

Urban Trends & Futures in Japan/East Asia

Section 1

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【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.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Learning Goals

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】

Course Structure

The course contents will be delivered through Zoom and Blackboard (one synchronous session and one asynchronous session per week). All Zoom meetings and coursework submissions are based on Japan Standard time.

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.

If you need a specific accommodation to ensure your full participation in any aspect of our course, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that if you have a documented disability you obtain specific accommodation requests through our Registrar's Office.

The instructor will do her best to ensure an accessible environment in a way that ensures equitable grading for all students in the class. However, your experience with this course is directly related to the quality of the energy/enthusiasm that you bring to it. Furthermore, your energy/enthusiasm shapes the quality of your peers' experiences.

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 Information.

Class Schedule

	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	Exercise	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 7	Urban transformation in East Asia(I)	Reading assignment: Yeung (2011). Rethinking Asian cities and urbanization: Four transformations in four decades. Asian Geographer 28 (1): 65-78
Lesson 8	Urban transformation in East Asia(II)	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 9	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 10	Exercise	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 11	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 12	China's urban growth (in-class exercise)	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 13	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 14	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 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 (I)	Reading assignment: Shun et al (2016). Introduction: Locating gentrification in the Global East. Urban Studies 53(3) 455–470.
Lesson 17	Gentrification and regeneration (II)	Reading assignment: Ko et al (2018). Gentrification in East Asian Cities. IIAS-The Newsletter 79.
Lesson 18	Urban heritage preservation (Vietnamese cities)	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 19	Urban tourism in East Asia I	Reading assignment: Gillen (2010). Tourism and Entrepreneurialism in Southeast Asian Cities. Geography Compass 4 (4): 370–382.
Lesson 20	Urban Tourism in East Asia (exercise)	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 21	Open contents proposal (individual work)	No scheduled readings
Lesson 22	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. Urban Studies, Special Issue.
Lesson 23	Open Contents	Reading assignment: TBA
Lesson 24	Queer East Asian cities	Reading assignment: Yue & Leung (2017). Notes towards the queer Asian city: Singapore and Hong Kong. Urban Studies 54(3): 747–764.
Lesson 25	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 26	Post-pandemic urbanism in East Asia	Reading assignment: TBA
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	Submission of video presentations	No scheduled readings
Lesson 29	Submission of Take-home examination paper	No scheduled readings

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Reading Assignments

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

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】**Assignments/Coursework****Tasks:**

Tasks will be posted on Blackboard, inclusive of deadlines (*see* Notification -My Tasks). Each task encompasses a 250-350 word analysis based on reading assignments/instructional materials.

***Open Contents Lesson:**

A lesson of the syllabus is open for students to create its topic/contents. Each student will submit a proposal (lesson 21) inclusive of rationale, approach, and academic reading assignment (200 words in length). The final decision will be made by consensus.

Individual (video) Presentations:

Each student will prepare a 15-minute video presentation for the class using software such as Keynote or Power Point or Prezi. The presentations will focus on a contemporary East Asian city, chosen by each presenter. The contents of the presentation ought to draw on a minimum of seven sources of literature. Video presentations will be submitted via email (Zoom file attachments) during lessons 28. Students will also submit a short report (500-700 words in length) based on their own analysis of their case study. Usual conditions of citations and bibliography will apply for both presentation report and slides.

Take-home examination paper:

The final evaluation will consist of a take-home examination paper in which students will answer essay-type questions (submission deadline, lesson 29). No additional research is required in answering these questions yet students are expected to use the course readings to support their argument(s). The examination paper questions will be posted on Blackboard 24-48 hours before the submission deadline (Assignments tab). Usual conditions of citations and bibliography will apply.

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 email (PDF attachments only).

Grading Criteria

Tasks	35%
Open Contents Proposal	10%
Presentation Report	5%
Video presentation (inclusive of slides)	20%
Take-home examination paper	30%

Section 5**【Additional Information】****Notes**

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

Zoom Etiquette

- No recording or screenshot capturing of the Zoom lectures/meetings is permitted.
- Be professional and respectful when attending class on Zoom. When in doubt about how you should speak, write, or act, always err on the side of formality.
- Be respectful of fellow students' views.
- Stay engaged in class activities. Close any unrelated apps on your device and turn off notifications.
- Find a quiet, distraction-free spot to partake in Zoom lectures/meetings. Turn off any music, videos, etc. in the background.
- Students are required to use the video option during Zoom lectures/meetings. Inform the instructor in advance if you encounter any technical issues.

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).