

# *GEOG 409: Geographies of Developing Asia*

Fall 2017

-- Abridged course outline --

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

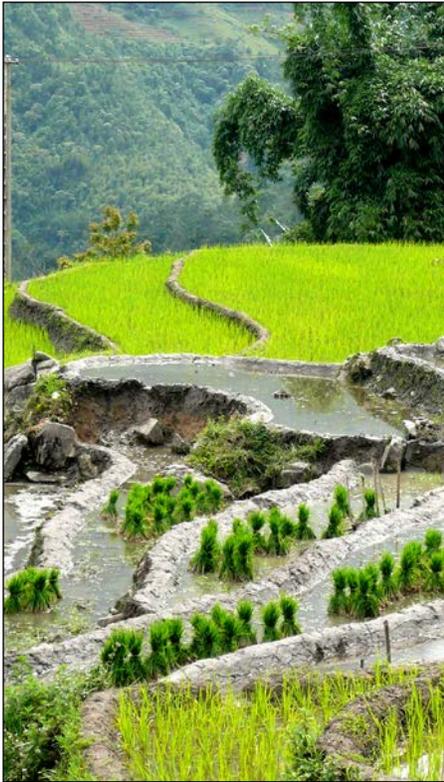
Professor: **Sarah Turner**  
Office: Burnside Hall, Room 431  
Email: sarah.turner@mcgill.ca  
Office hours: 3-4pm Wednesdays

Teaching assistant (TA): **Abe Solberg**  
*[office hours for advice on journals, proposals, and presentations]*  
Office: Burnside Hall, Room 410  
Email: charles.solberg@mail.mcgill.ca  
Office hours: 11am-12noon Tuesdays, starting 12 Sept.

Teaching assistant (TA): **Patrick Slack**  
*[office hours for presentation uploads only]*  
Office: TBA, Burnside Hall (see MyCourses)  
Email: patrick.slack@mcgill.mail.ca  
Office hours: 10-11am Wednesdays



## 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:

1. Theme 1 'The Context: The geography of Asia' sets the stage with a brief overview of people, places and politics.
2. Theme 2 introduces us to the theoretical and conceptual ideas that run alongside the practical debates for the rest of the course.
3. Theme 3 turns to analyse everyday examples of how Asia is 'developing' economically, socially, and politically and what this means for 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'.
4. The course 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 OBJECTIVES

*The objectives 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 classes. You **SHOULD** complete the key readings *BEFORE* the related class, 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. 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?*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1. Research proposal</b>                  | <b>Due date:</b><br>25% <b>Mon 16 Oct</b> , 5pm. – TA box, Burnside Hall 7 <sup>th</sup> floor  |
| <b>2. Review and Reading journal</b>         | a) <u>Informal feedback</u> (optional):<br>In person during office hours: see Prof Turner or TA Abe Solberg (it's best to do this earlier in semester!) |
| Covers weeks 1-2, 4-9                        | 30% b) <u>Final submission</u> : <b>Mon 6 Nov</b> , 5pm.<br>– complete on MyCourses   |
| <b>3. Group presentation</b>                 |   |
| a) Presentation – grade from peer evaluation | 10% In class, last 3 weeks of semester  |
| b) Presentation – grade from Prof & TA       | 20%   |
| <b>4. Course participation</b>               |   |
| a) Group work peer assessment                | 5% <b>Fri 1 Dec</b> , 5pm. – TA box, Burnside Hall 7 <sup>th</sup> 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 2017

Week	Date	Class topic
<b>Theme 1. Context: The geography of Asia</b>		
1*	6 Sept	Course details. Introduction to the course via themes and places. Colonial processes transforming Asia.
2*	13 Sept	Asia: politics and place
<b>Theme 2. The Question: How do we theorise development?</b>		
3	20 Sept	Conceptualising development and change in Asia. Tutorial ~ <a href="#">how to write a research proposal</a> <b>** Important information in this class for your conceptual frameworks**</b>
4*	27 Sept	The authoritarian and democratic toolboxes. <b>Guest lecture: Jean-François Rousseau</b>
<b>Theme 3. Development approaches: everyday impacts on people and the environment</b>		
5*	4 Oct	Development aid strategies: do they work?
6*	11 Oct	Exploitation of natural resources: dammed (damned?) rivers. <b>Guest lecture: Jean-François Rousseau</b>
7*	18 Oct	Rural development, food security, and resistance. <i>Research proposal due Monday 16 Oct. 5pm, TA Box 7<sup>th</sup> floor Burnside Hall</i>
8*	25 Oct	Tourism: Blessing or blight? <i>All presentation groups to have meet with Prof Turner before end of her office hours, Wed 25 October.</i>
9*	1 Nov	Urban pathways to 'development'.
10	8 Nov	<b>** Self-directed learning week (aka no class)**</b> <i>Prepare group presentations</i> <i>Journals due on My Courses for final grading on Monday 6 Nov. 5pm</i>
<b>Theme 4. Development approaches: in-depth analyses from throughout the region</b>		
11	15 Nov	Group presentations – aid strategies / rural development
12	22 Nov	Group presentations – natural resource exploitation / tourism approaches
13	29 Nov	Group presentations – urban dilemmas / migration strategies <i>Group work assessment sheets filled in Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 5pm. – TA box 7<sup>th</sup> floor Burnside Hall</i>

\* = classes covered by the Review and Reading Journals.