Fall 2011

GUSP 817/ GEO 817: “China and Globalization”

Meeting time: 5-7:50 PM
120 Geography Building

Professor: Dr. Guo Chen
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Course assistant: Puyang Li

Course Description:
Recent developments in the rapidly-urbanizing China are important to the understanding of a range of global issues such as urbanization, sustainability and livability. This seminar engages up-front with the on-going social, economic, environmental, and spatial challenges facing contemporary China. Thematic topics will include rural-urban migration, housing development, new economic spaces, spatial reorganization, poverty and inequality, citizenship and rights, urban sprawl and expansion, and sustainability.

The course addresses both contemporary academic research and media commentary that has captured the spatial transformations in China. Course materials will be drawn from classic and popular texts, representing inside and outside perspectives on these urban processes. Course materials will be supplemented by movies and other visual materials. Discussions will be situated within the context of theoretical debates about the neo-liberal state, economic globalization, Chinese political economy, and notions of place and space, and address popular concerns on the critical issues about the country and their impact to the global community.

This course is offered jointly by Global Urban Studies and Geography in Social Science. The course will be of interest to students in a wide range of disciplinary areas, such as Asian studies, urban and economic geography, sociology, political science, urban studies, public affairs, economic development, migration and population studies, environmental science, business, education, and urban planning and policy. Both undergraduate and graduate students are welcome. Undergraduate students can seek approval from the professor for enrolling in the course.

Course Objectives:
Through this course, students will

- Gain a sophisticated understanding of the central underpinnings of the urban
development in China in a global context;

- Become familiar with many cutting-edge debates and the most recent empirical findings in the research area;
- Develop the ability to identify, narrate and frame research questions in a global or comparative context, and develop a critical perspective for understanding the most current issues in China and its impact global-wise.

Course Requirements and Grading:

This class will operate as a professional seminar. There will be brief lectures by the professor. Students will be assigned a list of short readings every week for discussion in class, and bring a one- to two-page response paper to class. Students are also expected to contribute to a news article blog on ANGEL about China weekly. Toward the end of the semester, students will be guided by the professor to develop an individual or group project. The project can either focus on one critical issue (e.g., migration, environmental pollution, labor issue, and so on) in China or a comparative study of it between China and another country, based on a list of referenced works. There will be NO exams.

You will be evaluated based on: 1) your participation in class through critical engagement with lectures, readings, response papers, news article blog, and in-class discussions (40%); and 2) an individual or group project on a topic relevant to the course, including a written paper and a presentation, under the guidance of the course instructor (60%).

Readings:

The course engages students in a combination of popular writings, media commentaries, journal articles and book chapters on China. Each week, the students will be given a list of readings on a specific theme. Each student will prepare a response paper to circulate among class, and be prepared to come and discuss these readings the following class. Copies of the readings will be either available online or given to students by the instructor.

However, throughout the semester, we will complete reading two entire books. Since they are relatively new, popular, and inexpensive, you are encouraged to own a copy of each. You may also find library copies.


Giovanni Arrighi, Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the Twenty-first Century, Verso, 2009

In addition, students are encouraged to read news articles from New York Times or Wall Street Journal on a regular basis. There will be a news blog set up by the instructor on
ANGEL. Students are expected to contribute to that blog periodically.

**Course Schedule**

The instructor may adjust the course schedule according to the learning progress of the class, and the schedules of potential guest speakers.

The following only includes academic articles and book chapters, and does not include miscellaneous popular writings supplemented by the instructor.

**Week 1 September 1**
**Course Introduction**

**Week 2 September 8**
**Urban China: past and present**
Movie: “China: A Century of Revolution”


**Week 3 Sept 15**
**Setting the Context: Globalization, Neoliberalization and China**
Movie: “China: A Century of Revolution”

David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, Oxford University Press, 2005. (Chapter 5)

David Harvey, *Spaces of Global Capitalism*, Verso, 2006. (Chapter 2)

Yasheng Huang, Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State, Cambridge University Press, 2010. (Selected chapter)


* Aiwa Ong, book (selected chapter)

**Week 4 September 22**
**Class and Inequality: Social and Political Perspectives**
Movie clip: “The Power and People”


*Week 5 September 29*

**Chinese Cities Vying for Power**  
Movie clip: “City of Dreams”


John Friedmann, *China’s Urban Transition*, University of Minnesota Press, 2005. (chapters one through three)

*Week 6 October 7*

**Migration, Migrants, and Contested Citizenship Rights**  
Movie: “Mardi Gras: Made in China”

Dorothy J. Solinger, *Contesting Citizenship in Urban China: Peasant Migrants, the State, and the Logic of the Market*. University of California Press, 1999 (selected chapters; available online through Library)


*Week 7 October 14*

**Contested Urban Space: Development & Redevelopment**


**Week 8 October 21**

**Urban Expansion and Sustainability**

Movie: “Ten Thousand Shovels”


**Week 9 October 28**

**Poverty, Inequality and Marginality: Winners and Losers**

Movie: “China in the Red” (dailymotion/Okemos public library)


**Week 10 November 3**
Transnational Networks: China and beyond
Movie: “Manufactured Landscape”


Caroline Cartier, Globalizing South China, Blackwell, 2001. (Chapter 7)

You-tien Hsing, Making Capitalism in China: The Taiwan Connection, Oxford University Press, 1998. (Chapter 2)

Week 11 November 10
Discussion of Project Idea and draw loose ends together

Week 12 November 17
New urban challenges: climate change, sustainability, environmental issues
Movie: “China Revs Up”

Papers in PDF on ANGEL


*Week 13 November 24 NO CLASS

Week 14 December 1
Presentation of project (30 mins each)

Week 15: December 9
No Class; paper due in professor’s mailbox