



CCSS3700/CHES3007/CHES5155 Urban China*

2020-21, Term 2

Mon 14:30-16:15; Wed 13:30-14:15

Venue: Zoom

Instructor: Professor LING Minhua (email: mhling@cuhk.edu.hk)
Office Hours: Mon 16:15-17:00 or by appointment via email in advance
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This English-taught, upper-level seminar will examine the socioeconomic, political, and cultural facets of urbanization with a regional focus on China, probably the best living laboratory to study urban development in today's world. The goal of this course is to introduce to students the key themes and concepts in urban studies and help students develop critical observation and analysis regarding the process of urbanization and its lived experiences in the Chinese context. This seminar will also draw comparative lessons from other regions to encourage a comparative understanding of the complex processes of urbanization across the globe.

Students will be guided to investigate critically urban issues ranging from land politics, urban planning, urban governance, to citizen rights, urban space, and urban culture. Two sets of readings will be introduced: classic writings in the field of urban anthropology/geography/sociology, and empirical studies specific on China. After offering an overview of China's quest for modernity and its urban transformation since the late imperial era, this course takes an interdisciplinary approach to examine in details China's unprecedented urban development in the post-reform era. Readings and in-class discussion will be supplemented by a hands-on field trip in Hong Kong if possible, taking full advantage of Hong Kong as a global city with some most intriguing urban landscapes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, students should:

- be familiar with key concepts and theories in urban studies
- be able to comprehend the main issues of urbanization in the Chinese context
- grasp the basic of literature research on a chosen topic
- improve analytical skills and academic writing in English
- develop oral skills to present coherent and succinct analysis collaboratively

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation:	20%
In-class Quizzes	15%
Fieldtrip & Mapping Exercise:	10%
Case Study Project:	55%

* This is a working syllabus. Contents and readings are subject to change upon notification. For MA students who take this class, please notice that there is different requirement regarding the term paper.

Class Participation (20%): Students are expected to come to class **on time, having done the required readings, ready to ask questions and offer comments.** Students will earn a weekly participation grade on the basis of regular attendance **with Zoom camera on throughout each session and active engagement** in class discussions. Students with more than two unexcused absence after the first two weeks will lose half of their participation points. For those who apply for medical leave, please email an e-copy of clinic/doctor's certification to the TA for record.

In-class quizzes (15%): Students need to take **five multiple-choice quizzes** administered via Zoom during class between Weeks 3 and 12. These quizzes aim to enhance students' reading comprehension and facilitate class discussion.

Fieldtrip and Mapping Exercise (10%): Students will participate in a short fieldtrip in Hong Kong to explore the city's urban space while learning to take fieldnote. If the pandemic prevents such a trip in Hong Kong, students would conduct a short fieldtrip on their own in the neighborhoods where they live, submit their fieldnotes, and draw a map of the neighborhood. Students may use some sort of base map and add their own specificities to show how they see the place and its spatial configuration and reflect upon the built environment and the socioeconomic activities in it. Students may use pictures, captions, notes or other creative means for illustration. Assignment specifics will be posted on Blackboard.

Case Study Project (55%): Students will choose one of the given topics discussed in class to build one case study through the second half of the semester to demonstrate their critical understandings of the issue. The project contains three parts:

- 1) **Case Proposal (5%):** two-page case study proposal that provides basic info of the proposed case (specific topic, specific locale in China [including Hong Kong], relevant concept or theory, key questions to ask and answer, sources, a reference list)
- 2) **Case Presentation (10%):** a **5-min presentation** with the aid of PowerPoint slides to introduce the specific contextual information and key analytical points regarding the selected case based on reading and research.
- 3) **Final Case Report (40%):** The report should provide specific information and critical analysis of the case, constructing an in-depth description of the issue at stake while applying some of the concepts or theories mentioned in class to the analysis. The report should be about **2000 words for Ug students** (no less than 1800 and no more than 2500 words), and **3000 words for MA students** (no less than 2800 and no more than 3500 words, in **12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margin** at all sides, **1.5-spaced, page numbered**, with **word count** in the end of the essay), with a **reference list in the end** in APA bibliographic format. **NO title page** is needed.

A detailed guideline and grading criteria for the group project will be distributed in class.

An **e-copy** of the final report in WORD file (.doc) must be submitted to the **Blackboard** together with a **signed Veriguide** receipt no later than **5pm on April 28 (Wed), 2021**. **NO** late submission will be accepted. Students should submit the papers to the **Veriguide** system and sign the **Veriguide receipt**. See the website: https://services.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx.

Any cases of plagiarism will be severely penalized and reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, which could result in failure or expulsion from the University.

COURSE READINGS

- All required readings (as listed below) will **be provided in PDF format** via CUHK's eLearning system (downloadable on **Blackboard**).
- Some useful references are listed here, and students are encouraged to check out the additional readings for references while conducting case studies.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE & READING LIST

Week 1 Introduction: Urbanization and the Chinese Experience

January 11 & 13

- Documentary: *Last Train Home* (Directed by Fan Lixin, 2011). Available via CUHK Library website.

Recommended Reading:

- Brenner, Neil. 2013. "Theses on Urbanization." *Public Culture* 25 (1):85-114.
- Friedmann, John. 2006. "Four Theses in the Study of China's Urbanization." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 30 (2):440-451.
- Feng, Jian, Fulong Wu, and John Logan. 2008. "From Homogenous to Heterogeneous: The Transformation of Beijing's Socio-Spatial Structure." *Built Environment* 34 (4):482-498.

Week 2 Understanding the Urban

January 18 & 20

Required Reading:

- Engles, Friedrich. 2011. "The great towns." [Originally published in *The Conditions of the Working Class in England in 1844*]. *The City Reader*. Eds. LeGates, R. & Stout, F. Oxford: Routledge: 46-54.
- Simmel, Georg. 2013 (1903). "The metropolis and mental life." In *The Urban Sociology Reader: Second Edition*. Eds. Lin, Jan & Christopher Mele. Routledge: London & New York: 23-31.
- Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a way of life." *The American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. no. 44: 1-24.

Recommended Reading:

- Castells, Manuel. 1977. *The Urban Question: A Marxist Approach*. English-language ed, *Social structure and social change*. London: E. Arnold.
- LeGates, R. & Stout, F. eds. 2011. *The City Reader*. Oxford: Routledge:

Week 3 Urban Development in Late-Imperial China

January 25 & 27

Required Reading:

- Rowe, William T. 1989. "City People." In *Hankow: Conflict and Community in a Chinese City, 1796-1895*. 15-63. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Recommended Reading:

- Skinner, G. William. 1977. "Introduction: Urban Development in Imperial China." In *The City in Late Imperial China*, edited by G. William Skinner, 3-32. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Brook, Timothy. 1998. "Summer: The Last Century." In *The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China*. Berkeley; Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Week 4 Modernity and Urban Transformation

February 1 & 3

Required Reading:

- Rogaski, Ruth. 2000. "Hygienic Modernity in Tianjin." In *Remaking the Chinese City: Modernity and National Identity, 1900-1950*, edited by Joseph Esherick, 30-46. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- Zhang, Jun. 2017. "Materializing a form of urban governance: When street building intersected with city building in Republican Canton (Guangzhou), China." *History and Technology* 33 (2):153-174.

Recommended Reading:

- Esherick, Joseph, 2000. "Modernity and Nation in the Chinese City." In *Remaking the Chinese City: Modernity and National Identity, 1900-1950*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- Lu, Hanchao. 1995. Away from Nanking Road: Small stores and neighborhood life in modern Shanghai. *Journal of Asian Studies*. 54 (1): 93-123.
- Carroll, Peter J. 2006. Introduction and Ch1 "Industry and vice along the horse-road." In *Between Heaven and Modernity: Reconstructing Suzhou, 1895-1937*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Week 5 Urban Development and Land Politics

February 8 & 10

Required Reading

- Molotch, Harvey. 2011(1976). "The city as a growth machine: Toward a political economy of place." In *The City Reader*, 293-304. London; New York: Routledge. (Originally published in *American Journal of Sociology* Vol. 82, No. 2: 309-332)
- Chan, Roger C. K., and Lingyue Li. 2017. "Entrepreneurial city and the restructuring of urban space in Shanghai Expo." *Urban Geography* 38 (5): 666-686.
- Documentary: *The Chinese Mayor* (Director: Zhou, Hao. 2015). Available via CUHK library website.

Recommended Reading:

- Hsing, You-tien. 2006. "Land and Territorial Politics in Urban China." *The China Quarterly* (187):575-591.
- Shieh, Leslie. 2011. "Becoming Urban: Rural-Urban Integration in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province." *Pacific Affairs* 84 (3):475-94.

February 15 NO CLASS (Lunar New Year Holiday)

Week 6 Urban Planning and Infrastructure Building

February 17

Required Reading:

- Le Corbusier. 2011 (1929). "A Contemporary City." In *The City Reader*, 336-344. London; New York: Routledge.
- Chen, Chia-Lin, and Biao Wei. 2013. "High-Speed Rail and Urban Transformation in China: The Case of Hangzhou East Rail Station." *Built Environment* 39 (3):385-398.

Recommended Reading:

- Wright, Frank Lloyd. 2011 (1935). "Broadacre City: A New Community Plan." In *The City Reader*, edited by Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, 355-350. London; New York: Routledge.

- Abramson, D., & Qi, Y. 2011. 'Urban-Rural Integration' in the Earthquake Zone: Sichuan's Post-Disaster Reconstruction and the Expansion of the Chengdu Metropole. *Pacific Affairs*, 84(3), 495-523.
- Zhang, Jun. 2016. "Taxis, Traffic, and Thoroughfares: The Politics of Transportation Infrastructure in China's Rapid Urbanization in the Reform Era." *City & Society*, 28(3), pp. 411–436.
- Kipnis, Andrew. 2016. Ch2 "Recombinant Planning." *From Village to City: Social Transformation in a Chinese County Seat*. University of California Press. pp 31-65.

Week 7 Urban Governance

February 22 & 24

Required Reading:

- Bray, David. 2008. "Designing to Govern: Space and Power in Two Wuhan Communities." *Built Environment* 34 (4):392-407.
- Wang, June, and George S. M. Li. 2017. "State territorialization, neoliberal governmentality: the remaking of Dafen oil painting village, Shenzhen, China." *Urban Geography* 38(5):708-728.

Recommended Reading:

- Harvey, David. 1989. "From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: The transformation in urban governance in late capitalism." *Geografiska Annaler*. 71B, no. 1: 3-17.
- Hoffman, Lisa M. 2013. "Decentralization as a Mode of Governing the Urban in China: Reforms in Welfare Provisioning and the Rise of Volunteerism." *Pacific Affairs* 86 (4):835-855.
- Tomba, Luigi. 2014. Chapter 2 "Micro-Governing the Urban Crisis". *The Government Next Door: Neighborhood Politics in Urban China*. Ithaca; London, Cornell University Press.

Week 8 Urbanization under Global Capitalism

March 1 & 3

Required Reading:

- Pun, Ngai, and Jenny Chan. 2012. "Global Capital, the State, and Chinese Workers: The Foxconn Experience." *Modern China* 38 (4):383-410.
- Kipnis, Andrew. 2016. Ch3 "Recombinant Production." *From Village to City: Social Transformation in a Chinese County Seat*. University of California Press. pp 66-95.

Recommended Reading:

- Harvey, David. 1978. "The Urban Process under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 2, No. 4: 101-31.
- Pun, Ngai & Lu Huilin. 2010. "A Culture of Violence: The Labor Subcontracting System and Collective Action by Construction Workers in Post-Socialist China." *The China Journal* (64), 143-158.

Week 9 Citizenship and Right to City

March 8 & 10

Required Reading

- Harvey, David. 2011. "The Right to the City." In *The City Reader*, 270-278. London; New York: Routledge.
- Liu, Tao, and Qiujie Shi. 2020. "Acquiring a Beijing hukou: Who Is Eligible and Who Is Successful?" *The China Quarterly* 243: 855-868.

- Ling, Minhua. 2020. Ch6 “Buying Belonging” In *The Inconvenient Generation: Migrant Youth Coming of Age on Shanghai's Edge*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Recommended Reading:

- Purcell, Mark. 2003. "Citizenship and the right to the global city: Reimagining the capitalist world order." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 27 (3):564-590. Zhang, Li. 2002. "Spatiality and Urban Citizenship in Late Socialist China." *Public Culture* 14 (2):311-334.
- Guang, Lei. 2003. "Rural Taste, Urban Fashions: The Cultural Politics of Rural/Urban Difference in Contemporary China." *positions* 11 (3):613-646.
- Chen, Chuanbo & Fan, Cindy. C. 2016. “China's *Hukou* Puzzle: Why Don't Rural Migrants Want Urban *Hukou*?” *China Review*, 16(3), 9-39.

Week 10 Urban Space and Sociality

March 15 & 17

Required Reading:

- Jacobs, Jane. 1992 (1961). “The use of sidewalks: Safety.” In *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Vintage Books. Pp.29-54
- Yan, Yunxiang. 2000. "Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing." in *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*, edited by Deborah Davis. Berkeley: University of California Press

Recommended Reading:

- Tomba, Luigi. 2005. "Residential Space and Collective Interest Formation in Beijing's Housing Disputes." *The China Quarterly* (184):934-951.
- Flock, R. and W. Breitung. 2016. “Migrant Street Vendors in Urban China and the Social Production of Public Space.” *Population, Space and Place* 22(2): 158-169.
- Notar, Beth E. 2012. “‘Coming Out’ to ‘Hit the Road’: Temporal, Spatial and Affective Mobilities of Taxi Drivers and Day Trippers in Kunming, China.” *City & Society* 24 (3):281-301.

Week 11 Fieldtrip & Individual Consultation (NO group class held online)

March 22 & 24

March 29 – April 7 Reading Week NO CLASS

➤ **Fieldnote and Mapping exercise due by April 9, 2021.**

Week 12 Sex, Gender and the City

April 12 & April 14

Required Reading:

- Farrer, James, and Andrew David Field. 2015. Ch8 “From Interzones to Transzones,” In *Shanghai Nightscapes: A Nocturnal Biography of a Global City*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Hanser, Amy. 2005. “The Gendered Rice Bowl: The Sexual Politics of Service Work in Urban China.” *Gender and Society* 19(5):581-600.

Recommended Reading:

- Farrer, James. 2000. "Dancing through the Market Transition: Disco and Dance Hall Sociability in Shanghai." In *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*, edited by Deborah Davis, 226-249. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Zheng, Tiantian. 2007. "From Peasant Women to Bar Hostesses: An Ethnography of China's Karaoke Sex Industry." In *Working in China: Ethnographies of labor and workplace transformation*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee, 125-143. New York: Routledge.

Week 13 Case Study Presentation & Course Wrap-up
April 19 & 21

- **Final Case Report** due by **5pm on April 28 (Wed)**, 2021. Please submit the **e-copy** with **signed Veriguide receipt** to the **Blackboard**.