

2024 Fall Semester

Urban Trends and Futures in Japan/East Asia

Section 1

Instructor	Grace Gonzalez, Ph.D.
Office/Building	Honkan, 709
Office Hours	TBD

【Course Outline / 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.

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】

See class schedule below

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.

Attendance

In principle, students must attend all class meetings.

Excused absences: Students will be given attendance credit for any session that they miss, provided that it is documented in writing by a medical doctor's statement, or an official statement from Registrar's Office. No other absences will be excused.

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

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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.

*Students are responsible for staying current with announcements and coursework instructions/deadlines.

Assignments/Coursework

Attitude and Participation:

Class participation is based on reading assignments. Therefore, students are expected to actively discuss and critically evaluate said materials. Students will be marked on both overall attitude (see classroom etiquette below) and quality of participation.

Open Contents Proposal:

A lesson of the syllabus is open for students to create its topic/contents. Each student will submit a proposal (lesson 14) inclusive of rationale, approach, and academic reading assignment (200 words in length). Likewise, students will present their proposals (approx. 5 min per proposal) during lesson 14. The final decision will be made by consensus.

*The winner of the OCP will lead the class discussion on lesson 25.

Quizzes/Exams:

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

Urban Branding Campaign:

Students (organized in teams) will present a short city branding campaign (submission: slides only). The branding campaign ought to focus on an East Asian city and include a catchy slogan that reflects the city's urban branding.

Individual Presentations:

Presentations will be held in lessons 29-30. Students 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 in East Asian cities chosen by students. The contents of the presentation ought to draw on a minimum of seven sources of literature. Usual conditions of citations and bibliography will apply for presentation slides.

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).

*Rubrics for each of the aforementioned will be provided in advance.

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

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



【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Attitude and Class participation	20%
Pop quizzes	20%
Open Contents Proposal	20%
City Branding Campaign	20%
Final Presentation	20%

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Section 5

【Additional Information】

	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 (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 5	Asian Cities: Key issues and theoretical approaches II	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 6	Class exercise - Cities: On Form, Function, and Imagery	Reading assignment: Global Power City Index 2022. Institute for Urban Strategies. The Mori Memorial Foundation.
Lesson 7	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 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	Class exercise	Reading assignment: TBD
Lesson 10	Vernacular architecture (Taipei)	Reading assignment: Lin & Chen (2015). The Modern Vernacular Reassessed: The Socio-architectural 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.

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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	Consultation (on OCP)	No scheduled readings
Lesson 14	Open contents proposal(s)-teamwork	Class presentation and written submission (Blackboard)
Lesson 15	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 16	Gentrification and regeneration in East Asian cities	Reading assignment: Shun et al (2016). Introduction: Locating gentrification in the Global East. Urban Studies 53(3) 455–470.
Lesson 17	Urban Branding	Reading assignment: TBD
Lesson 18	Urban heritage preservation (Vietnamese cities)	Reading assignment: TBD
Lesson 19	Urban tourism in East Asia	Reading assignment: Gillen (2010). Tourism and Entrepreneurialism in Southeast Asian Cities. Geography Compass 4 (4): 370–382.
Lesson 20	Consultation (on CBC)	No scheduled readings
Lesson 21	Urban branding campaign (teamwork)	Class presentation (inclusive of slides)
Lesson 22	Urban branding campaign (teamwork)	Class presentation (inclusive of slides)
Lesson 23	Public space and civil activism in East Asian cities (exercise)	Reading assignment: Hou (2018). Governing urban gardens for resilient cities: Examining the ‘Garden City Initiative’ in Taipei. Urban Studies, Special Issue.
Lesson 24	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. The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus 15 (6 /5): 1-27.
Lesson 25	Open Contents Lesson (winning proposal)	Reading assignment: TBD

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Lesson 26	Post-pandemic urbanism in East Asia	Reading assignment: Connolly (2022). The urbanisation of spatial inequalities and a new model of urban development. In: Shin, H-B et al. (eds.). Covid-19 in Southeast Asia. London: LSE Press.
Lesson 27	Climate-resilient East Asian cities	Reading Assignment: Westphal et al (2013). Economics of Climate Change in East Asia. Washington: World Bank, Executive Summary.
Lesson 28	Consultation (on FP)	No scheduled readings
Lesson 29	Final presentations (teamwork)	Class presentations (inclusive of slides)
Lesson 30	Final presentations (teamwork) and course conclusions	Class presentations (inclusive of slides)

Classroom Etiquette

- No photography or audio recording of the lectures and in-class exercises is permitted
 - Do not chat with your classmates during classes and presentations
 - Be respectful of fellow students' views.
 - When in doubt about how you should speak, write, or act (e.g., addressing your instructor and peers), always err on the side of formality.
 - Do not sleep in class.
 - Smartphones are not allowed in class.
 - Tablets & laptops are only allowed for class contents.
- * Students who contravene any of the above-referenced will not earn attitude marks.

Email Etiquette:

When writing an email to your professor/instructor:

- Address your professor/instructor properly. Begin the email with “Dear Professor____,” Dear Prof. _____,” or “Dear Dr. _____.” Do not begin the email without addressing your professor by their title and surname.
- Please be mindful of the tone of your message. Be polite, clear, and succinct. Any email to a professor should be composed like a formal letter.
- Do not use texting lingo in emails. Please write in complete sentences with correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

The minimum email response time is 24 hours (during weekdays) and 48 hours (during weekends and holidays).