

GEOG 525: Asian Cities in the 21st Century

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Office: Burnside 413 | Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:30 a.m. (or by appointment)

Winter 2017 meeting times: Tuesdays 2:35-5:25 p.m.

Location: Burnside Hall 429

Course Description

Asia is a rapidly urbanizing region that is home to 16 of the world's 25 largest cities. Between 1990 and 2010, the urban population of Asia increased by over 754 million people, equal to the combined population of the United States and the European Union. *Asian Cities in the 21st Century* examines this vibrant region and some of the current themes relating to mass urbanization in a range of contexts and how these themes affect society and the built environment of Asian cities. The course will explore various scholarly approaches to understanding Asian cities and current theoretical debates, including those that challenge western-centric approaches to understanding urban change in the region. A variety of themes will be investigated through which students will gain familiarity with some of the major themes relating to urban change in Asia: national identity, neoliberalism, urban mobilities, social exclusions, migration, ethnicity and sustainability. The regions covered include East Asia (China, Japan, South Korea), Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar / Burma), Arab states (United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar), and South Asia (India).

Students interested in urban and cultural geography, cities, architecture, planning and contemporary urban change in Asian cultural contexts will enjoy this course.

Goals for this course

This course will:

- Encourage students to gain a deeper understanding of contemporary Asia through examining contemporary urban change
- Broaden students' awareness of the wide variety of cities in Asia and some of the most pressing issues facing Asian cities today
- Encourage students to develop analytical and critical thinking skills and to gain familiarity with interdisciplinary urban studies methods
- Increase students' understanding of the various scholarly approaches to understanding contemporary Asian cities and to gain familiarity with some of the major areas of enquiry relating to urban change in Asia

Assignments and evaluation

This course will be graded based on two written assignments, one presentation and participation.

10% Participation – While each class begins with a lecture, the session is dominated by class discussion guided by assigned readings and current events. Students must attend each class and will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of their comments in class. Missing a class will affect your participation mark. Half of the participation

mark comes from contributing to an online forum (<https://www.facebook.com/AsianCitiesMcGill>). Add an article relevant to the course material with a paragraph comment (minimum 150 words). Post a minimum of 10 articles or comments on classmates' articles to get the full 5%. Keep a log of your comments, links to articles and the date you posted them to ensure I don't miss any! Submit the log to me by email before the final day of classes.

20% - Weekly critical reflection papers – Students will write 3-page (1.5 spaced, 12 pt, Times New Roman, standard margins) critical reflections on the readings and submit them **at the start of each class**. Of the 12 classes, 10 reflection papers must be submitted. You can choose which two weeks not to submit reflection papers. They are graded out of 4 and full marks are awarded to high quality, well-written, insightful papers that engage critically with the readings and pose several discussion questions. Briefly explain the core argument each author is making, the evidence each uses to make their argument, and what the paper contributes to our understanding of contemporary Asian cities. Is their argument convincing? Why / why not? At the start of your critical reflection paper, please write 5-6 key words that summarize the themes explored in the readings.

10% Discussion leader – Students will each sign up for one class in which to act as discussion leader for the assigned readings (students each present two readings). In addition to the scholarly readings, students must also find several current newspaper / magazine articles about the topic of the week in order to enrich the discussion and ground the topic in contemporary events and changes in Asian cities. The newspaper articles must be submitted Friday so everyone has a chance to read them. A maximum of 2 students may sign up for one week, but it must be a week in which there are four readings. Each student will lead a 30-40 minute discussion on the themes found in the assigned reading and in the newspaper articles they find and provide a set of discussion questions for the class in order to structure the discussion. The questions can be digitally projected in the classroom or written on a white board in the classroom or copied and distributed in class. Students are encouraged to find outside visual material (e.g. marketing material, images, photos, film clips, etc) to supplement the discussion. Start with a 10 minute summary of the readings and the topic, following by a guided discussion.

20% Book review – In this assignment, students will review a recently published academic book relating to Asian cities. You can choose from the below list or find a suitable book on your own that relates to your thesis or your own personal interests. If you choose a book not listed below, please run it by me first. The book review (1500-2000 words) should contextualize the book within the broader literature, provide a brief summary of the content, and a critical analysis of the contribution. Students are encouraged to look to published book reviews in scholarly publications for guidance. (see detailed assignment sheet) (Due Monday, Oct. 19)

Bates, C., & Mio, M. (Eds.). (2015). *Cities in South Asia*. Routledge.

Bharne, V. (2013). *The Emerging Asian City: Concomitant Urbanities and Urbanisms*. Routledge.

Chow, R. Y. (2015). *Changing Chinese Cities: The Potentials of Field Urbanism*. NUS Press.

Daniels, P. W., Ho, K. C., & Hutton, T. A. (Eds.). (2012). *New economic spaces in Asian cities: From industrial restructuring to the cultural turn*. Taylor & Francis.

Guinness, P. (2009). *Kampung, Islam and state in urban Java*. NUS Press.

Hamnett, S., & Forbes, D. (Eds.). (2012). *Planning Asian cities: Risks and resilience*. Routledge.

King, R. (2011). *Reading Bangkok*. Singapore: Nus Press.

McKinnon, M. (2011). *Asian cities: globalization, urbanization and nation-building*. Nias Press.

Miller, Michelle A. and Bunnell, Tim. (Eds.) *Asian Cities in an Era of Decentralisation*. Routledge.

Perera, N., & Tang, W. S. (Eds.). (2012). *Transforming Asian cities: intellectual impasse, Asianizing space, and emerging translocalities*. Routledge.

Roy, A., & Ong, A. (Eds.). (2011). *Worlding cities: Asian experiments and the art of being global* (Vol. 42). John Wiley & Sons.

Tortajada, C., Joshi, Y., & Biswas, A. K. (2013). *The Singapore water story: sustainable development in an urban city state*. Routledge.

Viray, E., Boontharm, D., & Hee, L. (Eds.). (2012). *Future Asian space: projecting the urban space of new East Asia*. NUS Press.

Watson, J. K. (2011). *The New Asian City: Three-dimensional Fictions of Space and Urban Form*. U of Minnesota Press.

Wong, T. C., & Rigg, J. (Eds.). (2010). *Asian cities, migrant labor and contested spaces*. Routledge.

10% Paper outline, abstract and bibliography - Students will prepare a detailed outline as well as a 150-200 word abstract and list of references for their final paper. You will be assessed on the quality of the outline, the flow and logic, clarity of argument, the relevance and thoroughness of the bibliography, and the quality of the abstract. (Due Monday, Nov. 2)

30% Final paper – This final research paper should be 4-5,000 words (double-spaced, 12 pt, Times New Roman, standard margins). Papers must: 1) engage with a theoretical debate that we examine in class 2) examine a theme explored in this course in depth. (see detailed assignment sheet) (Due Dec. 16 by email)

*late assignments will be penalized 10% per day. Assignments are considered late if they are not submitted at the start of class.

*weekly critical reflection papers will only be accepted at the beginning of each class. None will be accepted by email or at the end of class or later.

Class schedule and readings *readings can be downloaded from MyCourses

<p>1. Tuesday, Jan 10 Introduction – Asian cities in an age of change</p>	<p>In the first class, I will introduce the Asia region and various urbanism trends. We will examine ‘Asian Cities’ as a topic of academic study as well as some of the problems with terms including the ‘global south’. Finally, we will explore several of the main theoretical approaches to understanding urban change in Asia.</p> <p>Videos + discussion</p> <p>1) Why use the term ‘urban global south’? http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/dpu60/tab</p> <p>2) What do current debates on the urban global south imply for planning? http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/dpu60/tab/film-2</p> <p>3) What kind of theory is required for the urban global south? Do we require a new urban theory or the reworking of existing conceptualizations? http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/dpu60/tab/film-3</p>
<p>2. Tuesday, Jan 17</p> <p>Rethorizing cities in Asia</p>	<p>Bunnell, Tim; Goh, Daniel P. S.; Lai, Chee-Kien; and Pow, C. P. (2012) ‘Introduction: Global urban frontiers? Asian cities in theory, practice and imagination’, <i>Urban Studies</i> 49 (13): 2785-2793.</p> <p>Chen, Xiangming; Moser, Sarah; and Kundu, Ratoola. (2016) Intro to <i>The Research Handbook on Asian Cities</i>. Edward Elgar.</p>

	Robinson, Jennifer. (2014) 'Introduction to a virtual issue on comparative urbanism', <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> DOI: 10.1111/1468-2427.12171
3. Tuesday, Jan 24 Neoliberalism and beyond	Harvey, David. (2005) <i>Brief History of Neoliberalism</i> . Oxford University Press. 152-182. Ong, Aihwa. (2007) 'Neoliberalism as a mobile technology', <i>Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers</i> 32 3-8. Parnell, Susan and Robinson, Jennifer. (2012) '(Re)theorizing cities from the Global South: Looking beyond neoliberalism', <i>Urban Geography</i> 33 (4): 593-617.
4. Tuesday, Jan 31 Gentrification	Chang, T.C. (2014) 'New uses need old buildings: Gentrification aesthetics and the arts in Singapore', <i>Urban Studies</i> (forthcoming). 1-16. Ley, David and Teo, Sin Yih. (2013) 'Gentrification in Hong Kong? Epistemology vs. ontology', <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> . Jou, Sue-Ching; Clark, Eric; and Chen, Hsiao-Wei. (2014) 'Gentrification and revanchist urbanism in Taipei?', <i>Urban Studies</i> (forthcoming). Choi, Narae. (2014) 'Metro Manila through the gentrification lens: Disparities in urban planning and displacement risks', <i>Urban Studies</i> (forthcoming) 1-16.
5. Tuesday Feb 7 Heritage, cultural revivalism and the city	Moser, Sarah. (2011) 'Constructing cultural heritage in new cities in Southeast Asia', <i>International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter</i> 57. Jacobs, Jessive. (2010) 'Re-branding the Levant: Contested heritage and colonial modernities in Amman and Damascus', <i>Journal of Tourism and Cultural Exchange</i> 8 (4): 325-336. Tan, Chris K.K. (2014) 'Rainbow belt: Singapore's gay Chinatown as a Lefebvrian space', <i>Urban Studies</i> (forthcoming) 1-16. 0042098014544761. Peleggi, Maurizio. (2005) 'Consuming colonial nostalgia: The monumentalisation of historic hotels in urban South-East Asia', <i>Asia Pacific Viewpoint</i> 46 (3): 255-265.
	no class on October 12!! (Thanksgiving)
6. Tuesday Feb 14 Knowledge economy	Wong, Kai Wen and Bunnell, Tim. (2006) 'New economy' discourse and space in Singapore: A case study of one-north, <i>Environment and Planning A</i> 38: 69-83. Yigitcanlar, T., & Bulu, M. (2015). 'Dubaiization of Istanbul: insights from the knowledge-based urban development journey of an emerging local economy', <i>Environment and Planning A</i> , 47(1), 89-107. Zhao, P. (2010). 'Building knowledge city in transformation era: Knowledge-based urban development in Beijing in the context of globalisation and decentralisation', <i>Asia Pacific Viewpoint</i> , 51(1), 73-90.
7. Tuesday, Feb 21	Bunnell, Tim and Das, Diganta (2010) 'Urban pulse – A Geography of serial seduction: Urban policy transfer from Kuala Lumpur to Hyderabad', <i>Urban Geography</i> 31 (3): 277-284.

Circulating urban policy and inter-referencing	<p>Phelps, N. A., Bunnell, T., Miller, M. A., & Taylor, J. (2014). 'Urban inter-referencing within and beyond a decentralized Indonesia'. <i>Cities</i>, 39, 37-49.</p> <p>Pow, Choon Piew. (2014) 'License to travel: Policy assemblage and the "Singapore model"', <i>City</i> 18 (3): 287-306.</p>
Reading week Feb 27 – March 3 – no class!	
<p>8. Tues, March 7</p> <p>Culture, identity and branding</p>	<p>Bageen, Samer. (2007) 'Brand Dubai: The instant city; or the instantly recognizable city', <i>International Planning Studies</i> 12 (2): 173-197.</p> <p>Yeoh, B. S. (2005). 'The global cultural city? Spatial imagineering and politics in the (multi) cultural marketplaces of South-east Asia', <i>Urban Studies</i>, 42(5-6), 945-958.</p> <p>Lui, Tai-Lok. (2008) 'City-branding without content: Hong Kong's aborted West Kowloon mega-project, 1998-2006', <i>International Development Planning Review</i> 30 (3): 215-226.</p> <p>Zhao, Yawei. (2015) "'China's leading historical cultural city": Branding Dali City through public-private partnerships in Bai architecture revitalization', <i>Cities</i> 49: 106-112.</p>
*** Paper outline, abstract and bibliography due at the beginning of class, Nov. 2***	
<p>9. Tues, March 14</p> <p>Mobilities and flows</p>	<p>Law, Lisa. (2002) 'Defying disappearance: Cosmopolitan public spaces in Hong Kong', <i>Urban Studies</i> 39 (9): 1625-1645.</p> <p>Collins, Francis Leo. (2011) 'Transnational mobilities and urban spatialities: Notes from the Asia-Pacific', <i>Progress in Human Geography</i> 36 (3): 316-335.</p> <p>Faier, Lieba. (2012) 'Affective investments in the Manila region: Filipina migrants in rural Japan and transnational urban development in the Philippines', <i>Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers</i> 38 (3): 376-390.</p>
<p>10. Tues, March 21</p> <p>Accommodating the masses: Emerging housing patterns in Asian cities</p>	<p>Roy, Ananya. (2011) 'Slumdog cities: Rethinking subaltern urbanism', <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> 35 (2): 223-38.</p> <p>Wang, Jun. (2012) 'The developmental state in the global hegemony of neoliberalism: A new strategy for public housing in Singapore', <i>Cities</i> 29 (6): 369-378.</p> <p>Nakamura, Shohei. (2014) 'Impact of slum formalization on self-help housing construction: A case of slum notification in India', <i>Urban Studies</i> (forthcoming) 1-25.</p>
<p>11. Tues, March 28</p> <p>Social exclusions</p>	<p>Hogan, Trevor et al. (2012) 'Asian urbanisms and the privatization of cities', <i>Cities</i> 29: 59-63.</p> <p>Glasze, George. (2006) 'Segregation and seclusion: The case of compounds for western expatriates in Saudi Arabia', <i>GeoJournal</i> 66: 83-88.</p>

Pow, Choon-Piew. (2007) 'Securing the 'civilised' enclaves: Gated communities and the moral geographies of exclusion in (post-)socialist Shanghai', *Urban Studies* 44 (8): 1539-1558.

12. Tues, April 4

'Green' cities

Koch, Natalie. (2014). "'Building glass refrigerators in the desert": discourses of urban sustainability and nation building in Qatar', *Urban Geography*, 35(8), 1118-1139.

Hoffman, Lisa. (2011) 'Urban modeling and contemporary technologies of city-building in China: The production of regimes of green urbanisms', In Roy, Ananya and Ong, Aihwa (Eds.) *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*. Blackwell: Oxford, 55-76. (ebook available through McGill Libraries)

Tan, Puay Yok; Wang, James; and Sia, Angelia. (2013) 'Perspectives on five decades of the urban greening of Singapore', *Cities* 32: 24-32.

13. Tues, April 11

Paper writing and feedback session

*****Final paper due April 21 – please email it to me as a Word document before 5:00pm*****

Academic integrity: *McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)*

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Language: *In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded." (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)*

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Other info and links:

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