



## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Global Cities in the Asian Region - Thematic Course for Graduate Students - 46817*

*Last update 12-12-2023*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)*

*Responsible Department: Asian Studies*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Orna Naftali*

*Coordinator Email: [orna.naftali@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:orna.naftali@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Tue., 12-1 PM*

---

Teaching Staff:

Prof Orna Naftali

Course/Module description:

The course deals with one of the most notable phenomena of the past several decades: The rapid growth of huge metropolitan centers in Asia, which serve as dynamic hubs of economic, social, and cultural activities while attracting large-scale domestic and international migration. Places like Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Mumbai, Seoul, and Singapore are not only "large cities" (or in the case of the latter: a city-state) attached to regional and worldwide financial and industrial centers. They are also key sites for the emergence of novel social formations, including new middle classes. These emergent white-collar professionals harbor new expectations and pose new demands in areas such as education and leisure culture. They require access to better public services and a safer and cleaner environment. Arguably, these classes also play a key role in the construction of new models of citizenship and cosmopolitan identities across the region. At the same time, Asia's global cities also constitute sites of growing socioeconomic disparities and potential tensions between domestic and international lower-class migrant workers and a wealthy, transnational elite. The course will examine these developments while charting key changes in the economic geography and in the demographic and social structure of cities in the Asian Sphere. Situating the rise of Asia's global cities within a historical context, we will evaluate the extent to which these cities constitute key nodes of political and economic power in a regional and worldwide network of global cities.

*\*The class will include viewing of documentaries and clips from select films, as well as several guest lectures by Asian Studies faculty.*

Course/Module aims:

- To chart the emergence and development of global cities in Asia
- To analyze the socioeconomic and political features of the populations which inhabit Asia's global cities
- To discuss the implications of these changes for national and regional politics; for 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 Asian global cities while situating this process within a historical and theoretical context

---

*-Analyze the socioeconomic and political features of the populations which inhabit Asia's global cities*

*-Discuss the implications of these developments for contemporary national and regional politics; for Asia's economic geography; and for the social demographics of the region*

*Attendance requirements(%):*

*80*

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and discussion*

*Course/Module Content:*

*\*The following list is subject to change. For the most updated list of topics see class website on Moodle system.*

*-What is a "global city"?*

*-Asia's global cities in historical context*

*-The colonial past of Asia's global cities*

*-Commercial and Financial activities in Asia's contemporary global cities*

*-Labor, class, and migration in Asia's global cities*

*-Utopia & dystopia in Asia's global cities: Urban planning, technology, and the environment*

*-Urban consumer culture in Asia's global cities*

*-Nationalism, regionalism and cosmopolitanism in Asia's global cities*

*-Civil activism in Asia's global cities*

*-LGBTQ Spaces in Asian Global Cities*

*-Religions in Asia's Global Cities*

---

Required Reading:

*\*See class website on the Moodle system*

Additional Reading Material:

*\*See class website on the Moodle system*

Grading Scheme:

*Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research proposal 46 %*

*Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %*

*Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 24 %*

*Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 20 %*

Additional information:

*\*Note: In this course students may submit either a short final paper OR an extended seminar paper (46% of the grade).*

*\*Students may submit the extended seminar paper in either English or Hebrew.*

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