ASCL1.01: Urban Asia
Fall 2020
Dist. SOC and INT; WCult: NW
There are no prerequisites for this course
Class time: K

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Office hours: Zoom meetings by appointment

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Office hours: Zoom meetings by appointment

Course Description
Asian cities, once considered to be recipients or followers of urban models imposed by Western cities, have become new models of urbanism themselves, thereby serving as the heart of the growing body of scholarship which focuses on such dynamic urban processes reshaping cities across the globe. For instance, over the last few decades, Singapore, Shanghai, and Seoul have distinguished themselves as points of reference for other aspiring cities in and beyond Asia. How have Asian cities transformed in an interconnected global economy? How does an interdisciplinary reading of Asian cities provide ways to think anew about Asia today?

With Asia at the center of our urban inquiries, this course proposes to read Asian cities from historical and comparative perspectives. The primary purpose of this course is to introduce students to multiple disciplinary approaches to Asia’s urban environments and their dynamic relationships to other parts of the world. The course features instructors from several Dartmouth departments and programs presenting a diversity of theoretical perspectives and empirical studies drawn from cities across East, South, and Southeast Asia.

The course is an introduction to a wide-ranging analysis of Asian cities through the lens of art, architecture, literature, film, technology, geography, gender, and class. There are no prerequisites for this course. The course is open to any students interested in history, art history, anthropology, architecture, geography, literature, and urbanism. Students from all departments and at all levels are encouraged to take the course.

Learning Outcomes
- Students will be introduced to Asia’s urban environments from historical and comparative perspectives
- Through a wide range of guest lectures by Dartmouth faculty, students will acquire a sense of how different academic disciplines engage with a range of issues related to Asian cities
- Thinking about, with, and from Asian cities, students will be able to critically assess a wide array of broader global issues, such as colonialism, race, migration, and social inequality
• With a diverse set of assignments, students will develop skills to understand Asian cities in an innovative way and conduct their own research on Asia.

Resources
Readings: All required readings will be provided as downloadable pdf documents in the “files” section of Canvas.
Visual Resources: for review purposes, pdfs of PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Canvas. Films will also be streamed via Canvas.

Course Requirements and Evaluations

1. Responses to assigned readings (15%): All course readings for each lecture will be posted to Canvas. You must respond to the prompts provided by the instructors and post your response to the Assignments page on Canvas prior to 3:00 pm EST every Tuesday and Thursday. There will be 15 reading responses. Responses must be a minimum of 500 words.

2. Contributions to on-line discussions (30%): Lectures will be posted to Canvas at 3:00 pm EST every Tuesday and Thursday. You will have 24 hours to participate in the on-line discussion forum. Contributions to the discussion should address material presented in the lecture. You may integrate material from the readings in your discussion points. Participation requires three contributions to the discussion; at least one of these must respond to contributions posted by your fellow students.

3. Take-home midterm exam (25%; Due Sunday, October 18, 11:59 pm EST): You will write responses open-ended questions that will require you to synthesize material presented in assigned readings and lectures prior to the midterm. The question will be posted on Thursday, October 15, 3:00 pm EST. This is an open-book exam, you may use course readings and lectures when responding to the exam prompts. The midterm exam will cover class materials up to the exam date, October 15.

4. Final project (30%; Due Friday, December 4, 11:59 pm EST):
   1) Research Project Proposal (3 to 4 pages) (5%): When submitting a proposal, be sure to include a short summary of your topic and an annotated bibliography. The topic must be discussed with the instructors beforehand. Proposals are due at the end of Week 7, Friday October 30, 11:59 pm EST.
   2) Research Project Essay (8-12 pages) (25%): TBD

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Schedule of Lectures and Readings
Note: additional readings may be assigned for some topics

Week 1. Introduction
Sep. 15 (T) Introduction to and Overview of the Course
Sep. 17 (Th) Virtual/Social Meeting

Week 2. East Asian Cities in History
Sep. 22 (T) “Historic Capitals of China” by Allen Hockley
Readings

Sep. 24 (Th) “Historic Capitals of Japan” by Allen Hockley
Readings

Week 3. Urban India in History
Sep. 29 (T) “Colonialism and Indian Cities” by Doug Haynes
Readings

Oct. 1 (Th) “Advertising and the Urban Middle Class in Western India 1920-1945” by Doug Haynes
Readings
- Douglas E. Haynes, “Brand-name Capitalism and Professional Advertising in India” chapter 1 in *Brand-name Capitalism, Advertising and the Making of Modern Conjugality in Western India (1918-45)* (book manuscript in progress)
Week 4. Port Cities at the Crossroads

Oct. 6 (T) “Colonial and Treaty Ports in Asia” by Sujin Eom

Readings

Oct. 8 (Th) “Korean Ports in the Age of Empires” by Sujin Eom

Readings

Week 5. Modern Tokyo / Midterm Exam

Oct. 13 (T) “Tokyo Modernizes” by Allen Hockley

Readings

Oct. 15 (Th) Take Home Midterm Exam Due: 11:59 pm EST

Week 6. Postwar Modernization

Oct. 20 (T) “Socialist Monuments” by Sunglim Kim

Readings

Oct. 22 (Th) “Contemporary Beijing and Tokyo” by Allen Hockley

Readings

Week 7. Infrastructure and Affect

Oct. 27 (T) “Elevated Highways and the Materiality of Statecraft” by Sujin Eom

Readings

Oct. 29 (Th) “Water, Politics and Infrastructure in Urban Southeast Asia” by Christopher Sneddon

Readings

Oct. 30 (F) Final research project proposal due: 11:59 pm EST

Week 8. Race, Migration, and Diaspora

Nov. 3 (T) “The Idea of Chinatown” by Sujin Eom

Readings

November 5 (Th) “Chinese Spaces, African Cities” by Mingwei Huang

Readings

**Week 9. Contact Zones**

Nov. 10 (T) “Shanghai/Tokyo” by Dennis Washburn

*Readings*
- TBD

Nov. 12 (Th) “Manchuria: Cities in a Colonial Borderland” by Miya Xie

*Readings*
- Abe Kōbō, “Seventeen Years in Shen Yang” (excerpt; translated by instructor).

**Week 10. Art and Urban Asia**

Nov. 17 (T) “Contemporary Artists Respond to Urban Asia” by Allen Hockley

*Readings*

**December 4 (F) Final research project due: 11:59 pm EST**