Urbanization and Sustainable Development in Transitional China

NYU Center, China Eastern Normal University
Shanghai, China
June 21 – July 1 2010

Faculty Advisor
Professor Zhan Guo
Zg11@nyu.edu

Draft Syllabus
(updated on 12-16-09)

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 Center in 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 summer course and to prepare for the intensive nature of the course by doing the following pre-course assignments before the lecture.

Readings:

Separate readings on each lecture topic will be posted on the Blackboard in spring 2010.

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. The paper should form a clear statement regarding a development issue in China. In addition to a good understanding of what is happening, the paper is expected to address questions
like: why Chinese do what they do in that field? What are the challenges and opportunities? Is there a possibility of mutual learning between China and the US on this topic? What are the concerns and potential problems? What do you project for the future with respect to that issue?

Students should define their paper topic by Tuesday June 1st. The paper is due on Friday, July 30th, at 12:00 noon, in Prof. Guo’s third floor mailbox at the Puck Building (295 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012). The paper can either be mailed or hand delivered, but NOT e-mailed unless you will then be outside New York City.

Resources about NYU Shanghai

NYU Shanghai Official website
http://www.nyu.edu/global/shanghai/

NYU Shanghai: Student to Student guide
Hear from past students about their experiences abroad. Here past students offer dining and entertainment recommendations, tips for what to bring and how to adjust after arrival, and more.

zaishanghai: the NYU Shanghai magazine
http://www.zaishanghai.org/webzine/
a webzine and print magazine featuring the work of New York University (NYU) students and faculty studying and teaching in Shanghai, China, on the campus of East China Normal University (ECNU).

Sunday, June 20
Arrive Shanghai

Airport pick-up by NYU Shanghai and check in the on-campus residence hall

Monday, June 21
Orientation

Morning: Orientation by NYU Shanghai
Afternoon: City tour (TBD)
New suburban towns: British, German, and French towns

Tuesday, June 22
Course Introduction

Lecture Topics
8:30 –10:00AM: Course structure; Economic Reform; Role of Shanghai
10:15- 12:00PM: Urbanization and sustainable development
• National urbanization policy: from towns to megacities
• Sustainability concerns (TBD)

Field Trip
Shanghai City Planning Exhibition Hall

Wednesday, June 23rd  Urbanization and Regulation

Lecture Topics
8:30 –10:00AM: Political structure and urban systems
10:15- 12:00PM: Urban management and planning
• social welfare, property rights, eminent domain, public finance
• Planning systems: plan making and the consulting market
• Regional cooperation and competition

Field Trip
School of Arch. & Urban Planning, Tongji Univ. (best planning program in China)
Shanghai Planning Institute

Thursday, June 24  Rural Immigrants

Lecture Topics
8:30 –10:00AM: agriculture, farmers, and rural development
10:15- 12:00PM: rural immigrants in cities
• Employment opportunities
• Social welfare: household registration, education, health care, etc.
• Life-span dynamics: training, migrant back, etc.

Field Trip
Factories and immigrant clusters in Shanghai (TBD)

Friday, June 25  Research Day

Discussion of paper topics; field surveys

Saturday June 26  Field Trip to Suzhou
A historical city (called Oriental Venice) 1.5 hour from Shanghai by train, famous for its Chinese traditional gardens

Readings and Sources:
The China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park
http://www.sipac.gov.cn/english/

Sunday, June 27  Motorization

Lecture Topics
8:30 –10:00AM: Infrastructure investment
  • National highway, high speed rail, and public transit
  • Financing infrastructure
10:15-12:00PM: Car ownership and travel patterns
  • Automobile industry
  • Pedestrians and cycling

Field Trip: 2010 World Expo
World Expo website: http://en.expo2010.cn/
Expo update from Shanghai Daily

Monday, June 28  Housing Reform and Affordability

Lecture Topics
8:30 –10:00AM: Housing reform and real estate development
10:15-12:00PM: Affordable housing
  • National policy and local initiatives
  • Description of current market: subsidized, public housing, rental, spatial aspect, etc.
  • Why affordable housing efforts failed in general?

Field Trip
An affordable housing project in Shanghai (TBD)

Tuesday, June 29  Urban Renewal and the Relocation War

Lecture Topics
8:30 –10:00AM: urban renewal since 1980s: commercial, residential, and industry
10:15-12:00PM: relocation of urban residents
  • Stakeholders
  • Examples
  • Future trends

Field Trip
XintianDi New Development
Housing project at urban edge for relocated residents (TBD)
Wednesday, June 30    Industrial Parks and Development Districts

Lecture Topics
8:30 –10:00AM: Industrial parks: origin and development
10:15-12:00PM: industrial park and urbanization
  • Employment growth
  • New town strategy

Field Trip
Shanghai Zhangjiang High Tech Park (TBD)
Shanghai Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone (TBD)

Thursday, July 1st    Environment and Sustainable Development

Lecture Topics
8:30 –10:00AM: Air and water pollution; land conservation
10:15-12:00PM: Renewable energy or maybe not
  • Solar, wind, etc.
  • Electric vehicles
  • ……

No Field Trip schedule

Friday, July 2nd    Check Out Day

Check out on the morning

Shuttle bus to airports
About NYU Shanghai Center

The New York University in Shanghai Academic Center is located in Science Building at East China Normal University, in Shanghai’s Putuo District, accessible by lines 3 and 4 of the Shanghai subway system, as well as a number of public bus routes. Nearby, you can buy train tickets to anywhere in China, walk to the post office, or enjoy a wide selection of Chinese or Western restaurants. East China Normal University is one of the finest educational institutions in China, and NYU in Shanghai’s Center is in the heart of this environment. Situated near local cafeterias and food stalls, student services, and dormitories housing not only local Chinese students, but thousands of international students from Japan, Korea, the US, and elsewhere, NYU students have a lively and diverse school atmosphere. The NYU in Shanghai Academic Center resides on the third floor on the Science Building, the most prominent landmark on campus. The Academic Center houses not only staff offices, but also the Chinese language program teachers and classrooms for all NYU in Shanghai courses.
On-Campus Residence Hall

The residence hall, located near the back gate of ECNU, is in the liveliest area of ECNU. One of the campus cafeterias, local restaurants, numerous street vendors and shops are all located near the back gate of ECNU. Students will be placed in a newly renovated international dormitory with students from all over the world.

Each room features a small, private bathroom, a bed with linens, a desk, book shelf, closet space, and wired internet access. Students can choose to have their own room or share with one roommate. The single and double rooms are roughly equal in size, making the double room a good option only for students without too many personal belongings who are really looking to cut housing costs. Communal-use facilities located within the residence hall include laundry and kitchen facilities, study lounges, activities rooms, and computer labs. All of these facilities are available to on-campus students 24 hours a day.