

GEOG 409: Geographies of Developing Asia

Fall 2020
Online version



Professor: **Sarah Turner**
Email: sarah.turner@mcgill.ca

Zoom 'check-ins': 2.30-3.30pm Tuesdays (optional but highly recommended)
[Note: No zooms on 29 Sept, 27 Oct, 17 Nov, 1 Dec]

Prof Turner's office hours: 4.30pm Tuesdays

Tutorials (3 total): Weeks of 28 Sept, 26 Oct, 16 Nov (mandatory)
[See details later in Course Outline]

Student contact teaching assistant (TA): **Patrick Slack**
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Teaching assistant (TA): **Camila Florez Bossio**
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Office hours: TBD

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 three themes:

1. Theme 1 'Contextualising and conceptualising the geography of Asia' sets the stage with a brief overview of people, places and politics.
2. Theme 2 'Development approaches: everyday impacts on people and the environment' 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.
3. The course concludes with Theme 3, 'Development approaches: in-depth analyses from throughout the region', a chance for more detailed, in-depth analyses of the debates surrounding the geography of developing Asia through group video presentations and feedback.

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, geo-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, review and reading journal, video presentation, and critiquing skills.



COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is based on a series of 'virtual lectures' (videos of lectures or videos of films to watch), as well as related readings, written and video assignments, three (3) tutorials, and (optional but highly recommended) Zoom 'check-in' discussions with Prof Turner and the TAs.

The course is designed to be **asynchronous** except for 3 tutorials (for which there are different time options you can select from).

The **Zoom ‘check in’ discussions** are optional but *strongly recommended* to keep you on track, to help you feel part of a class dynamic, to brainstorm ideas (often in small break-out groups with TAs or research assistants - RAs), and for any questions you might have. They will not be recorded, so as to keep them more informal, but any new information arising will be posted on MyCourses.

Readings:



You are required to read a variety of material in conjunction with the ‘virtual lectures’. It will also make the tutorial discussions a lot more interesting for you if you’ve read the relevant articles beforehand (more details during the semester). You will also write your reflections on these readings 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.

ASSESSMENT COMPOSITION

How will the course be assessed?

Assessment item:	Grade:
1. Research proposal	25%
2. Virtual lecture and reading journal	30%
3. Group presentation video	
Presentation	20%
Presentation peer reviews of 10 group videos	10%
4. Course participation	
Tutorial participation	10%
Group work peer assessment	5%

*This is an abridged version of the Geog 409 Course outline.
The full outline is available to registered students on MyCourses.*