

# Urbanisation and Development

**Instructor: Prof. Jie SHEN**

**Days & Hours:** Monday 15:25-18:00

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## **Course Description**

We now live in a rapidly urbanizing world: half of the world's population now lives in cities and all trends point to the rise of scores of multi-million "megacities" and a dramatic increase in urban populations across Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Cities highlight the best and worst of everything and also reveal the most remarkable contradictions of our time. This course 1) provides an introduction of how to understand and analyze urban process and urban change; 2) introduces issues confronted by citizens, planners, policy makers and citizens in both urbanized and rapidly urbanizing areas. Throughout the course, we will take a comparative approach to the topics, not only drawing case studies are drawn from different regions in the world, but also paying a particular attention to the ongoing urban transformation in China.

The course is organized in four main segments. The first segment, entitled '*foundations of urbanization*' introduces the course's key themes and builds up theoretical foundations about urbanization in relation to economic development. Segment two, entitled '*process of urban development*', focuses on the physical dimension of the cities, exploring the power of urban landscapes and how the cities are built. The third segment, entitled '*people and place*' highlights social dimension of urbanization and urban socio-spatial inequality. Finally, the fourth segment, entitled '*governing global urbanization*', explores changing urban governance and policy making in responses to urban problems. Besides, 2 field trips to *Lujiazui, Pudong* (A case of globalization and mega-projects), *Thames Town, Songjiang* (a case of suburbanization and transplanted landscapes) would be arranged.

### **Recommended Readings**

Paul Knox and Linda McCarthy (2012). *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography, Third Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. ISBN-10: 0321736435

Fulong Wu (2015). *Planning for Growth: Urban and Regional Planning in China*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge

Xuefei Ren (2013). *Urban China*. Polity, Boston, MA

\* Supplement readings are also listed by specific topics

### **Course requirements**

#### **1. Class attendance and discussions (20%)**

#### **2. A project presentation and report (60%)**

The project needs to select one theme plus two cases (one Chinese case should be included). A tentative list of topics will be provided. It needs to describe the major characteristics of the selected cases and examine the underlying dynamics of the phenomenon. A comparative perspective is particularly encouraged. It needs to refer to the literature on the selected topic.

#### **3. A take-home final exam (20%)**

Students need to choose one out of eight questions and write the answer for the question in about 600~700 words (the words in reference are not counted).

### **Schedule (tentative):**

#### **Part I Foundations of urbanisation**

##### **Week 1**

##### **Introduction: urbanization, the urban future, the way to look at your cities**

##### **Readings**

- Brenner, N., and C. Schmid. (2014). The 'Urban Age' in question. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 38 (3): 731–755
- Chan K.W. and Xu X. (1985). Urban Population Growth and Urbanization in China Since 1949: Reconstructing a Baseline. *The China Quarterly*, 104, 583-613

##### **Week 2**

##### **The origins and growth of Cities in the world: urbanisation and the urban system**

##### **Readings**

- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018). *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, Highlights* (online)

##### **Week 3**

##### **Economic reform and urbanisation in China**

##### **Readings**

- Friedmann, John (2005). Introduction: becoming urban in China; Chapter 1 Historical Traces. in *China's Urban Transition*, the University of Minnesota Press:

Minneapolis: xiii-xxv; 1-17

- Chan K.W. and Zhang L. (1999). The Hukou System and Rural-Urban Migration in China: Processes and Changes. *The China Quarterly*, 160:818-855

#### **Week 4**

##### **Globalization and World Cities**

###### Readings

- Hill R.C. and Kim J.W. (2000). Global Cities and Developmental States: New York, Tokyo and Seoul. *Urban Studies*, 37(12), 2167– 2195

#### **Week 5**

##### **Field trip to *Lujiazui, Pudong***

Lujiazui reflects (1) the effort of Shanghai to use urban space as bases for economic growth; (2) the urban impacts of globalization processes and the dynamics of the global-local nexus. An urban planner is invited on-site to talk about the history of the development of Lujiazui and the challenges it faces. The trip is to visit Lujiazui corridor, Binjiang Avenue, Lujiazui Central Green Park, as well as high-rise residential development in the area.

###### Readings

- Olds, K. (1997) Globalizing Shanghai: the ‘global intelligence corps’ and the building of Pudong, *Cities*, 14, pp. 109–123.

### **Part II Process of urban development**

#### **Week 6**

##### **Suburbanization and suburban development**

###### Readings

- Fishman, R. (1987). Chapter 1 Bourgeois Utopias: Visions of Suburbia in *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia*. New York: Basic Books, 3-17
- Zhou, Y. and Ma, L. J. C. (2000). Economic restructuring and suburbanization in China. *Urban Geography*, 21(3), 205-236.

#### **Week 7**

##### **Field trip to *Songjiang New Town***

Songjiang New Town represents a role model of new town development in Shanghai. Its development process reflects the effort to remake the suburbs as an ideal living location. The trip will include flagship projects in Songjiang New Town, i.e. metro line no.9, Songjiang University Town, Thames Town and Central Green Belt.

###### Readings

- Shen J. and Wu F. (2012). “The Development of MPCs in Chinese Suburbs: a Case Study of Shanghai’s Thames Town”, *Urban Geography*, 33(2), 183-203

## **Week 8**

### **The city as text: Architecture and Urban Design**

#### Readings

- Knox, P. L. (1991). The restless urban landscape: Economic and sociocultural change and the transformation of metropolitan Washington, DC. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 81(2), 181–209

## **Part III People and Places**

### **Week 9 How neighborhoods change**

#### Readings

- Wei F. and Knox P. L. (2014) Neighborhood Change in Metropolitan America, 1990 to 2010. *Urban Affairs Review*, 50(4), 459–489
- He S. (2012). Two waves of gentrification and emerging rights issues in Guangzhou, China. *Environment and Planning A*, volume 44, pages 2817 – 2833

## **Week 10**

### **Rural-urban migration and urban villages in China**

#### Readings

- Li Zhang & Meng Li (2016) Local Fiscal Capability and Liberalization of Urban Hukou, *Journal of Contemporary China*, 25:102, 893-907
- Wu F, Zhang FZ and Webster C (2013). Informality and the development and demolition of urban villages in the Chinese peri-urban area. *Urban Studies*, 50: 1919–1934

## **Part IV Governing urbanisation**

### **Week 11**

### **Sustainability and the development of eco-cities**

#### Readings

- Pow C.P. and Neo H. (2013). Seeing Red over Green: Contesting Urban Sustainabilities in China. *Urban Studies*, 50(11) 2256–2274
- Caprotti F., Springer C. and Harmer N (2015). ‘Eco’ For Whom? Envisioning Eco-Urbanism In The Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, China. *International Journal Of Urban And Regional Research*, 39(3), 495-517

### **Week 12 In-class Presentation**