

AS 350 URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IES Abroad Shanghai**DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the dynamics of China's urban transformation and city development in the context of globalization. Applying interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives and exploring a set of carefully selected themes related to the distinctive characteristics of China's urban development, the course enables students to gain critical knowledge and understanding of how Chinese urban space is transformed by the forces of globalization, urbanization, marketization, and political decentralization, and what socio-spatial implications are made in a differentiated way upon urban residents and the migrant population. Throughout the course, we ask whether the concepts and theories born out of the post-industrial Western urban experiences can be applicable to the understanding of urban China. We also ask what are the opportunities and challenges that Chinese cities face, given its current urban development strategies and trajectories. Students will benefit from the locational advantage of the course taking place in Shanghai to participate in a number of field trips and site visits.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS

3 credits, 45 contact hours.

PREREQUISITES

None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION

Classes will be conducted in a seminar format involving guest lectures, discussions, case studies, student presentations, and field study. Moodle will be used as the primary online interactive application where course readings are deposited, tasks announced, and assignments completed.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Express a firm understanding of China's own past, values, and institutions as well as the globalization forces shaping profound changes in Chinese cities;
- Demonstrate an empirical knowledge of the nature of Chinese urban space and the characteristics of Chinese urban people and society
- Compare the differences as well as similarities of urban development between Chinese and other world cities.

FORM OF ASSESSMENT

- Midterm exam: 30% (in-class written exam consisting of identifications and short essay questions)
- Final exam: 30% (same format as mid-term covering materials since the mid-term)
- Field study reports (with reflection and analysis): 20%
- Group project: 20%

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is considered mandatory. Please refer to the Center Academic Policy Guidelines which include class attendance policy.

CONTENT

Week 1: Introduction - This session will provide an overview of the content and format of the course, including intellectual themes and practical issues.

Wu and Gaubatz, The Chinese City, pp. 1-7.
Miller, China's Urban Billion, pp. 1-8.

Week 2: Chinese Cities in Historical Perspective - In this session we will delve into Chinese urban heritage by tracing its historical roots and legacies as well as its early 20th century transformation.

Wu and Gaubatz, The Chinese City, pp. 11-67.
Shi, Mingzheng. "Must the Walls be Torn Down: The Cultural Dimension of Urban Planning in China", Planning History 22:1 (2000), pp.8-16.

Week 3: The Urban System since 1949 - We will devote this class session to the discussion of Chinese cities under Mao. In order to understand today's urban landscape and society, it is important to learn about the nature of China's socialist city model characterized by *danweid* and *hukou*.

Ren, Urban China, pp. 1-31.
Wu and Gaubatz, The Chinese City, pp. 71-110.

Week 4: Market Reform and New Processes of City Building in the Global Economy- We will explore the forces of marketization, globalization and decentralization which are driving today's urban transformation.

Ren, Urban China, pp. 32-115.
Miller, China's Urban Billion, pp. 63-117.
Shenjiang He and Fulong Wu, "Property-led Redevelopment in Post-Reform China: A Case Study of Xintiandi Redevelopment project in Shanghai." Journal of Urban Affairs.27:1 (2005).
Field study excursion

Week 5: Livable Cities and Sustainable Urban Development—This session will explore Chinese ideas of nature and environmental protection and address ways to make the city more livable by tackling problems such as air pollution and traffic congestion.

Wu and Gaubatz, The Chinese City, pp. 219-238.
Miller, China's Urban Billion, pp.118-149.
Hee, Limin, et al, "Shanghai's Art Factories as Generators of Urban Revitalization, in Limin Hee, ed., Future Asian Space: Projecting the Urban Space of New East Asia. Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2012, pp.89-108.

Week 6: Review and Midterm Exam

Week 7: The Great Migration and Rural-Urban Divide—We will critically assess the official policy of accelerated urbanization and examine the implications of China becoming a predominantly urban nation in the context of globalization.

Ren, Urban China, pp. 116-144.
Miller, China's Urban Billion, pp.9-30.

Week 8: Political and Social Costs of Urban Development—This session we will examine the political, social, human, and cultural costs of urban change and their consequences. We will assess how the cost factor contributes to the price of China's urban transformation.

Shao, Shanghai Gone, Chs. 1-5.
Film: Fan, Lixin, *Last Train Home*, 2010.

Week 9: Cultural Preservation in the Globalizing City - This session will address the critical issues of urban conservation and heritage protection in China's modernization and globalization drive.

Shu, Haolun, Nostalgia, 2008.
Field study excursion

Week 10: Inequality in Urban Life—This session will focus on the urban underclass: the aging population, the unemployed, the migrant workers, and the ethnic minorities.

Ren, Urban China, pp. 145-190.
Miller, China's Urban Billion, pp. 31-62, 150-173.

Week 11: Urban Governance and Civil Society—We will study how Chinese cities are governed and the dynamic state-society relationship in the age of marketization. We will examine the government's impulse for control of urban life and the rise of the public sphere and civil society brought by technology and globalization.

Wu and Gaubatz, The Chinese City, pp. 252-256.
Ren, Urban China, pp. 32-86.

Week 12: Conclusion and Final Exam

REQUIRED READINGS

Ren, Xuefei. Urban China. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2013.

Wu, Weiping and Gaubatz, Piper. The Chinese City. London & New York: Routledge, 2013.

Miller, Tom. China's Urban Billion: The Story Behind the Biggest Migration in Human History. London & New York: Zed Books, 2012.

Shao, Qin. Shanghai Gone: Domicide and Defiance in a Chinese Megacity. London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013.

Journal articles (see weekly reading assignments in Content).

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Leslie T. Chang, Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China. New York: Random House, 2009.

Campanella, Thomas J. The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What It Means for the World. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2008.

Visser, Robin. Cities Surround The Countryside, Urban Aesthetics in Postsocialist China. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010.

Chen. Xiangming, ed., Shanghai Rising: State Power and Local Transformation in a Global Megacity. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009.

Hsing, You-Tien. The Great Urban Transformation: Politics of Land and Property in China. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

