Syllabus

Across the Straits: on China and Taiwan Changing Relationships - 46556

Last update 08-09-2016

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: asian studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dror Kochan

Coordinator Email: dror.kochan@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff: 
Mr. Dror Kochan
Course/Module description:
Urban space has been an important arena for economic and cultural development and the construction of identities in Taiwan and China since 1949. Used as a key tool to develop national identity, enhance changing political and economic agendas, and address social problems and needs, the development of urban space in both Taiwan and China has many similarities, even as it developed within such different political and economic environments. The course is designed to address the multi-variant phenomenon of urban change in Taiwan and China and examine the similarities as well as the differences between the two trajectories. The course will investigate the ongoing spatial reconstruction of Taiwan and China’s urban spaces and culture, situating this development within the context of local and global political and economic changes and the dynamics of cross-straits economic, political, and cultural relationship.

Course/Module aims:
To chart the development trajectories of Taiwan and China within the context of local and global political and economic changes and the dynamics of cross-straits economic, political, and cultural relationship

To analyze the construction of urban environments in Taiwan and China and their roles in developing national identity, enhancing political and economic agendas, and addressing social problems and needs

To discuss the implications of Taiwan’s and China’s urban development on future cross-straits relations and their global positioning

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Chart the development trajectories of Taiwan and China, their similarities and differences
Analyze the construction of urban environments in Taiwan and China,
Acknowledge the implications of the different political and economic environment on the urban development process,
Assess the role of urban space in constructing national identity, enhancing political and economic agendas, and addressing social problems and needs
Discuss the implications of Taiwan’s and China’s urban development on future cross-straits relations and their global positioning
Conduct a small scale research work, as part of the course assignments, on different aspects of these processes
Attendance requirements(%): 100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lecture

Course/Module Content:
1) Historical, social, and political background
2) The urban scene before 1949 – The city in the imperial period and foreign influences
3) Urban space and national identity – restructuring new urban form, building of national monuments, erasing past traces, cultural representation of the national city
4) Urban restructuring in the post-Jiang and post-Mao period – economic-driven urban development – post-industrial city - Globalizing urban space in the Neoliberal age
5) The competition for Asia’s world cities - Mega events and Mega Infrastructure – restructuring city image and space
6) Public space – creation of public spaces, organized and alternative uses, emergence of civil society
7) Culture – The development of creative clusters and urban preservation, soft power, international cultural events
8) Urban Futures and Representations – museums, exhibitions halls, and master plans
9) Social contestations – marginalization, slums, migrants, and social projects

Required Reading:
of Chiang Kai-shek’s Reign on Taiwan, Journal of Contemporary History 45: 181-196
Chen, Yi-Ling, and William Derhsing Li. "Neoliberalism, the developmental state, and housing policy in Taiwan." Locating Neoliberalism in East Asia: Neoliberalizing Spaces in Developmental States (2012): 196-224.
Lee, Anru. 2012. "Global is National: The cultural politics of the mass rapid transit systems in Taiwan," in Imaging and Imagining Taiwan Identity representation and cultural politics, Edited by Bi-yu Chang and Henning Klyter, pp. 125-146.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 25 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 65 %
Assignments 10 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
For the most updated information on the course topics and list of reading items, please refer to course site on the Moodle system