

GOG 350: URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA

Course Syllabus

Fall, 2014

Professor: Youqin Huang

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| CLASS HOURS: | TTH 1:15 – 2:35 PM |
| CLASS LOCATION: | BA 219 |
| OFFICE HOURS: | TTH 3:00 -4:00 pm (AS 215) and by appointment |
| EMAIL: | yhuang@albany.edu |

This course satisfies the “International Perspectives” of the General Education requirement.

A. DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

As many claimed, the 21st century is the Chinese Century. Understanding China is essential to be an informed and effective citizen. China is in the midst of an urban revolution with unprecedented scale and speed. As a world-historical event, the urban transformation in China is reshaping the landscape of not only the most populous country but also the world. This course aims to help you understand this immense transformation process and what it means to the world. We will study the pattern of urban development in China over time, and examine its driving forces. We will focus on socialist institutions/ideology and recent reforms, and how they shape Chinese cities.

After taking this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the process of urbanization in China
- Identify main features and uniqueness of urbanization in China
- Assess the impact of history and geography on urban development in China
- Assess the impact of socialist ideology and institutions on urban development in China
- Assess the impact of globalization on urban development in China
- Evaluate the impact of various reforms on urban development in China
- Explain recent social and spatial changes in urban China
- Identify historical, geographical and socio-economic forces shaping Chinese cities

B. REQUIRED READING AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

Required:

Weiping Wu and Piper Gaubatz, 2013. *The Chinese City*. Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-57575-1.
Xuefei Ren, 2013. *Urban China*, Polity. ISBN: 978-0-7456-5359-4.

References:

Thomas J. Campanella, 2008. *The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What it Means for the World*. Princeton Architectural Press. ISBN 9781568986272

C. COURSE DESIGN

The Approach: This course adopts the **Team-Based Learning (TBL)** approach. Research shows that people learn best from concrete experience, interacting with texts and with other learners, engaging in challenging reading and writing tasks, being held accountable for their work and receive feedback on their progress. As a result, I have designed this course to provide all of those dimensions.

The Process: Instead of lectures, students will engage in intensive team-based in-class activities in teams that you will be placed on the first day of class and will stay in for the entire semester. Each team will have their own team folder, where you will record members' attendance and the team scores on assignments. Your interactions and performance in your team will be crucial to your success in the course. You are not required to collaborate outside of class, although you may choose to do so in preparation for certain assignments. In-class collaborations will include team quizzes and /or test questions, and assorted in-class tasks. There will be some mini-lectures to help fill in gaps in your understanding, but the majority of class time is used for team activities.

Class content will be divided into 6 units, with each unit focusing on one aspect of urban development in China. For each unit of study, we will go through a similar set of steps called **Readiness Assurance Process (RAP)**:

1. Readings

You will read designated chapters for the unit **before the unit begins** outside of the class. This is crucial for success in this class.

2. Individual Readiness Assessment Test – iRAT

The first in-class activity of each unit is the iRAT on the assigned readings. These tests take the form of multiple choice questions on the main ideas/concepts of the reading.

3. Team Readiness Assessment Test – tRAT

After iRAT, the same test will be taken again by teams. Students will discuss questions as a team and choose answers for questions. You will know immediately what you received on each assessment. Team scores will be posted on the white board so teams can monitor one another's performance.

4. Appeals

After tRAT is completed, teams can appeal any questions they missed on the team test. Appeals have to be in writing and by a team (instead of individuals). This is an open-book process in which teams can submit any reason they have for arguing that their answer should be considered 'correct' rather than 'wrong'.

5. Instructor Feedback

I will provide instant feedback to your questions and confusions. Mini-lecture may be given to help clarify concepts/methods.

6. Applications

As the unit progress, you will continue to read the text, and engage in in-class and out-of class activities, both on your own and as a member of your team. Most of the class time will be devoted to team activities that will allow you to apply the material learned from the readings/mini-lectures. Participation in these activities is very important for you and your teammates' success.

7. Assessment

Exams will be given at the end of every two units.

D. COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING

Individual tasks: 7 iRATs, film quizzes, three exams, one research paper.

Team tasks: 7 tRATs, several in-class assignments, peer evaluations.

Individual

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| iRAT | 10% |
| Film quizzes | 5% |
| Three exams | 40% |
| Research paper | 20% |

Team

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| tRAT | 10% |
| Team activities/assignments | 10% |
| Team member performance | 5% |

Please Note:

RATs: RATs include multiple choice questions on readings. You will take RAT twice: once as an individual and once as a team. Because the process of completing the RAT as a team is essential to the experience of the course, there will be no opportunities for make-up RATs except in extreme circumstance. You will have the option of dropping your lowest iRAT score at the end of the semester; this may be used to accommodate an absence or a poor performance.

Film quizzes: There are several film quizzes. They are due, in class, exactly one week after the date the film is assigned.

Exams: Exams are composed of short-answer questions. No early or make-up exams will be given, except under extreme conditions or emergencies beyond your control, in which case a written request must be submitted together with documentation (e.g. physician's note) as early as possible.

Research paper: The main goal of the project is to identify one interesting phenomenon or issue in Chinese cities, and to explain the phenomenon and examine its implications. It is helpful to focus on one city, which allows you to conduct in-depth analysis of the issue. The paper should be no more than 10 pages (double spaced). You should clearly define a research question, review literature on the topic, conduct your own research, and offer an answer to your research question. The paper should be analytical, not descriptive, and you should have your own original arguments. The paper should include at least the following sections: 1) an introduction section to discuss the context of your research, your research question, and its significance; 2) an literature review section to briefly discuss what we have already known about this question, and offer your critique to the existing literature (e.g. what is missing in the literature); 3) the main body of your paper to analyze your question and draw conclusions. You can use visual tools such as tables, figures and maps to help you illustrate; and 4) discuss your findings and offer policy recommendations. You need to provide references for anything you cite in your paper (with in text citations, and full references listed at the end of the paper). The paper is due **in the week of Dec. 8th.**

The paper is individual; yet there is a team presentation. Thus it is a good idea for the team to focus on one city, and each member focuses on a different aspect of that city. Team presentation counts as one of the team activities.

Team activities: While some team activities are not grade, some are graded. There are no make-ups for in-class team activities. But you may drop your lowest scores at the end of the semester.

Team member performance: Because your work in your teams is crucial to your success in this course as well as that of your teammates, you will be held accountable for your contribution to your team. Your team members will give you feedback on your performance three during the semester, based on your attendance, preparedness, and in-class participation. Only the third evaluation is counted towards the final grade.

E. COURSE POLICY

Attendance: your in-class performance is crucial to your success in this course. While attendance itself is not graded, but graded in in-class tests and activities that constitute an important part of the course grade. Keeping a satisfactory final grade is impossible without consistent attendance. Missing class will automatically earn the absent student '0' for rats and class activity. No make-up for missed in-class rats and team activities except in documented cases of extreme extenuating circumstances.

Missing an assignment or activities that happened at the beginning of class before you arrive or at the end of class after you leave early will also earn a "0", and there will be no make-up opportunities. **If your schedule for work or other obligation conflicts with this class, and you know that it will be difficult for you to consistently get to class on time and stay for the entire period, you should drop this course and take it at a later date when your life's circumstances are more manageable.**

Late submission: Homework assignments turned in on the due date are eligible for 100 point. If you choose to turn it in after the due date, but within 48 hours, it will be eligible for 80 points. Assignments turned in after 48 hours will be eligible for 50 points. Assignments turned in after 72 hours receive no points, but I will give feedback.

Make-ups: there are no make-ups for in-class tests and activities, but you can drop your lowest iRAT score and the lowest score for in-class team activities. General there is no make-ups for exams as well, except under extreme conditions or emergencies beyond your control, in which case a written request must be submitted together with documentation (e.g. Physician's note) as early as possible

Plagiarism and cheating: the instructor is required to report any student behavior that has the appearance of cheating or plagiarism to the graduate dean. Penalties can be quite severe, and can include 1) failure of course; 2) suspension from the university; 3) expulsion from the university; 4) a notation in your permanent transcripts. **You cannot afford to enter professional life with any of these stains on your permanent record.**

- In individual test/quiz situations, please keep your eyes on your own work
- In individual assignments, make sure you do your own work
- In papers, makes sure you properly cite and document any sources from which you have borrowed ideas or language, including books, journal articles, magazines, and the internet. Any information cited from these sources should be acknowledged with both in-text citation and full reference at the end of the paper.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
(Subject to change based on progress)

| Unit | Date | Topics | Readings | RATs | Films |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 0 | Aug. 26 - 28 | Introduction | | #0 (Aug. 28) | |
| 1 | Sept. 2 - 9 | History and the Context | Introduction, 1, 2 , 3 Ren: 1 | #1 (Aug. 28) | <i>China's Most Honorable City (Ancient Xi'an)</i> |
| 2 | Sept. 11 – 30 | Urbanization and Migration | 4, 5 Ren: 1, 4 | #2 (Sept.11) | <i>To Live; The Last Train Home</i> |
| | Oct. 2 | Exam #1 | | | |
| <i>Qualitative Peer Evaluation (not graded)</i> | | | | | |
| 3 | Oct. 7 – 16 | Urban Development: Economy | 6, 7, 10 Ren: 6 | #3 (Oct. 7) | <i>China Blue</i> |
| 4 | Oct. 21 – 30 | Urban Development: Landscape | 8, 9 Ren: 3 | #4 (Oct. 21) | <i>Shower</i> |
| | Nov. 4 | Exam #2 | | | |
| <i>Quantitative Peer Evaluation (not graded)</i> | | | | | |
| 5 | Nov. 6 - 18 | Urban life | 12, 13 Ren: 2 | #5 (Nov. 6) | |
| 6 | Nov. 20 – Dec.2 | Urban problems/ challenges | 11, conclusion Ren: 5 | #6 (Nov. 20) | <i>China Rises: City of Dreams</i> |
| | Dec. 4 | Team Presentation | | | |
| <i>Quantitative Peer evaluation (graded)</i> | | | | | |
| | Dec. 9 | Exam #3 | | | |