Syllabus

Global Cities and the Middle Classes in East Asi - 46817

Last update 13-07-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Asian Studies

Academic year: 1

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Nissim Otmazgin and Orna Naftali

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Coordinator Office Hours: Dr. Nissim Otmazgin: Thursday, 14:30-15:30
Dr. Naftali: Wed. 11:30-12:30

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Nissim Otmazgin
Dr. Orna Naftali

Course/Module description:
The course deals with one of the most interesting phenomena of the last several decades in Asia: The rapid growth of huge metropolitan centers which serve as dynamic hubs of economic, social, and cultural activities and which attract large-scale domestic and international migration. Shanghai, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Jakarta, Seoul, and Kuala Lumpur are not merely global cities attached to regional and worldwide financial and industrial centers, but are key sites for the emergence of novel social formations, including the new middle classes. These emergent white-collar professionals are said to harbor new expectations and pose new demands in areas such as leisure and education, as well as access to better public services, safer food, and a cleaner environment. They also play a key role the construction of new models of citizenship and new cosmopolitan identities across the region.

In this course, we shall examine these recent developments; learn about the dramatic changes in the economic geography and in the demographic and social structure of East Asian cities; and identify and map new sites of economic and political power in the region.

Course/Module aims:
- To chart the emergence and development of East Asian global cities (in north-east and south-east Asia)
- To analyze the socioeconomic and political features of the new middles classes which inhabit East Asia's global cities
- To discuss the implications of these recent changes for national and regional politics; for East Asia's economic geography; and for the social demographics of the region

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- Chart the emergence and development of East Asian global cities (both north-east and south-east Asia)
- Analyze the socioeconomic and political features of the new middles classes which inhabit these global cities
- Discuss the implications of these recent changes for contemporary national and regional politics; for East Asian economic geography; and for the social demographics of the region
Attendance requirements(%): 100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and discussion

Course/Module Content:
- The commercial and financial activities in East Asia's global cities
- Urban planning and architecture in East Asia's global cities
- The development of the urban middle class and its social, economic, and political features
- Economy and consumption in East Asia's global cities
- The development of urban epistemological communities
- The development of urban cosmopolitan culture in Asia
- Cities, regionalism and globalization in East Asia

Required Reading:


The China Journal 51:1–26


Additional Reading Material:
Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 30 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 50 %
Assignments 20 %
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