

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Shanghai

Course Code / Title: (SH/URBN 353) Globalization and the Chinese City

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Urban Studies / History, International Relations, Development Studies, East Asian Studies, Sociology, Political Science

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

How are Shanghai and other Chinese cities changing under the forces of globalization, urbanization, marketization, and political decentralization? How does urban life differ for city residents and migrant populations? This course examines these topics and the dynamics of China's urban transformation and contemporary city life. Using interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives, it explores the distinctive characteristics of China's urban development in the context of globalization. The class also addresses the issue of whether the concepts and theories born out of the post-industrial Western urban experience are applicable to urban China. It finally identifies and explains the opportunities and challenges that Chinese cities face, given their current urban development strategies and trajectories. The course takes advantage of its location with three field classes to study on the ground how the city is reshaping its past and designing its future.

Objectives

During the course, students:

- gain a firm understanding of China's history, values, and institutions as well as the globalization forces shaping profound urban changes.
- develop an empirical knowledge of the nature of Chinese urban space and the characteristics of Chinese urban people and society.
- acquire the ability to identify and distinguish the differences and similarities of urban space and city people in Chinese and other world cities.
- conduct research in a Chinese environment and present findings to their peers.

Course Requirements

Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings of approximately 50-80 pages per week before each meeting and come to class prepared to actively discuss the readings. Contributions to class discussions should not only reflect completion of the readings but also thought about the authors' ideas and how their research connects to the course themes and queries.

Additional details for graded assignments are shared in class and posted on Canvas. Graded course work includes:

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- Two short essays. Students write two short essays of approximately 1,200 words. These are either critical book reviews based on the assigned readings, supplemented by knowledge from class lectures, field classes, and discussions, or analytical essays on specific topics.
- A collaborative research project. Groups are two to three people depending on class size. Students choose a topic that addresses a significant urban issue. Methods of inquiry should involve on-site research, case studies, interviews, etc. Presentation of findings are graded on originality of topic, thoroughness of investigation, soundness of analysis, and quality of teamwork.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- 30% Two short papers, 15% each
- 20% Preparation for and participation in class
- 50% A collaborative research project
 - 10% Project proposal
 - 10% Progress report
 - 30% Presentation of findings

Class preparation and participation is assessed according to the following guidelines:

Grade	Discussion	Reading/Preparation
A	Excellent: consistent contributor; offers original analysis and comments; always has ideas on readings and class topics and easily connects them to larger ideas. Takes care not to dominate discussion.	Demonstrates fluency with all readings; thoughtfully and critically uses resultant understanding to formulate comments and advance the class discussion.
B	Good: frequent, willing, and able contributor; offers thoughtful and critical comments and makes connections between class themes and readings. Comments tend to advance class learning through discussion.	Demonstrates knowledge of most readings; sometimes provides a competent analysis of them or makes meaningful connections to the class discussion.
C	Can Improve: sporadic contributor; comments and questions often show a lack of understanding of key concepts; comments are often of a general nature; may digress or contribute in unhelpful ways.	Displays familiarity with few readings; rarely demonstrates analytical thought.
D	Subpar: rarely contributes; tends to quote text or repeats own comments or those of others. Comments are disconnected from topics and do not advance class learning.	Little apparent familiarity with the assigned material or application to relevant topics.
F	Failing: Absent from or does not participate in class. Online or using phone during class.	No familiarity with readings and not able to apply their content in class discussion.

Readings

Albert, Justin, dir. *Three Gorges: The Biggest Dam in the World*. United States: Transatlantic, 1998. Discovery Channel Video, c1998. 52 min.

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- Antonioni, Michelangelo, dir. *Chung Kuo, Cina*. Italy: RAI. Distributed in English by ITC. 1972. 220 min.
- Arkaraprasertkul, Non. *Shanghai Contemporary: The Politics of Built Form*. Verlag: VDM, 2009.
- Bandurski, David. *Dragons in Diamond Village: Tales of Resistance from Urbanizing China*. Brooklyn, NY: Melville House Publishing, 2016.
- Chen, Yangqiu, Lai Ning, and Zhang Xueting. "China's City of the Future: Xiong'an New Area." *Hitachi Review* 70, no. 1 (2021): 36-44.
https://www.hitachi.com/rev/archive/2021/r2021_01/pdf/gir.pdf
- Fan, Lixin, dir. *Last Train Home*. Canada: EyeSteelFilm, distributed by Zeitgeist Films. 2009. 85 min.
- Friedman, Thomas L. "Can Red China Become Green China?" In *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution - and How It Can Renew America*, Release 2.0. New York: Picador/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2009.
- Gaetano, Arianne. "Gender and Citizenship Inequality: The Story of Two Migrant Women," In *One Country, Two Societies: Rural Urban Inequality in Contemporary China*, edited by Martin K. Whyte, 265-286. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010.
- He Shenjiang and Fulong Wu. "Property-led Redevelopment in Post-Reform China: A Case Study of the Xintiandi Redevelopment Project in Shanghai." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 27, no. 1 (2005): 1-23.
- Hewitt, Duncan. *Getting Rich First: Life in a Changing China*. New York: Pegasus Books, 2008.
- Hsing, You-Tien. "Land and Territorial Politics in Urban China." *The China Quarterly* 187 (Sept. 2006): 575-591.
- Liu, Zhaowen, Martin de Jong, Fen Li, Nikki Brand, Marcel Hertogh, and Liang Dong. "Towards Developing a New Model for Inclusive Cities in China—The Case of Xiong'an New Area." *Sustainability* 12, no. 15, 6195 (2020): 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12156195>
- Lu, Duanfang, *Remaking Chinese Urban Form: Modernity, Scarcity and Space, 1949-2005*. New York: Routledge, 2006.
- Ren, Xuefei. "China Urbanized: The Rise of China." In *Urban China*, 1-31. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2013.
- Shao, Qin. *Shanghai Gone: Domicide and Defiance in a Chinese Megacity*. London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013.
- Shapiro, Judith. "Deforestation, Famine, and Utopian Urgency: How the Great Leap Forward Mobilized the Chinese People to Attack Nature." In *Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China*, 67-93. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University

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- Press, 2001.
- Shi, Mingzheng. "From Imperial Gardens to Public Parks: The Transformation of Urban Space in Early Twentieth-Century Beijing." *Modern China* 24, no. 3 (July 1998): 219-254.
- _____. "Must the Walls Be Torn Down: The Cultural Dimension of Urban Planning in China." *Planning History* 22, no. 1 (2000): 8-16.
- _____. "The Changing Dynamics of De(Re)centralization in China: Urban Land Policy and the Transformation of the Built Environment." Paper presented at the Conference on Decentralization and Urban Transformation in Asia. Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, March 10-11, 2011.
- Shu, Haolin, dir. *Nostalgia 乡愁*. United States: Icarus Films. Copyright 2006, released 2012. 70 min.
- Visser, Robin. *Cities Surround the Countryside: Urban Aesthetics and Postsocialist China*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010.
- Wei, Lingling, and Stella Yifan Xie. "China's 40-Year Boom Is Over. What Comes Next?" *Wall Street Journal*, online ed. (August 20, 2023): 1-16. <https://www.wsj.com/world/china/china-economy-debt-slowdown-recession-622a3be4>
- Wen, Guanzhong James and Jinwu Xiong. "The Hukou and Land Tenure Systems as Two Middle Income Traps—The Case of Modern China." *Frontiers of Economics in China* 9, no. 3 (2014): 438-59.
- Whyte, Martin King. "The Paradoxes of Rural-Urban Inequality in Contemporary China," *One Country, Two Societies: Rural Urban Inequality in Contemporary China*, 1-21. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010.
- Wu, Weiping and Piper Gaubatz. *The Chinese City*. London: Routledge, 2013.
- Yang, Guobin. "Civic Environmentalism." In *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by You-tien Hsing and Ching Kwan Lee, 119-139. Milton Park, UK: Routledge, 2010.
- Zhou, Hao, dir. *The Chinese Mayor*. Original title: *Datong*. China: Zhaoqi Films, 2015. 87 min.

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Themes and approaches to the study of Chinese cities and urban development

Topic 2: The cultural dimensions of China's urban heritage

Topic 3: Wall and market: Chinese cities in historical perspective

Topic 4: Chinese cities under socialism

Topic 5: Market reform and new processes of city building

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Topic 6: The new built environment of urban China

Topic 7: Urban renewal and historical preservation

Topic 8: China's rural-urban divide

Topic 9: The great migration and China's "floating population"

Topic 10: Political and social costs of urban development; Inequality in urban life

Topic 11: Urban society in flux

Topic 12: Urban consumption and uniquely urban, uniquely Chinese lifestyles

Topic 13: Chinese ideas of nature and the environment through history

Topic 14: Sustainable urban development in China

Topic 15: The future of Chinese cities