

Urban Trends and Futures in Japan/East Asia

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Grace Gonzalez, Ph.D.
Office/Building	Honkan (Main Building), 709
Office Hours	By appointment only
Contacts (E-mail)	ggonzale@kansaigaidai.ac.jp

【Course Outline / Description】

Course Description

This course examines the multidimensionality of contemporary East Asian cities through an interdisciplinary approach. To this end, the course reviews the most relevant and up-to-date 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 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 on current urban challenges and prospects. The course adopts both, comparative and (single) case study approaches.

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

Course Structure

The course consists of lectures, group discussions (including in-class exercises -see below), and student presentations. The inclusion of roundtable, think-pair-share, and role-playing exercises throughout the course will be contingent upon the number of students registered.

Course Guidelines

This course is best suited for students with an academic background in Social Sciences and Humanities. The course requires reading approximately 15 pages per lesson. The course materials reflect a) specialized vocabulary and state-of-the-art theoretical/analytical underpinnings, and b) up-to-date international journalistic content. A minimum of 1.5 hours of student work (out of class) is required per lesson.

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】

	Schedule of Instruction	Work outside of Classroom Activities
Lesson 1	Course Introduction	No scheduled readings

Lesson 2	Urban Studies: An overview (part I)	Reading assignment: Jonas et al (2015). Urban Geography: A Critical Introduction. Ch. 1
Lesson 3	Urban Studies: An overview (part II)	Reading assignment: Jonas et al. (2015). Urban Geography: A Critical Introduction. Ch.1
Lesson 4	Asian Cities: Key issues and theoretical approaches I	Reading assignment: Scott & Storper (2015). The nature of cities: The Scope and Limits of Urban Theory. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 39 (1): 1-15.
Lesson 5	Asian Cities: Key issues and theoretical approaches II	Reading assignment: Ren & Luger (2015). Comparative Urbanism and the Asian City. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 39 (1): 145-156.
Lesson 6	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 7	Exercise	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 8	Legacies of the Metabolist Movement	Reading assignment: Lin (2016). Metabolist Utopias and Their Global Influence: Three Paradigms of Urbanism. Journal of Urban History 42(3):604-622.
Lesson 9	Exercise	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 10	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 11	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 12	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 13	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 14	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 15	Gentrification and regeneration in East Asian cities (I)	Reading assignment: Shun et al (2016). Introduction: Locating gentrification in the Global East. Urban Studies 53(3) 455-470.
Lesson 16	Gentrification and regeneration (II)	Reading assignment: Ko et al (2018). Gentrification in East Asian Cities. IIAS-The Newsletter 79.
Lesson 17	Urban heritage preservation (Vietnamese cities)	Reading assignment: Peyvel & Lan (2016). Tourism, Urbanisation, and Globalisation in Vietnam. IIAS. The Focus (73): 38-41.
Lesson 18	Urban tourism in East Asia I	Reading assignment: Gillen (2010). Tourism and Entrepreneurialism in Southeast Asian Cities. Geography Compass 4 (4): 370-382.
Lesson 19	Urban Tourism in East Asia II (exercise)	Reading assignment: TBA

Lesson 20	Open contents proposal (individual work)	No scheduled readings
Lesson 21	Public space and civil activism in East Asian cities	Reading assignment: Hou (2018). Governing urban gardens for resilient cities: Examining the 'Garden City Initiative' in Taipei. <i>Urban Studies</i> , Special Issue.
Lesson 22	Open Contents Lesson	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 23	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 24	Urban shrinkage in Japan/East Asia -task	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 25	Post-pandemic urbanism in East Asia	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	Environmental sustainability in East Asian cities (exercise)	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 28	Individual presentations	No scheduled readings
Lesson 29	Individual presentations	No scheduled readings
Lesson 30	Final review and course conclusions	No scheduled readings

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Reading Assignments^[1]_{SEP}

No textbook will be used. All readings will be provided in advance (see Blackboard -Assignments tab).

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Grading Criteria

Attitude & Participation	20%
Pop Quizzes	20%
Open Contents Proposal	10%
Final Presentation	20%
Presentation Report	5%
Final Exam	25%

Assignments/Coursework

Attitude and Participation:

Students are expected to actively discuss and critically evaluate the assigned readings.

Students will be marked on both overall attitude and quality of participation during class meetings.

***Open Contents Lesson:**

A lesson of the syllabus is open for students to create its topic/contents. Each student will submit a proposal (lesson 20) inclusive of rationale, approach, and academic reading assignment (200 words in length). Likewise, students will present their proposals (approx. 5 min each) during lesson 20. The final decision will be made by consensus.

*The winner of the OCP will lead the class discussion on lesson 22.

Quizzes/Exams:

A minimum of 3 pop quizzes and a final exam will be administrated during the course. Both pop quizzes and final exam include multiple-choice and open-ended questions. The questions for these quizzes will be drawn from reading assignments and topics covered in class.

Individual Presentations and report:

Individual presentations will be held in lessons 28-29. Each student will prepare a 15-minute presentation (inclusive of Q&A) for the class using software such as Keynote or Power Point or Prezi. The presentations will focus on contemporary issues of East Asian cities chosen by each presenter. Students will also submit a short report (500-700 words in length) based on their own analysis of their case study.

The contents of the presentation and its report ought to draw on a minimum of seven sources of literature. Usual conditions of citations and bibliography will apply for both presentation slides and report.

All written papers must be typed in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, and formatted with 2.5-cm margins. The submission of written assignments is via Blackboard (PDF attachments only).

Section 5

【Additional Information】

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 Blackboard – Course Documents.

Note

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