PAAS 451 – ASIAN MEGA-CITIES AND URBAN REGIONS

Fall 2017 (CRN 12487)

Class times: Monday and Thursday 10:00 -11:20 am
Clearihue [CLE] A205

Instructor: Andrew Marton – amarton@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 2:30 – 3:30 pm; CLE C225

Course Content

This course is a comparative multi-disciplinary survey of urban transition in Asia. Several case studies will introduce patterns and processes which challenge conventional theories of urbanization, and which highlight implications for the future of urban societies in Asia. The course is broadly organized around the following key themes: an historical overview of trends in Asian urbanization; a critical examination of urban and rural across various socio-cultural and political-economic settings; global and local forces and the importance of place; Western theory and indigenous area-based knowledge; placing big cities within urban regions to understand urbanization in Asia, and; considering implications for urban governance, policy and planning. Case studies will be drawn from East Asia, including Japan and China, Southeast Asia and India.

Learning Outcomes – Students will be able to:

- Describe and critically analyse major patterns and processes of urbanization and the development of cities and urban regions in Asia;
- 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 urban transformation in Asia, and understand alternative conceptualizations;
- Summarise, critically review and discuss key arguments from the readings;
- Further develop organisational and writing skills to convey their knowledge, analyses and understanding in clear concise terms;
- Work effectively in groups to lead discussions on particular issues and readings.

Evaluation

Class Participation 10% – Attendance is required at all classes (marks will be deducted for repeated absences); Students will be expected to be familiar with the assigned readings and to contribute to class discussions.

Journal Article Review 25% – Due Thursday October 19th
800 word critical review of an academic journal article relevant to the course. Format of the review and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.

Discussion Leaders 20% – In class beginning in late October
Students will lead discussions on a theme or Asian city based on one academic journal article or book chapter, supplemented where relevant and appropriate with newspaper or magazine articles and other materials, including images, film clips or similar. Students must provide a set of questions for the class in order to structure the discussion. Format and detailed expectations will be discussed in class.
Course Paper 45% – Due Thursday November 30th
3000 word essay chosen from a list of topics or in consultation with the instructor

Late submissions – Late assignments or delayed discussion leader sessions will not be accepted without the prior permission of the instructor. Failure to deliver a discussion leader session or to hand in the article review or course paper will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Originality of topics – Assignments prepared for another course may not be submitted. Anyone wishing to work on a topic addressed in another course must obtain the permission of the instructor at least two weeks before the due date.

Academic integrity – Students on this course are subject to University protocols on plagiarism and cheating. Offences will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, and may result in a failing grade for the course. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software or other platforms to assess the integrity of student work.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Assigned readings – other recommended and supplementary readings are provided under separate cover and will be updated during the term.

Week 1 – Introduction
Course overview and introductions (Thursday Sep. 7)
Eurocentrism and Asian urbanization (Monday Sep. 11)

Week 2 – Rethinking Asian cities; Urban and rural – Case studies
Rethinking Asian cities and urbanization (Thursday Sep. 14)
Urban and rural, and rural-urban linkages in Asia; Overviews of Tokyo and the Pearl River Delta (Monday Sep. 18)

Week 3 – The extended metropolis, the desakota hypothesis and mega-urban regions in Asia
Beyond Megalopolis – evolving perspectives on urbanization in Asia; Case study from Taiwan (Thursday Sep. 21)
Desakota; Megaurbanization; Rural and urban in Southeast Asia (Monday Sep. 25)
Week 4 – Southeast Asia – Bangkok; Chinese cities and urban regions

Thailand – Bangkok (Thursday Sep. 28)

Rural transformation and mega-urbanization in China (Monday Oct. 2)

Week 5 – China

The lower Yangzi delta (Thursday Oct. 5)

No class – Thanksgiving (Monday Oct. 9)

Week 6 – Globalization – Creative Shanghai; Singapore

Shanghai and globalization; Making Shanghai a “creative city” (Thursday Oct. 12)

Singapore; Growth triangle (Monday Oct. 16)

Week 7 – India; Vietnam

Kerala and the great cities of India; Great BC ShakeOut, 10:19 am; Journal Article Review DUE TODAY (Thursday Oct. 19)

Vietnam (Monday Oct. 23)

Week 8 – Korea – Seoul; Discussion leaders

Seoul (Thursday Oct. 26)
Discussion leaders (Monday Oct. 30)

Week 9 – Discussion leaders

No class (Thursday Nov. 2)
Discussion leaders (Monday Nov. 6)

Week 10 – Discussion leaders

Discussion leaders (Thursday Nov. 9)

No class – Reading Break (Monday Nov. 13)

Week 11 – Discussion leaders (Thursday Nov. 16); (Monday Nov. 20 – TBC)

Week 12 – Environment and sustainability in Asia’s mega-urban regions

Guest speaker – Professor Terry McGee (Thursday Nov. 23)
Rural-urban synthesis and sustainability (Monday Nov. 27)

Last Class – Thursday Nov. 30: COURSE PAPER DUE
PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies upholds and enforces the University’s policies on academic integrity and enforces the rules on plagiarism and cheating. These policies are described on pp. 46-48 of the current Undergraduate University Calendar (2017-18). All students are required to read this section: http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#

Practices that are NOT acceptable include:

- Persuading or paying someone else to write the student’s assignments, or otherwise presenting someone else’s work as the student’s own;
- Downloading essays or articles from the Internet and submitting part or whole as own work;
- Copying and pasting passages (aka “glossing”) from books, journals online resources or other sources, and presenting them as the student’s own work;
- Citing only a portion of a quotation, and presenting the remainder as the student’s own work;
- Copying from another student or sharing information in examinations or tests;
- Bringing notes or other materials into an examination or test, except as authorised by the examiner or instructor;
- The use of an editor – either as an individual or service, whether paid or unpaid – who manipulates revises, corrects or alters a student’s written or non-written work.

In addition, the following kinds of behaviour, unless specifically authorised by the instructor, are unacceptable in an examination: talking or communicating by computer or other electronic device with another student; looking at the work of other students while writing an exam; consulting books, electronic materials or other sources of information.

In every course, the instructor may choose to conduct an additional oral examination, in the presence of another faculty member from the Department, so as to ascertain the level of a student’s knowledge or understanding of the course material.

Departmental Policy Regarding Penalties for Plagiarism and Cheating

The possible penalties for plagiarism and cheating are outlined in the Calendar. An instructor will notify the Chair of the Department of cases of a suspected violation and the Chair will contact the student to arrange an interview with the student and instructor to review the case. If it is determined that a violation of University policy has occurred, the Chair will notify the Director of Academic Advising of the case and a letter of reprimand will be issued to the student. Any repeat offenses will be dealt with directly by the Dean.

In the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, the minimum penalty for a first offence will be a grade of zero for the assignment, examination or test. Depending upon the seriousness of the offence and the weight of the assignment, the instructor in consultation with the Chair may assign a failing grade (less than 50%, zero GPA) for the course.

Students will not be permitted to rewrite an assignment, examination or test on which they have been found to have cheated or plagiarised, nor will they be permitted to complete supplemental assignments. A formal letter of reprimand will be issued to the student and kept on file. Records of any violation will be held by the Office of the Registrar. Such records are held five years after the offence. A repeat offence may result in the additional penalty of Disciplinary Probation being placed on the student’s Official Transcript.

If you have any doubts about the University’s policies, or want to know if a practice is acceptable or not, you should raise your concerns with your course instructor.