CHES3007/CCSS3700/CHES5155 Urban China*
2019-20, Term 1, Wednesday 08:30 - 11:15
ARC_G02 (Lee Shau Kee Architecture Building)

Instructor: Professor Dr. LING Minhua (email: mhling@cuhk.edu.hk)
Office Hours: Tues 14:30 - 17:00; by appointment via email
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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 students to 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, 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 social 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 ASSIGNMENTS
Class Participation (20%) will be assessed on the basis of regular attendance and active engagement in class discussion (including short field trip). Students are expected to come to class on time, having done the required readings, and ready to ask questions or offer comments. Students will earn a weekly participation grade of up to 100 points, with 75 of these points from attendance and the other 25 from participation in class discussion. Students with more than two unexcused absence after the first two weeks will lose half of their participation points.

* This is a working syllabus. Contents and readings are subject to change upon notification. For MA students who take this class as CHES5155, please refer to the CHES5155 version of the syllabus as there is different requirement regarding the term paper.
**Group Project (20%)**: Students will take on projects in the form of presentation or debate in small groups (in general three to four people per group) on assigned urban issues. A sign-up sheet will be circulated in class in Week 3. Each group will use present or debate over a case study to elaborate on the issues in class. A detailed guideline and grading criteria for the group project will be distributed in class.

**Fieldtrip and Mapping Exercise (20%)**: Students will participate in a short fieldtrip in Hong Kong to explore the city’s unique urban space and its sociocultural configuration. Students will also make and submit their own maps to represent an urban neighborhood in Greater China by noon on Oct. 7 (Monday), 2019. Students can hand-draw the map, or use some sort of base map and add their own specificities. Students are asked to define the boundaries of the space on their own terms, and show how they see the place and its spatial configuration and reflect upon the built environment and its people interact. Students may use pictures, captions, notes or other creative means for illustration. Assignment specifics will be discussed in class.

**Term Paper (40%)**: Students should write a paper in the format of policy memo on a specific urban issue, providing informed argument and policy recommendation while synthesizing and applying some of the theoretical arguments taught in class. The essay should be about 2500 words (no less than 2300 and no more than 3000 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. Paper expectations and grading guidelines will be disseminated in class.

A hard copy of the term paper must be submitted to the instructor’s mailbox together with a signed Veriguide receipt no later than noon on December 9 (December), 2019. 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](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.

**Readings**
- All required readings (as listed below) will be provided in PDF format via CUHK’s eLearning system (downloadable on Blackboard).
- A list of recommended readings will be provided in class, and students are encouraged to check out the additional readings for references while conducting group projects and writing term papers.

**SEMESTER SCHEDULE & READING LIST**

**Week 1**  
**Introduction: Urbanization and Globalization**  
September 4  
Required Reading:

**Week 2**  
How to understand the urban?
September 11
Required Reading:

Week 3  Urban Development in Late-Imperial China
September 18
Required Reading:

Week 4  Modernity and Urban Transformation
September 25
Required Reading:

Week 5  Urban Spaces in Hong Kong
October 2  NO meeting in class
Short field trip in teams in Yau Ma Tei, Hong Kong
Time and Venue to be finalized in Week 3
Required Reading:

Mapping exercise due by 5pm on October 7 (Monday), 2019. Please submit the hard copy to the TA’s office YIA 1117 on 11th Floor @YIA.

Week 6  Urbanization in PRC
October 9
Required Reading:

Week 7  Urban Development and Land Politics
October 16
Required Reading:

**Week 8  ** Urban Process in Global Capitalism  
**October 19**  
**Required Reading:**  

**Week 9  ** Urban Planning and Infrastructure Building  
**October 30**  
**Required Reading:**  

**Week 10  ** Urban Space and Sociality  
**November 6**  
**Required Reading:**  

**Week 11  ** Urban Governance  
**November 13**  
**Required Reading:**  

**Week 12  ** Urban Citizenship  
**November 20**  
**Required Reading:**

Week 13  
Sex, Gender and the City

November 27
Required Reading:

➢ Term paper due by 5pm on December 9 (Monday), 2019. Please submit the hard-copy with signed Veriguide receipt to the instructor’s mailbox on 11th floor @ YIA.