

## **CITIES IN ASIA**

SPRING 2018

T-Th 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM

Engr & Comp Sci 136

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SIPA 323

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Office Hours: Thursday, 11 AM to 1 PM, and by appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course explores social life in cities across Asia, focusing on major subtopics and debates in urban studies. We cover cities in a broad range of national contexts with special attention given to cities in Northeast Asia, especially Japan, China, and Korea, as well as Southeast Asia such as the Philippines and Malaysia. Urban studies is a multidisciplinary field (including urban sociology, urban anthropology, urban geography, and other subfields) that looks at the growth dynamics of cities and how structural components of cities affect social life within them. To emphasize the importance of holistic understandings of local urban contexts, most of our readings as well as student projects will focus on a particular city (or set of cities) in Asia.

While each city will present specific social phenomena given its urban context, some of the broad questions this course will address are: How have modern cities in Asia developed? Is there such a thing as Asian urbanism? How do urban processes and structures in Asian cities affect social ties, stratification, and subjective experience? What pressures are cities in Asia experiencing as a result of heightened economic, demographic, and (neoliberal) ideological globalization? What are some of the mechanisms and effects of social exclusion and inclusion in contemporary Asian cities? To what extent and in what forms are cities in Asia seeing gentrification? As Asia expands its influence on the global stage, how do cities in Asia serve as locations of cultural production?

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Gain in-depth knowledge of social issues and dynamics in contemporary cities in Asia.
- Be able to critique “essentializing” descriptions of Asian cultures, societies, and cities.
- Understand how processes of globalization are affecting cities in Asia.
- Understand the position and role in global society of cities in Asia.
- Be able to reflect on how responses to social problems related to globalization in cities in Asia can shed light on experiences of other countries.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

None! Reading materials will be available via the FIU Library website or on Canvas. This means that students need to be able to find journal articles and other materials via the FIU Library website. I will go over how to do this in class.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**

### Participation

Attendance at each class meeting from start to finish is required. I will be taking attendance either at the beginning of lecture and/or at the end of class. Attendance does not simply mean showing up, but showing up *prepared*. Thus, you are to do all assigned readings (lecture and discussion) *prior* to class. You should also be prepared to participate in discussions in class and/or to ask and answer questions about the material.

Students participating in University-sanctioned events (athletes, debaters, musicians, etc.) must inform me in advance of any event that will conflict with class time and make up work they miss. Documentation must also be submitted before the event.

### Discussion Leading

You will be required to lead (possibly with a partner, depending upon enrollment) one or two of the approximately 30 minute class discussions based on one of the “discussion readings” (indicated by **DR** below). At the beginning of the course, you will sign up for the session for which you will be responsible by emailing me your preference. Sessions will be assigned on a first-emailed, first-served basis. *You must email me your preference by midnight Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>*. I will post the schedule on Blackboard and you will be responsible for remembering when you are assigned.

When leading discussion, you will need to come up with questions about the readings that will stimulate ideas, discussion, and debate among your peers about issues covered in the readings as well as related lectures. *Your discussion can connect the social issue in a city in Asia that is the focus of the reading with processes of globalization.* You can be creative with this (using brief video clips, quizzes, games, etc.) but remember, this is a discussion, not a presentation. You should discuss the theory and methods being employed in the specific research, rather than just the broad topic in general. One way to stimulate discussion is to consider how the urban phenomenon is similar or different in another city in Asia, United States, or other part of the globe. Some summary and clarification of the material is good, but the real objective is to stimulate discussion, something not as easy as it may seem. You can consult me about how to do this in class, during office hours, or via email and, of course, I will be there to help keep things going. As the difficulty in stimulating discussion will vary according to the readings and the moods of classmates on any particular date, you will be evaluated more for effort than the actual discussion.

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### Reading Quizzes

Throughout the semester, there will be at least five unannounced quizzes on any reading, but also covering previous lecture materials. The purpose of these quizzes is to ensure that you are keeping up with and understanding the readings and lectures. The quizzes will not require you to memorize minute details from the readings, but will be focused on what the readings discuss about how processes of economic, demographic, and cultural globalization interact with social institutions in cities in Asia. These will include about five simple, multiple choice or true/false questions. You will not have an opportunity to make up these quizzes. You will be able to drop your lowest grade on these quizzes.

I also reserve the right to have pop quizzes on any reading (or all of them), so stay on top of the reading schedule!

### Term Paper and Assignments:

The term paper will be a social science literature review paper developed around a topic of your interest. Your paper will be focused on a city in Asia or a set of cities in Asia, but will address an urban issue of global import (for example gentrification, immigration, residential segregation, inequality, social exclusion, cultural production, identity, etc.). You should select a topic and design your project in light of your responsibilities for degree and professional ambitions. I recommend that you meet with me during office hours to talk about your project. You will use scholarly sources to develop a theoretically organized review of major research on a specific urban sociological research question. Then, GRADUATE STUDENTS will describe a potential original research project that contributes to the research literature on this topic. Your paper is to be around 3,000 to 5,000 words (graduate students at the higher end), not including references. You should use at least 5 (graduate students 10) scholarly references. There will be the following assignments that will guide you through completion of the paper. Some assignments will be done in class, and some will involve submitting material via Blackboard. Late assignments will not be accepted.

self-introduction (week 1)

library exercise (week 2)

sociological topic and question (week 5)

references peer review (week 6)

references (week 7)

theoretical perspectives presentation (week 9)

evidence/support (week 11)

1<sup>st</sup> draft peer review (week 13)

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2<sup>nd</sup> draft (week 14)

I will provide a more complete explanation of the paper and these assignments early in the course.

### Presentations

All students will be giving two presentations on their term paper. You can use presentation software (Powerpoint, Keynote, etc.) and other visual aids. I will go over some ways to make effective presentations in class.

- 1) Theoretical perspectives presentation. This is a brief (10 minute), “in progress” presentation of your developing research paper. You will justify your research question and overview how you plan to organize the literature you have found into different theoretical perspectives.
- 2) Final paper presentation. This is a longer (15 to 20 minute) presentation of your entire paper. I will provide more details in class but you will cover your research question, theoretical perspectives and evidence, argument, and conclusions.

### Graduate Reading Presentations

Graduate students will be required to do additional presentations (likely 3, depending on enrollment) on a city and topic covered during a particular week. These will generally be done on Thursdays. This presentation will be based on the graduate reading(s) for a particular week. You must cover the graduate reading (those marked **GR**) for that particular week, but you can also incorporate other related materials. It would be ideal to choose a topic for the presentation that is closely related to or the same as that of your term paper. The distinction from the term paper presentation is that the reading presentation will be inspired by a specific academic work, whereas your paper presentations will integrate, analyze, and critique a body of academic work to address a research question. Also, you will need to stimulate discussion on the topic, so be prepared to ask questions to other graduates who have done the reading, as well as undergraduates who have not. The reading presentation should be about 30 minutes long and you can use any media you like. You should be prepared to field questions on the materials. *You must email me your reading/week preference by midnight Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.* Readings will be assigned on a first-emailed, first-served basis.

### Grading

Term Paper	35
Reading Quizzes	15
Paper Presentations	15
Discussion Leading (includes Reading Presentations for grads)	15
Term Paper Assignments	10
Participation	10
TOTAL	100 points

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### SEMINAR READINGS:

Readings are available on-line through the library website either through electronic reserves (for book chapters), electronic versions of journals (for articles), or as e-books. In rare cases, I will provide .pdf files of readings via Blackboard.

Readings marked **(LR)** are those on which I will base my in-class lectures. I will not repeat what is covered in these readings, but highlight certain points and spend most of the time elaborating on central ideas with other materials. These will generally be covered on Tuesdays. Readings marked **(DR)** are those that we will base our classroom discussion around (those that students will lead) and will generally be covered on Thursdays. **(GR)** refers to readings that the graduate students are assigned, which will generally be covered on Thursdays. Those marked **(RR)** are not assigned but I recommend as good sources for your course project if you are writing on that particular topic and/or city.

### Week 1. Introduction to Urban Studies

*Tuesday* (read syllabus before class)

\*self-introduction\* (on Blackboard)

*Thursday*

(LR) Louis Wirth (1938). "Urbanism as a Way of Life," *American Journal of Sociology* 44(1):1-24.

(GR) Jane Jacobs (1961). *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York, NY: Vintage Books. (Chapter 1, p. 3-28)

(RR) George Simmel (reprinted 2000). "Metropolis and Mental Life;" in James Farganis (Ed.) *Readings in Social Theory: The Classic Tradition to Post-Modernism*. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill.

(RR) Robert Park (1915). "The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the City," *American Journal of Sociology*. 20(5):577-612.

(RR) Gans, Herbert J. (2002). "Some Problems of and Futures For Urban Sociology: Toward a Sociology of Settlements," *City & Community*. 8(3):211-219.

### Week 2. Asian Urbanism?

*Tuesday*

(LR) Ren, Julie and Jason Luger (2015). "Comparative Urbanism and The 'Asian City': Implications for Research and Theory," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 39(1):145-156.

(GR) Waley, Paul (2012). "Japanese Cities in Chinese Perspective: Towards a Contextual, Regional Approach to Comparative Urbanism," *Urban Geography* 33(6):816-828.

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*Thursday* (library)

(DR) The Sociology Writing Group. 2008. A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Worth Publishers. (Chapter 1)

(RR) Jennifer Robinson (2011). "Cities in a World of Cities: The Comparative Gesture," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 35(1):1-23.

### **Week 3. Tokyo**

*Tuesday*

(LR) Theodore Bestor (1989). Neighborhood Tokyo. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. (Introduction, Chapter 1, pp. 1-45)

Film: "Neighborhood Tokyo"

*Thursday*

(DR) Hattori, Keitaro, Sunmee Kim, and Takashi Machimura (2016). "Tokyo's Living Shopping Streets: The Paradox of Globalized Authenticity," in Zukin, Sharon, Philip Kasinitz, and Xiaming Chen (Eds.) Global Cities, Local Streets: Everyday Diversity from New York to Shanghai. New York: Routledge.

(GR) Wissink, Bart and Arjan Hazelzet (2011). "Social Networks in Neighborhood Tokyo," *Urban Studies* 49(7):1527-1548.

(RR) R.P. Dore (1958). City Life in Japan. Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.

(RR) Imai, Heide (2013). "The Liminal Nature of Alleyways: Understanding the Alleyway *Roji* as a 'Boundary' Between Past and Present," *Cities* 34:58-66.

### **Week 4. Tokyo**

*Tuesday*

(LR) Heine, Steven. (2012). Sacred High City, Sacred Low City: A Tale of Religious Sites in Two Tokyo Neighborhoods.

*Thursday*

(DR) Gagne, Nana Okura. (2013) "Romance and Sexuality in Japanese Latin Dance Clubs," *Ethnography* 15(4):446-468.

(GR) Marr, Matthew D. (2016). "Urban Welfare Regimes, Organizational Cultures, and Staff-

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Client Tie Activation: A Comparison of Transitional Housing Programs in Los Angeles and Tokyo,” *Journal of Urban Affairs* 28(2):214-235.

(RR) Fowler, Edward (1996). San’ya Blues: Laboring Life in Contemporary Tokyo. Ithica: Cornell.

### **Week 5. Osaka**

*Tuesday*

(LR) Hill, Richard Child and Kuniko Fujita (1995). “Osaka’s Tokyo Problem,” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 19(2):181-193.

*Thursday*

(DR) Okubo, Yuko (2013). “From “Contested” Multiculturalism to “Localized” Multiculturalism: Chinese and Vietnamese Youth in Osaka, Japan.” *Anthropological Quarterly* 86(4):995-1030.

(GR) Shin Nakagawa (2010). “Socially inclusive cultural policy and arts-based urban community regeneration,” *Cities*. 27:16-24.

(RR) Novak, David (2010). “Listening to Kamagasaki,” *Anthropology News* 51(9):5.

\*sociological topic and question\*

### **Week 6. Seoul**

*Tuesday*

(LR) Ha, Seong-Kyu (2015). “The Endogenous Dynamics of Urban Renewal and Gentrification in Seoul,” “The Endogenous Dynamics of Urban Renewal and Gentrification in Seoul,” pp. 165-179 in Lees, Loretta; Hyun Bang Shin and Ernesto Lopez-Morales (Eds.). Global Gentrifications: Uneven Development and Displacement. Bristol: Policy Press.

*Thursday*

(DR) Song, Jesook (2006). “Historicization of Homeless Spaces: The Seoul Train Station Square and the House of Freedom,” *Anthropological Quarterly* 79(2):193-223.

(RR) Lee, Yong-Sook, and Eun-Jung Hwang. 2012. “Global Urban Frontiers Through Policy Transfer? Unpacking Seoul’s Creative City Programmes,” *Urban Studies* 49(13):2817-2837.

(RR) Douglass, Mike (2015). “Creative Communities and the Cultural Economy: Insadong, Chaebol Urbanism, and the Local State in Seoul,” *Cities* (early view).

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(RR) Sung, Hyun-Gun, Doo-Hwan Go, and Chang Gyu Choi (2013). "Evidence of Jacob's Street Life in the Great Seoul City: Identifying the Association of Physical Environment with Walking Activity on Streets," *Cities* 35:164-173.

\*references peer review\*

### **Week 7. Beijing (and other Chinese cities)**

*Tuesday*

(LR) Campanella, T.J. (2008). The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What it Means for the World. New York: Princeton Architectural Press. (Introduction, pp. 12-25; Chapter 4, pp. 120-143)

*Thursday*

(DR) Huang, Youqin and Chengdong Yi (2014). "Invisible Migrant Enclaves in Chinese Cities: Underground Living in Beijing, China," *Urban Studies* 52(15):2948-2973.

(GR) Zhang, Li (2010). In Search of Paradise: Middle Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (Introduction, pp. 1-25; Chapter 5, pp. 107-136) (Kunming)

(RR) Zhao, Pengjun (2014). "The Impact of the Built Environment on Bicycle Commuting: Evidence from Beijing," *Urban Studies* 51(5):1019-1037.

\*references\*

### **Week 8. Shanghai**

*Tuesday*

(LR) Xuefei Ren (2008). "Forward to the Past: Historical Preservation in Globalizing Shanghai," *City & Community*, 7(1):23-43.

Film: "Shanghai Space"

*Thursday*

(DR) Orum, Anthony M., Sidney Bata, Li Shumei, Tang Jiewei, Sang Yang, and Nguyen Thanh Trung (2009). "Public Man and Public Space in Shanghai Today," *City & Community* 8(4):369-389.

(GR) Jun Wang, Stephen Lau, and Yu Siu (2009). "Gentrification and Shanghai's New Middle-Class: Another Reflection on the Cultural Consumption Thesis," *Cities*. 26(2):57-66.

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(RR) Qian, Junxi (2014). "Performing the Public Man: Cultures and Identities in China's Grassroots Leisure Class," *City & Community* 13(1): 26-48. (Guangzhou)

### **Week 9. Research Proposal Presentations**

## **SPRING BREAK**

### **Week 10. Singapore and Hong Kong**

*Tuesday*

(LR) Yeoh, Brenda S. A. (2004). "Cosmopolitanism and its Exclusions in Singapore," *Urban Studies* 41(12):2431-2445.

*Thursday*

(DR) Gordon, M. (2011) Ghetto at the Center of the World: Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chapter 1, 1-50)

(GR) Yue, Audry and Helen Hok-Sze Leung (2017). "Notes Towards the Queer Asian City: Singapore and Hong Kong," *Urban Studies* 54(3):747-764.

(RR) Ley, David and Sin Yih Teo (2014). "Gentrification in Hong Kong? Epistemology vs. Ontology," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 38(4):1286-303.

(RR) Kang, Yoonhee 2013. "Global Citizens in the Making: Child-Centered Multimedia Ethnographic Research on South Korean Student Migrants in Singapore," *Ethnography* 14(3):324-345.

### **Week 11. Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City**

*Tuesday*

(LR) McDaniel, John Thomas (2011). The Lovelorn Ghost and the Magical Monk: Practicing Buddhism in Modern Thailand. New York: Columbia University Press. (ebook, Chapter 3, pp. 121-158)

*Thursday*

(DR) Hoang, Kimberly Kay (2013). "She's Not a Low-Class Dirty Girl!: Sex Work in Ho Chi Minh City," *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 40(4):367-396.

(GR) Batreau, Quenin and Francois Bonnet (2016). "Managed Informality: Regulating Street Vendors in Bangkok," *City & Community* 15(1):29-43.

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(GR) Johnson, Andrew Alan (2014). Ghosts of the New City: Spirits, Urbanity, and the Ruins of Progress in Chiang Mai. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. (Chiang Mai)

(RR) Endo, Tamaki (2014). Living with Risk: Precarity and Bangkok's Urban Poor. Singapore: National University of Singapore Press. (Chapters 1, 2, pp. 1-28; Chapter 4, pp. 105-132)

(RR) Jackson, Peter A (Ed.) (2011). Queer Bangkok: Twenty-first Century Markets, Media, and Rights. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Chapter 1, pp. 17-42; Chapter 2, pp. 43-58)

\*evidence/support\*

### **Week 12. Manila**

*Tuesday*

(LR) Choi, Narae (2014). "Metro Manila Through the Gentrification Lens: Disparities in Urban Planning and Displacement Risks," *Urban Studies* (early view)

*Thursday*

(DR) Garrido, Marco (2013). "The Sense of Place behind Segregating Practices: An Ethnographic Approach to the Symbolic Partitioning of Metro Manila," *Social Forces* 91(4): 1343-1362.

(GR) Shatkin, Gavin (2004). "Planning to Forget: Informal Settlements as 'Forgotten Places' in Globalising Metro Manila," *Urban Studies* 41(12):2469-2484.

### **Week 13. Kuala Lumpur**

*Tuesday*

(LR) Bunnell, Tim. (2004). "Re-viewing the *Entrapment* Controversy: Megaprojection, (Mis)representation, and Postcolonial Performance," *Geojournal* 59: 297-305.

*Thursday*

(DR) Rusenko, Rayna (2017). "Imperatives of Care and Control in the Regulation of Homelessness in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: 1880s to Present," *Urban Studies* (early view).

(GR) Muniandy, Parthiban (2015). "Informality and the Politics of Temporariness: Ethnic Migrant Economies in Little Bangedesh and Little Burma in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia," *International Sociology* 30(6):561-578.

(RR) Bunnell, Tim and Alice M. Nah. (2004). "Counter-global Cases for Place: Contesting Displacement in Globalising Kuala Lumpur Metropolitan Area," *Urban Studies* 41(12): 2447-1467.

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(RR) King, Ross (2008). Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya: Negotiating Urban Space in Malaysia. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. (Chapters 1 and 2)

\*1<sup>st</sup> draft peer review\*

**Week 14. Paper drafts**

**Week 15. Finals week—student presentations**

\*final papers due on Blackboard by 11:55 PM on Friday of finals week\*