contents, reading assignments, and rationale (lesson 17). Proposals will be discussed collectively. The final decision will be made by consensus.

Exams:

Two exams will be administrated during the course. Guides for the mid-term final exams will be provided in advance (see Blackboard). The questions for these exams will be drawn from reading assignments and topics covered in class.

Individual Presentations:

Individual presentations will be held in lessons 28-29. Each group will prepare a 10-15 minute presentation for the class using software such as Prezi or Keynote or Power Point. The presentations will focus on a contemporary (city) case study (drawing on a minimum of seven sources of literature) chosen by each presenter. Students will each submit a short report (500-700 words in length) based on their own interpretation of their case study.

Reflective Essay:

The essay will be 1,500 words in length (excluding footnotes/endnotes and bibliography) and must contain both, theoretical and empirical arguments. Students will choose their topic from a list posted on Blackboard.

All written papers must be typed in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, and formatted with 2.5-cm margins. Usual conditions of citations and bibliography will apply.

*The submission of written assignments is via email.

**In cases where there are no accepted mitigating circumstances, late submission of coursework shall lead automatically to the imposition of a penalty (5% deduction). Penalties shall be applied as soon as the deadline is reached.

Section 4

Grading Criteria

Final Exam	20%
Quizzes or Midterm Exam	20%
Reflective Essay	15%
Presentation Report	5%
Open Contents proposal	10%
Class Participation	15%
Presentation	15%

Section 5

On Academic Integrity

Kansai Gaidai does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. These actions will result in an automatic “F” in the course. Pleading ignorance of plagiarism will not excuse students from violations.

For detailed information on academic writing and avoiding plagiarism please consult the following resources: <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism>; <http://www.plagiarism.org/citing-sources/overview>

Classroom/Email Etiquette

- ∞ No photography or audio recording of the lectures and in-class exercises is permitted
- ∞ Do not chat with your neighbor during classes and presentations
- ∞ Be respectful of fellow students' views.
- ∞ When in doubt about how you should speak, write, or act, always err on the side of formality.
- ∞ Do not sleep in class
- ∞ Do not text in class
- ∞ If you use a laptop in class, only use it for class purposes – do not use social media during class.