CRP 5850
Asian Urbanization: Policy, Space, and Society
Mon/Wed 2:55 – 4:10   Classroom: SBL 211
Instructor: Kris Hartley (hartley@cornell.edu)
Instructor website: www.krishartley.com
Office hours (213): Mon/Wed 16:30 – 18:00

Summary
Asia’s recent urbanization has been rapid and unexpected, and Asian cities are now becoming petri dishes for the study of overlapping trends and cultures. The built form of these cities also reflects colliding ideologies in subtle but consequential ways. This seminar explores the political, social, and economic forces behind this urban transformation. Topics include socio-economic inequality, public space, migration, cultural preservation, informal housing, LGBT rights, and environmental protection, among others. For each topic, the seminar will examine the underlying themes of change, agency, and representation, repeatedly asking “who wins and who loses” and exploring how the particularities of Asian cases help us interpret and confront similar forces across an increasingly unsettled world. Students will have the freedom, through assignments and presentations, to guide their own experience in the seminar as preparation for a career in practice, academia, or the global commentariat. While most geographies of East and Southeast Asia will be addressed at some stage of the seminar, students are encouraged to “adopt” a country or city that interests them and use the topics structuring the seminar to better understand that place. Class format will be discussion, and students should be prepared to speak thoughtfully and critically about readings; everyone is expected to contribute daily. Students will have an opportunity to present three times during the semester, twice about an assigned or chosen article and once about the student’s original paper. This class requires reading, participation, and creativity, and students will be assessed as such.

Course prerequisites
No previous coursework is formally assumed. However, it is helpful to have a passing familiarity with salient economic, social, and environmental issues, which those who pay even casual attention to current events probably already have. Your prerequisites are passion, curiosity, and commitment, and I will know soon whether you meet this modest and very reasonable expectation.

Course materials
Weekly readings will consist of book chapters, scholarly articles, and research reports. Efforts will be made to assign articles that are easily available through the Cornell online library or through Google Scholar. You will be responsible for procuring your own copies of these, which is an opportunity to develop a very useful skill.
Student expectations
- Seminars function well only when people attend. I will take attendance each session, and I expect to be informed in advance if you plan to be absent. A noticeable number of absences will elicit an inquiry from me and a reduction in class participation grade.
- Students should comport themselves with consideration for the needs of fellow students and teaching staff, and should refrain from distracting behavior. Mobile phone use is not permitted, and laptop use is permitted only for course-related purposes. I reserve the right to modify these rules at any time.
- Students must observe the university’s Code of Academic Integrity in all matters.
- Students are responsible for being aware of all announcements made in lectures and on Blackboard.

Accommodations for students with disabilities
In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made.

Grading breakdown (undergrads: no final paper required; other components 33%)
- 25%: class participation (attendance; active engagement in discussions)
- 25%: presentation (dates to be assigned; 15-minute presentation and lead a subsequent discussion)
- 25%: reflective essays (2/3; between 1,000 and 1,200 words apiece)
- 25%: final paper + presentation (academic-style article or policy brief between 2,000 and 2,500 words)

For undergraduates, the requirements are two reflective essays, two article presentations, and the final paper+presentation. For graduate students, the requirements are the same as for undergraduates, plus either a third reflective essay or a third article presentation. For essays, select a topic and/or place, apply concepts introduced by the readings, and extend existing ideas with your own creative analysis based on additional hyperlinked material (journal or press articles, data, etc.). This is original work that is at once analytical and editorial. I expect you to interact thoughtfully with the material and offer well-reasoned views. For presentations, present a single article, or an issue related to the class topic from the perspective of 2-3 of the readings. Your goal is to exhibit your understanding of the material and to express your creative application of it to something that would keep our attention during class.

Important dates
February break: No class Mon 2/20
Spring break: No class April 1-10
May Day (International Workers’ Day): No class Mon 5/1
Due dates: Reflective essays: Mar 3, Mar 31, May 10 (for graduate students); Paper: April 28
I. Policy

a. The hills are high and the emperor far away: devolution and local government (Jan 30/Feb 1)


b. Steering or rowing? Statist developmentalism and its legacies (Feb 6/8)


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c. **Thumb wars: political economy and power** (Feb 13/15)


d. **Taking out the trash: realities and challenges of public service delivery** (Feb 22)


Financing our urban future (Michael Lindfield).


II. Space

a. **Global capital, local space: preserving the public city** (Mar 6/8)


b. **Elastic waistbands: urban infrastructure at its limits** (Mar 13/15)


c. **Over the threshold: from informal housing to guarded gates** (Mar 20/22)


III. **Society**

a. **The poet and the muse: expression and mobilization** (Mar 27/29)


b. Movement of labor or labor movement? Work and migration (Apr 17/19)


c. A bridge too far? Civic engagement, environmental resilience, and livability (Apr 24/26)


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Coast, car, and cable: explaining spatial imbalances in economic growth (May 3)


Global cities and civic image: who wins, who loses? (May 8/10)


