

GEOG 409: Geographies of Developing Asia

Fall 2016

-- Abridged course outline --

Class: 11.35am-2.25pm Tuesdays
Room: Burnside Hall Room 306

Professor: **Sarah Turner**
Office: Burnside Hall, Room 431
E.mail: sarah.turner@mcgill.ca
Office hours: 3-4pm Tuesdays

Teaching assistant (TA): **Noelani Eidse**
[office hours for advice on journals, proposals, and presentations]
Office: Burnside Hall, Room 409
Email: noelani.eidse@mail.mcgill.ca
Office hours: usually Mondays 12.30-1.30pm starting 12 September
*See page 14 of this Outline and MyCourses for specific details,
including extra Thursday office hours before due dates.*

Teaching assistant (TA): **Ammar Adenwala**
[office hours for presentation uploads]
Office: Burnside Hall, Room 320
Email: ammar.adenwala@mail.mcgill.ca
Office hours: TBA



INTRODUCTION



This course introduces you to a range of important debates and considerations that lie at the heart of development geography as they pertain to Asia, a region undergoing massive social, political, economic and industrial changes.

The course is organised around four themes. Initially, the stage is set in Theme 1 'The Context: The geography of Asia' with a brief overview of people, places and politics. Theme 2 then introduces us to the theoretical and conceptual ideas that run alongside the practical debates for the rest of the course. Theme 3 then turns to analyse everyday examples of how Asia is 'developing' economically, socially and politically and what the impacts are on the region's inhabitants and environment. These analyses are divided (somewhat arbitrarily) into: aid strategies; rural development; resource extraction; tourism strategies; and urban pathways to 'development'. The course then concludes with Theme 4, a chance for more detailed, in-depth analyses of the debates surrounding the geography of developing Asia through student presentations.

COURSE AIMS

The aims of this course are:

1. to introduce current development questions through an examination of the Asian region;
2. to critically examine the major processes of social, economic, political and environmental change in Asia through regional and local case studies;
3. to develop the critical writing and analytical skills of students through a research proposal, reading journal, presentation and oral critiquing skills.



COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is based on a series of lectures, videos, group activities, class discussions and student group presentations, as well as related readings. You are expected to attend the full 3 hour session every week, read the articles assigned for each lecture, *and* participate fully in class.

Readings:



You are required to read a variety of material in conjunction with the lectures. You **SHOULD** complete the key readings *BEFORE* the related lectures, as they will provide the background information for the discussions taking place in class. You will also write your reflections on these in your Review and Reading Journal.

This course is not based on a single text. Instead it covers a wide breadth of material through a range of literature. The key readings are available via MyCourses. A few recommended reference texts are also on reserve at the Social Sciences library. See details in Reading list below.

Enrolling in this course is a serious commitment on your part to actively learn about the topics being taught. I thus expect an average of three to four hours reading a week.

ASSESSMENT COMPOSITION

How will the course be assessed?

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|--|---|
| 1. Research proposal | Due date:
25% Mon 24 Oct, 5pm. – TA box, Burnside Hall 7 th floor |
| 2. Review and Reading journal | a) <u>Informal feedback</u> (optional):
In person during office hours: see Prof Turner or TA Noelani Eidse (it's best to do this earlier in semester!) |
| Covers weeks 1-2, 4-8, 10. | 30% b) <u>Final submission</u> : Mon 14 Nov, 5pm.
– complete on MyCourses |
| 3. Group presentation | |
| a) Presentation – grade from peer evaluation | 10% In class, last 3 weeks of semester |
| b) Presentation – grade from Prof & TA | 20% |
| 4. Course participation | |
| a) Group work peer assessment | 5% Fri 2 Dec, 5pm. – TA box, Burnside Hall 7 th floor |
| b) Overall course participation | 10% |

Note: this is an abridged course outline.

The complete outline is available on MyCourses for students, including the reading list.

COURSE SCHEDULE: FALL 2016

Week	Date	Class topic
Theme 1. Context: The geography of Asia		
1*	6 Sept	Course details. Introduction to the course via themes and places. Colonial processes transforming Asia.
2*	13 Sept	Asia: politics and place
Theme 2. The Question: How do we theorise development?		
3	20 Sept	Conceptualising development and change in Asia. Tutorial ~ <u>how to write a research proposal</u> ** Important information in this class for your conceptual frameworks**
4*	27 Sept	The authoritarian and democratic toolboxes. Guest lecture: Jean-François Rousseau
Theme 3. Development approaches: everyday impacts on people and the environment		
5*	4 Oct	Development aid strategies: do they work? <i>All presentation groups to have meet with Prof Turner before end of her office hours, Tues 4 October.</i>
6*	11 Oct	Exploitation of natural resources: dammed (damned?) rivers. Guest lecture: Jean-François Rousseau
7*	18 Oct	Rural development, food security, and resistance.
8*	25 Oct	Tourism: Blessing or blight? <i>Research proposal due Monday 24 Oct. 5pm, TA Box 7th floor Burnside Hall</i>
9	1 Nov	** Self-directed learning week (aka no class)** <i>- polish journals up until now, and work on group presentations</i>
10*	8 Nov	Urban pathways to 'development'. Guest lecture: Noelani Eidse
Theme 4. Development approaches: in-depth analyses from throughout the region		
11	15 Nov	<i>Group presentations – aid strategies / rural development</i> <i>Journals due on My Courses for final grading on Monday 14 Nov. 5pm</i>
12	22 Nov	<i>Group presentations – natural resource exploitation / tourism approaches</i>
13	29 Nov	<i>Group presentations – urban dilemmas / migration strategies</i> <i>Group work assessment sheets filled in Friday 2nd Dec, 5pm. – TA box 7th floor Burnside Hall</i>

* = classes covered by the review and reading journals.