

NYU Wagner's Urbanization and Sustainable Development in Transitional China

NYU Shanghai (at East China Normal University)
Shanghai, China

Faculty Instructor
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Course Description:

Within the next 20 years, China will move 300 million people, similar size as the US population, from rural to urban areas. The massive and rapid urbanization poses tremendous challenges to environment and sustainability, but also offer great opportunities for industrial restructuring and economic development. This process is accompanied with the transition from a centrally-controlled to a market-oriented economy. This course exposes students to diverse issues under this context such as urban renewal, motorization, land use planning, public finance in infrastructure, housing reform, real estate development, property rights, economic development zones, environmental protection, alternative energy, social welfare, etc. The ten-day course will be held in NYU Shanghai, and combines classroom lectures, local guest speakers, visits to local organizations, and field trips in Shanghai and nearby towns and villages.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to attend all lectures and field trips of the course and to prepare for the intensive nature of the course by doing the following pre-course assignments before the lecture.

Readings:

Textbook:

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

Lecture readings

These readings are newspaper reports, government documents, or journal articles on each lecture topic. They are posted on the Blackboard.

Field trip readings

These readings are related to the particular site or project that we will visit. Please read them before the field trip.

Course Paper

You will select any of the topics covered by this course and write a fifteen-to-twenty-page paper (12-point Times New Roman or similar font, double-spaced, with 1" margins, with footnotes at the bottom of each page), plus tables, figures, and references. You can refer to published papers, documents, online materials, etc. to form a clear statement regarding a development issue in China, but the paper should reflect your own thinking instead of a copy

or summary of others' point. Grading criteria include: critical thinking, articulation or organization of ideas, writing style, and appropriate citation of other's work.

Reading Lists

Pre-Departure Lecture

1. Making Room for a Planet of Cities, Policy Focus Report by Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
2. How Should We Be Thinking About Urbanization? A Freakonomics Quorum
<http://www.freakonomics.com/2007/12/11/how-should-we-be-thinking-about-urbanization-a-freakonomics-quorum/?scp=11&sq=China+urbanization&st=nyt>

Day 1

Field Trip 1: Shanghai

1. Textbook Chapter 2: Reclaiming Shanghai
2. China's Born-again Giant: Shanghai, National Geography 1980
3. The Urban Development and Redevelopment in Shanghai (slides)
4. Shanghai's Rejuvenation and Pudong Development (slides)

Day 2

Lecture 1: Context of Urbanization in China

1. Textbook Introduction: Urbanism of ambition
2. Textbook Epilogue: China reinvent cities
3. The State of China's Cities 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life.

Lecture 2: Urbanization Policy in China

1. Fundamentals of China's Urbanization and Policy
2. Dual-track urbanization in a transitional economy: The case of Pearl River Delta in South China
3. Preparing for China's Urban Billion, McKinsey Global Institute
4. On the past and future of china's township and village-owned enterprises

Field Trip 2 Thames Town

1. Shanghai Urban Expansion from Dense Mono-center to Organic Poly-Center (slides)
2. Gated and packaged suburbia: Packaging and branding Chinese suburban residential development
3. Localizing the Production of Global Cities: A Comparison of New Town Developments Around Shanghai and Kolkata

Day 3

Lecture 3: Land Tenure System

1. China's Land System: Past, Present, and Future
2. Secure Land Rights as a Foundation for Broad-based Rural Development in China, NBR Special Report #18
3. Land Tenure Reform and Economic Development in China: Past Policies and Prospects for Additional Reform
4. Developing Land Markets within the Constraint of State Ownership in Vietnam

Lecture 4: Household Registration (HuKou) System

1. Does China have an apartheid pass system?
2. Hukou status and social exclusion of rural-urban migrants in transitional China

Field Trip 3: Urban Village

1. The Chengzhongcun (urban village) land market in China: boon or bane? – a perspective on property rights
2. Grounding displacement: uncivil urban spaces in postreform South China
3. Mapping Urban Village in China
4. New Demand for People's Housing (urban village in ShenZhen)

Day 4

Lecture 5: Rural Migrant Workers

1. Defying Global Slump, China Has Labor Shortage
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/27/business/global/27yuan.html?scp=80&sq=China&st=Search#>
2. Labor Shortage in China May Lead to Trade Shift
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/03/business/03labor.html?scp=125&sq=China&st=Search>
3. Migrant 'Villages' Within a City Ignite Debate
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/04/world/asia/04beijing.html?scp=3&sq=China+hukou&st=nyt>
4. Companies Make a Move Into China's Heartland
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9905E1DF1538F935A1575BC0A9669D8B63&scp=24&sq=China+urbanization&st=nyt>
5. Employers as landlords for rural-to-urban migrants in Chinese cities
6. Return Migration, Entrepreneurship and Local State Corporatism in Rural China: The experience of two counties in south Jiangxi
7. Migrant workers in the urban labour market of Shenzhen, China

Lecture 6: Motorization and Urbanization

1. Textbook Chapter 8: Driving the capitalist road
2. G.M., Eclipsed at Home, Soars to Top in China, New York Times on July 22nd, 2010 http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/22/business/global/22auto.html?_r=1&hp
3. Urban mobility in the developing world

4. Cars in China: Dream machines
http://www.economist.com/node/4032842?story_id=4032842
5. Beijing Cracks Down on Car Buyers
http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052748704278404576037223377_494828-1MyQjAxMTAwMDIwNjEyNDYyWj.html
6. China's New Urban Plan -- Buy a Car, but Don't Use It
<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/02/09/09climatewire-chinas-new-urban-plan-buy-a-car-but-dont-use-36267.html?scp=8&sq=urban%20p>
7. Video: Car accidents caught by camera in Heze City, Shandong Province (Prof. Guo's hometown) (Please skip to 2:18')

Day 5

Field Trip 4 Suzhou Industrial Park and Suzhou

1. The Suzhou Industrial Park Experiment: the case of China–Singapore governmental Collaboration
2. Same Bed, Different Dreams: The China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park

Day 8

Lecture 7: Housing Policy and Real Estate Development

1. Debate: China's Scary Housing Bubble
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/04/14/chinas-scary-housing-bubble?ref=asia>
2. Local Public Finance in China: An Overview. Chapter 1 in China's Local Public Finance in Transition
3. Building Rome in a day: The sustainability of China's housing boom. A report from the Economist Intelligence Unit's Access China service
4. Video: China's Ghost Cities http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbDeS_mXMnM

Lecture 8: Urban Renewal and the Relocation War

1. Textbook Chapter 5: City of Chai
2. 'Art in capital': Shaping distinctiveness in a culture-led urban regeneration project in Red Town, Shanghai
3. The Evolving Law of Disputed Relocation: Constructing Inner City Renewal Practices in Shanghai, 1990-2005
4. The Changing Right to the City: Urban Renewal and Housing Rights in Globalizing Shanghai and Mumbai
5. Forward to the Past: Historical Preservation in Globalizing Shanghai (case study of Xintiandi in Shanghai)
6. Trampled in a Land Rush, Chinese Resist
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/27/world/asia/27china.html?scp=52&sq=China+urbanization&st=nyt>

Video:

1. Zunyi: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47M89fT-jLk&feature=related>
2. Nail household vs. Demolish team (video game)
3. Chengdu: <http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/2UfGzPGIL0I/>
4. Zhuzhou: <http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/xhezIADYCJQ/>
5. Mishan: <http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/q0jr0Dp-7YM/>
6. Shanghai: <http://v.ifeng.com/society/200911/abc585df-ad73-4025-9edd-89785e280bc1.shtml>

Field Trip 5 Real Estate Development Project

Readings TBD

Day 9

Lecture 9: Economic Development Zones

1. The Myth of the Beijing Consensus
2. Development Zones, Foreign Investment, and Global City Formation in Shanghai
3. Challenges to the sustainability of ‘development zones’: A case study of Guangzhou Development District, China
4. City Profile: Shenzhen
5. Local planning and global implementation: Foreign investment and urban development of Pudong, Shanghai
6. Urban Governance of Economic Upgrading Processes in China: The Case of Guangzhou Science City

Lecture 10: Built Environment and Cityscape

1. Textbook Chapter 7: Suburbanization and the mechanics of sprawl
2. Textbook Chapter 9: Theme Parks and the Landscape of Consumption
3. Architects Find Their Dream Client, in China
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/16/business/16build.html?scp=8&sq=China+science+park&st=nyt>
4. Architecture and Nation Building in the Age of Globalization: Construction of the National Stadium of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games
5. In China, Cultivating the Urge to Splurge (Shopper’s Republic of China)
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/28/magazine/28China-t.html?pagewanted=1>
6. China Approves Disney Theme Park in Shanghai
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/04/business/global/04disney.html?scp=75&sq=China&st=Search>

Field Trip 6 Yangshan Deep Water Port

1. Port competition between Shanghai and Ningbo

Day 10

Gathering with ECNU graduate students

Field Trip 7: BaoSteel

1. Urbanization, sustainability and the utilization of energy and mineral resources in China
2. A comparative study of the development mode of China's iron and steel industry

Day 11

Lecture 11: Environmental Issues and Climate Change

1. Making central-local relations work: Comparing America and China environmental governance systems
2. As China Roars, Pollution Reaches Deadly Extremes
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/26/world/asia/26china.html?scp=37&sq=China+urbanization&st=nyt>
3. The Great Paradox of China: Green Energy and Black Skies
4. China Racing Ahead of U.S. in the Drive to Go Solar
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/25/business/energy-environment/25solar.html?scp=68&sq=China&st=Search>