

2024 Spring 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】

| | 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 | Reading assignment: Ren & Luger (2014). |

2024 Spring Semester

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| | theoretical approaches II | 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 | Class exercise | Reading assignment: TBD |
| 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 | Class exercise | Reading assignment: TBD |
| Lesson 11 | 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 12 | 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 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 | Open contents proposal(s) | Class presentation and written submission (Blackboard) |
| Lesson 15 | 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 16 | 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, |

2024 Spring Semester

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| | | Ch. 2. |
| Lesson 17 | Gentrification and regeneration in East Asian cities (I) | Reading assignment: Shun et al (2016). Introduction: Locating gentrification in the Global East. <i>Urban Studies</i> 53(3) 455–470. |
| Lesson 18 | Gentrification and regeneration (II) | Reading assignment: Ko et al (2018). Gentrification in East Asian Cities. <i>IIAS-The Newsletter</i> 79. |
| Lesson 19 | Urban Branding | Reading assignment: TBD |
| Lesson 20 | Urban heritage preservation (Vietnamese cities) | Reading assignment: TBD |
| Lesson 21 | Urban tourism in East Asia I | Reading assignment: Gillen (2010). Tourism and Entrepreneurialism in Southeast Asian Cities. <i>Geography Compass</i> 4 (4): 370–382. |
| Lesson 22 | Urban branding campaign | Class presentation (inclusive of slides) |
| Lesson 23 | 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, Special Issue</i> . |
| 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. <i>The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus</i> 15 (6 /5): 1-27. |
| Lesson 25 | Open Contents Lesson (winning proposal) | Reading assignment: TBD |
| 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.). <i>Covid-19 in Southeast Asia</i> . London: LSE Press. |
| Lesson 27 | 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 28 | Class exercise | Reading assignment: TBD |
| Lesson 29 | Individual presentations | Class presentation (inclusive of slides) |
| Lesson 30 | Individual presentations and course conclusions | Class presentation (inclusive of slides) |

2024 Spring Semester

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 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:

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 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 26.

Quizzes/Exams:

A minimum of 2 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.

2024 Spring Semester

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

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

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| Attitude & participation | 20% | |
| Pop quizzes | | 20% |
| Open Contents Proposal | 20% | |
| City Branding Campaign | 20% | |
| Final Presentation | | 20% |

Section 5

【Additional Information】