

PAAS 351: Contemporary Chinese Society

Instructor: Andrew Marton

Email: amarton@uvic.ca



Course description:

With China set to dominate the coming decades, it is more important than ever to understand how and why the country came to prosper. On this course we will journey through the revolution and turmoil of the Mao years, through to reforms of the 1980s and 1990s, and into the 2000s to examine how contemporary 21st Century Chinese society has been shaped by key historical, economic, political and international forces.

You will be introduced to a variety of revealing case studies, and invited to critically explore key concepts and debates around China's unprecedented transformation.

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Describe and critically analyze major patterns and processes of economic transformation, urban and rural development and social change in contemporary China
- Use appropriate information to evaluate the empirical realities of such phenomena in the context of relevant concepts and theoretical frameworks
- Identify assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of conventional interpretations of rapid change in China, and understand alternative conceptualizations

Proposed assignments:

Journal article review	20%
Presentation/Discussion leader	25%
Course paper	35%
Attendance and participation	20%

Proposed reading list:

Sample readings include the following:

Currier, J. (2012) Selling place through art: The creation and establishment of Beijing's 798 Art District. In Daniels, P. W., Ho, K. C. & Hutton, T. A. (eds.) (2012) *New economic spaces in Asian cities: From industrial restructuring to the cultural turn*. London/New York: Routledge, pp.184-201.

Liang, F., *et al* (2018) Constructing a data-driven society: China's social credit system as a state surveillance infrastructure. *Policy and internet* 10, (4), pp. 415-438.

Lin, George, C. S. (1997) *Red Capitalism in South China: Growth and Development of the Pearl River Delta*, Vancouver: UBC Press, pp. 29-74.

Marton, A.M. (2000) *China's Spatial Economic Development: Restless Landscapes in the Lower Yangzi Delta*, London: Routledge.

Marton, A. M. & Wu, W. (2006) Spaces of globalisation: Institutional reforms and spatial economic development in the Pudong new area, Shanghai. *Habitat International* 30 (2), pp. 213-229.

Ren, X. & Sun, M. (2012) Artistic urbanization: Creative industries and creative control in Beijing. *International journal of urban and regional research* 36 (3), pp. 504-521.

Shao, Qin (2013) *Shanghai Gone: Domicide and Defiance in a Chinese Megacity*, Plymouth: Rowan & Littlefield, Introduction, pp. 1-38.