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.


**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.


**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 danwei and hukou.


**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.

Miller, *China’s Urban Billion*, pp. 63-117.
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.

**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.

**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.

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.

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**


Journal articles (see weekly reading assignments in Content).

**RECOMMENDED READINGS**


