UST 206 – Megacities of Asia
Spring 2017

Class Meeting Time: This course is entirely online.

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Department of Urban Studies
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Course Mentor: Brandon Bargheiser
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Course Description

This course examines the phenomenal growth of urban areas in Asian countries. The unique factors of 21st century urbanization in Asia – including technology, religion, globalization, and environmental concerns – warrant study from a multi-disciplinary perspective that recognizes Asian cities as the harbingers of a new era. The course focuses on the economic, demographic, and sociopolitical study of Asian cities, and requires comparative analysis of their respective growths. Students prepare a comprehensive report on a subject city that incorporates a multi-disciplinary approach and qualitative and quantitative analysis. Readings include the textbook, literature about each country, current articles, news stories, and reports.

There are two required textbooks for this course:

   *Note - Only selected readings are used for this course (complied into a reader) which can be purchased only at the CSU bookstore.

   *Note - Discussion board readings are in Megacities The New Global Community textbook by Slone.
Optional Reference Material


Note: The information presented in the Clark and Rowe books are for reference purpose ONLY, and should not be purchased for the course. This material may help you with your Critical Thinking Essay/City Report on Reserves at the CSU Michael Swartz Library. Students may check out the supplemental readings for two hours at the library circulation desk. Lecture notes from the Clark book are also available under the learning modules for chapters 1-6.

Definition of Megacities

The United Nations coined the term mega cities in the 1970s to designate all urban agglomerations with a population of eight million or more. In the 1990s, the United Nations raised the population threshold to 10 million, following the practice of institutions such as the Asian Development Bank. Source: Board of Studies New South Wales Australian Government, 2010.

General Education Statement

This course fulfills the Non-U.S. (AALAME) Social Science Breadth of Knowledge General Education requirement. In addition, it satisfies the skill areas of critical thinking, and information literacy.

Criteria for Breadth of Knowledge: Non-U.S. Social Science

This course is an introduction to the study of megacities in Asia using an interdisciplinary approach that includes economic development, technology, environmental studies, anthropology, sociology urban planning, and public administration. The course emphasizes the development and growth of urban areas in Asia and integrates the field of urban studies with students’ everyday experience. The course is designed to meet the following learning objectives in accordance with CSU’s General Education Non-U.S. Social Science requirements:
Course Objectives

This course will enable students to:

- understand the complex issues and challenges facing urban areas in Asia;
- recognize the importance and usefulness of multi-disciplinary approaches to resolving these challenges;
- become acquainted with basic theoretical and empirical concepts used in the discipline of urban studies to explain the behavior of individuals and groups in societies, economies, governments, and subcultures of Asia; and
- present and analyze data on megacities of Asia.

Criteria for Skill Areas

Skill: Critical Thinking

At least 15% of students’ grades will be based on evaluations of critical thinking (essay assignment). Students are required to attain skills beyond lower-level knowledge, thereby requiring:

1. higher-order thinking (analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) with respect to studying urban growth. Students will submit a critical thinking proposal and report to determine primary forces driving growth in various Asian urban areas. The growth of the subject city will be compared to baseline growth trends; and

2. attainment of skills beyond lower-level knowledge, thereby requiring skills that involve the use of content knowledge (e.g. finding information to solve a problem).

Skill: Information Literacy

At least 15% of students’ grades will be based on an evaluation of information literacy. Students are required to:
1. evaluate the accuracy, authority, currency, objectivity, and reliability of information sources. This will include government document analysis, economic reports, and population data from various sources;
2. address the ethical and legal uses of information;
3. evaluate the accuracy, authority, currency, objectivity, and reliability of information sources, and compare data of an impacted area to a baseline area; and
4. address the ethical and legal uses of information.

University and College Policies

University Deadlines

- For the current semester, the deadline for dropping a course is September 9, 2016.
- The last day to withdraw from the course is March 31, 2017.
- The final examination week for the university is May 6, 2017 – May 12, 2017.
  - **NOTE:**
    - The mid-term exam will be available from 8:00 a.m. Monday, March 6th until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7th.
    - The final exam will be available from 8:00 a.m. Monday, May 8th until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, May 9th.
- For class cancellations due to weather, call CSU information (687-2000) before class, or access the Cleveland State University home page at www.csuohio.edu.

Class Policies

- Academic misconduct: plagiarism or cheating will result in an “F” for the assignment and possibly an “F” for the course.
- Late assignments, make-up exams, etc. are accepted at the discretion of the instructor and require valid written documentation (i.e., doctor’s excuse, if applicable).
- The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Grades are based on writing assignments (weekly discussion boards, proposal, critical thinking essay) and exams. Students are expected to:
• Read all textbook chapters and other assigned readings before beginning the respective online sessions;
• Participate actively in discussions and ask clarifying questions;
• Prepare and submit all written assignments. Late assignments will be accepted at the instructors discretion;
• Critical thinking essay (and proposal) and weekly discussions are due by the date specified in the Course Schedule;
• Send all discussion postings and written assignments through Blackboard;
• Log on to the course site daily to check for changes and/or additional information.

Grades are weighted as follows:

**Grade Weight**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Essay</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Discussion Boards</td>
<td>75 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal for the Critical Thinking Paper</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>400 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As late discussion boards will not be accepted, you will have one extra credit discussion board opportunity. This extra credit opportunity is worth 15 points and noted in the class schedule.*

**Grading Scale**

The following is a breakdown of the letter grades that will be distributed in this course.

**Grade %**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94.0 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0 – 93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.0 – 89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.0 – 86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0 – 82.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.0 – 79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.0 – 76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.0 – 72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.0 – 69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63.0 – 66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60.0 – 62.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.0 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“I”

The "I" (or Incomplete) grade is given when the work in a course has been generally passing, but when some specifically required task has not been completed through no fault of the student. An "I" grade can be assigned by the instructor when all three of the following conditions are met:

1. student is regularly attending/participating in the class and has the potential to pass the course;
2. student has not completed all assignments and has stopped attending/participating for reasons deemed justified by the instructor; and
3. student has notified the instructor prior to the end of the grading period.

Students with Special Needs

Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216) 687-2015. The Office is located in MC 147. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively. Students should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they have been granted an accommodation through the Office of Disability Services.

Writing Assistance

Students with difficulty writing may contact the Writing Center located in Main Classroom 321 for assistance. Students should use the American Psychological Association (APA) format for citations and reference pages.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is stealing and/or using the ideas or writings of another in a paper or report and claiming them as one’s own. This includes but is not limited to the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. The penalties
For plagiarism are found in full in the Student Handbook under Academic Regulations (Policy on Academic Misconduct) at the following link: https://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife/student-conduct.

If you require additional information regarding plagiarism you may also refer to the Writing Centers page on plagiarism, which can be accessed at the following link: https://www.csuohio.edu/writing-center/writing-center-2.

**Paraphrasing**
Paraphrasing should be used to support student’s thinking and should form the bulk of their evidence. A paraphrase is a restatement of the author’s words or ideas. Paraphrasing adds weight to the argument presented. Where possible maintain the Intent of the original passage, or if synthesizing the work of several authors use the style indicated above.

**Communication Policy**

How to Communicate with Your Instructor and Teaching Assistant

As wonderful practice for engaging with colleagues as a professional, your emails should always address your instructor and teaching assistants in a courteous and professional tone. Remember that you are send a formal professional note and not an informal text message to a friend.

- Address your emails either to Dr. Taylor or Mr. Bargaheiser
- Use a short, but descriptive subject line
- Strive to be clear and professional in your tone
- Try, whenever possible, to focus your email to one particular topic
- Your emails should conclude with your full name. You may want to consider putting your major on the bottom of your email so we can learn more about your academic endeavors.
If you do not follow these guidelines, you may be asked to resubmit your email to us before we respond to your question or comment.

**Course Method**
The course will be conducted on-line in CSU’s Blackboard. Students must log onto the class’s Blackboard site regularly – at least three times a week – to monitor any updates or changes in the class. The class requires extensive use of the site. Information about using Blackboard is available at: [http://www.csuohio.edu/center-for-elearning](http://www.csuohio.edu/center-for-elearning)

**Written Assignments and Weekly Activities**
Each week every student must complete the assigned readings and one written assignment (eg. critical thinking essay, discussion boards, or city report).

**Assignment Due Dates**
- All assignments are due as noted on the schedule. Grading rubrics will be provided for written assignments.
- Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

**Submission Format Rules and Penalties (Properly name your assignments)**
- For all assignments, you are required to
  - A) properly name the file (eg. J_Smith_Policy_Paper) and
  - B) put your name on the document itself.
- Failure to put your name properly on the file and/or the document will result in a 10 point deduction per assignment.

**Writing Assignments**
The critical thinking essay and city report are considered research papers and should be written as such.
Critical Thinking Essay
The critical thinking essay assignment is intended to call upon your critical thinking skills. Critical thinking requires critical questioning. By pursuing answers to tough questions, you will employ higher-order thinking and content knowledge skills to arrive at solutions.

Background: Many large Asian cities have used the Western model of growth as they expand. This model has deep ties to capitalist society, including the notion that progress is measured by advances in luxury, convenience and economic activity. Yet for Asian societies that do not have the same cultural and socio-political background as New York or London, (for example cities in Japan, India or China, etc.) there is a potential mismatch between the growth model of the cities and the people who inhabit them.

Additional detailed instructions will be posted on blackboard.

Class Assignments
Discussion Board Posts
Students will participate in on-line discussions based upon seven weekly discussion boards assigned for the course, which are indicated in the readings assignment section of the syllabus. Students MUST post a minimum of 1 - 2 paragraphs (150 word minimum) in an initial post to the discussion question under the discussion tab in Blackboard. You must also respond to your classmates’ initial posts. Word count will be noted for your responses on the discussion board. Please keep in mind a good discussion response will illustrate examples from the reading assigned. Both the initial post and responses must be delivered by the due date listed on the syllabus. Late discussion board posts will be accepted at the instructor’s discretion and may be subject to a late penalty as determined by the instructor.

Note: A good paragraph consists of at least 5-6 sentences. Discussion response postings not meeting the assignment requirement will not receive credit for the posting. (150 words minimum) Keep in mind, students should not use this platform to spout their own ideologies, but to share and express ideas relative to the class.
Exams

Mid-Term and Final Exam

- Questions for the mid-term and final exams are drawn from the textbook, supplemental, and weekly discussion response readings and not from the Internet or other outside sources. The mid-term exam consists of material presented from the start of the semester until the time of the mid-term. The final exam will cover course material presented after the mid-term until the end of the semester.
- No study guide will be provided in preparation for the mid-term and final exam because both exams are open book.
- Students will have 90 minutes to complete the on-line mid-term and final exams once they start the exams in Blackboard.
- Grades for the mid-term and final exams will post in students Blackboard grade book after the exam closes and all exams have been graded.
- Students should save their answers frequently and again prior to submitting their exams for grading.

*NOTE: The mid-term and final exam can be taken only ONE time during the exam period. The mid-term and final exams can be accessed via the Assessment tab on Blackboard.

** TIP: Do not rely on information from the Internet as a source for answering exam questions. Information on the Internet may differ from material presented in class, and may lead to student’s selecting an incorrect answer based on conflicting information between readings assigned for the course and information presented on the Internet.

Policies

- For class cancellations due to weather, call CSU information (687-2000) before class, or access the Cleveland State University home page at www.csuohio.edu.
- Academic misconduct: plagiarism or cheating will result in an “F” for the assignment and possibly an “F” for the course.
- Late assignments are accepted at the discretion of the instructor.
• Make-ups of exams and assignments are at the discretion of the instructor and require valid written documentation (for example, written doctor’s excuse).
• The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus.

**Attendance Policy**

As this is an online course, you may complete work any time during the week and up to the due date. For missing deadlines, excused absences for the online class include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. Upon requesting an excused absence, you should be prepared to provide proper documentation along with your email stating the assignment missed and a brief description for the request. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse.

**Fairness**

It is unfair to other students in the class for you to ask for a deadline extension except when justified by extenuating circumstances. Competing pressures from other courses, job requirements, or computing problems do not qualify as extenuating circumstances. Students must provide the instructor with documentation that explains their absence (doctor’s note, obituary, etc.). Extensions for individual assignments or a grade of incomplete in the course will only be granted for severe hardship or extenuating circumstances.

Make-up exams or assignment extensions will not be given unless justified by extenuating circumstances (such as: an illness or family emergency) and without prior consent from the instructor. Submitting a request for an early or late exam does not guarantee that the instructor will grant the request. Missing an exam or assignment without a valid excuse may result in a zero grade for the exam or assignment (unless a late penalty is specified on the assignment).
If late assignments will be accepted (as specified on the instructions), the following are the general late penalties.

- 20% deduction for turning in the assignment one day late on or before 11:59 p.m. ET.
- 40% deduction for turning in the assignment two days late on or before 11:59 p.m. ET.

The instructor does not generally accept assignments past two days late. Unlike the weekdays, please note that the weekend of Saturday and Sunday will only count as one day.

**APA Style Tips**

Student papers must include documentation of at least three (3) scholarly sources (i.e., periodicals, government documents, books, Internet sources, etc.) for the critical thinking essay. Reference material cited in the written assignments MUST not come solely from Internet sources. All of your research statements must be documented in the reference section of your paper.

**American Psychological Association (APA) Citation and Formatting Style**

APA is the citation and formatting style used by planners and it is very common in the social sciences. Before engaging in your discussion posts, please follow website links by Purdue Owl (2015) to learn about how to use American Psychological Association (APA) in-text citations.

- [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/)
- [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/)

**What kinds of references should I include?**

You can give a reference from the course materials provided this week as well as from an outside source(s). You should properly cite any sources that you use. As this is a learning environment, we want you to include sources so that others can follow-up on your ideas by looking up what kinds of academic resources inspire or support your thinking.

The APA style utilizes in-text citations that refer to a list of sources. The following are a few examples of the APA style:
In Text Citations:

1. Direct Quotations
   a. As Smith (2014) noted,
   b. As Jones and Clement (2015) indicated,

2. Internet Citations within the Text of your Paper:
   a. In the article “Policy Implementation and Practices,” Dr. Smyth indicate… (State of Ohio, 2016).
   b. According to a report by the United States Census… (U.S. Census, 2010).

3. Summary or Paraphrase: Include the author(s) last name and the date either in a single phrase or in parenthesis at the end of the sentence. For example:

Referencing Citations from the Internet in your Reference Section:

1. How to Cite Internet Citations in your Reference Section. (Not to be used in the body of your text. ONLY use in REFERENCE SECTION): Cite material from a web site by giving the web address in parenthesis (http://historyofclevlena.org). If you are referring to the entire site, you do not need a bibliography entry. If you are referring to a specific document from the web site, provide a bibliography entry in the list of references.
   For example:

Citation Help: For additional help in utilizing APA citations
Refer to http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html or go to the CUS library home page virtual reference site and click on the drop down list to citation guides (http://library.csuohio.edu/).
Technology Management

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED FOR THE COURSE, AND NEED TO FACTOR THIS INTO THEIR PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION FOR THE COURSE. For example:

1. keep copies of your homework in case they don’t download correctly;
2. email or call the instructor immediately if the computer crashes in the middle of an exam; and
3. if your personal computer crashes, you will have to find another way to ensure your participation in the course (i.e., using computers at CSU, local library, etc.).

Students are responsible for managing the technology and must factor this into planning and organization. For example, keep copies of homework in case they do not load correctly. As another example, if your personal computer crashes, you will have to find another way to participate, such as using CSU computers. Problems between the students and Blackboard, unless officially notified, are their responsibility.

For those who have permission to do school work at your workplace and plan to do so, please be advised that many workplaces have computer safeguards in place that may prevent you from doing so. In particular, workplace pop-blockers may block access to the discussion response readings/postings and exams.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about UST 206 in Blackboard

Q. **When are assignments due?**
A. See Course Schedule in Syllabus. Also remember to check the Announcements and/or emails from your instructor for any changes.

Q. **How do I check my grades?**
A. Click on My Grades. You will find it along the left hand column menu on the Blackboard course site.
Q. Can I email you my assignments?
A. Please submit all assignments under the appropriate section in Blackboard. Assignments submitted via the instructor’s campus email account will not be accepted unless:
   1. student’s can not access Blackboard; or
   2. instructed by the instructor to do so.
Assignments improperly submitted will be accepted at the instructor’s discretion.

Q. When will my grades be available?
A. Discussion Boards should be graded within two weeks while exams and larger assignments will be graded within three weeks. Please note that your teaching assistant is assisting the instructor with multiple courses. If you are concerned about your grade, the best thing you can do is email about additional tips and advice on how to approach assignments and exams.

Q. I thought I did better on last week’s assignment. Why did I get the grade I did?
A. Each assignment (except the weekly discussion board) is graded using a grading rubric. The teaching assistant uses the rubric in grading the assignments, and in assigning grades. Students who have a question regarding their grade on an assignment need to email the teaching assistant. Email the Instructor only AFTER you have tried to resolve your concern with the teaching assistant.

Q. I have a question about class policies or content.
A. Please email your professor.

Q. I have a question specifically about the discussion board.
A. Please email your course mentor.
Below are some general comments about the course that should help students navigate their way through a successful experience in UST 206 on-line

- Check the Blackboard course site frequently for class/assignment updates, announcements, replies to email questions, etc.
- Make sure to read the syllabus **THOROUGHLY.** Because we do not meet face-to-face, I try and provide as much information as possible in the syllabus. Places to check for additional information on the course site in Blackboard are: Announcements, Homepage, and e-mails.
- If I was a student in the class and wanted to succeed in the course, here is what I would do every week. **This is merely a suggested “to do” list;** everyone’s schedules and study patterns are different.
  - Log into the class on Sunday night or Monday and read the weekly Announcement.
  - Complete the assigned readings for the week.
  - Check the course site daily for any updates. Do the weekly written assignment.
  - **Plan to submit my assignments before 11:59 p.m. ET to ensure my assignment is posted by 11:59 p.m. ET in case I encounter technical issues when submitting my assignment in Blackboard. Note: Blackboard will promptly close at 11:59 p.m. and will lock out your submission if not posted by 11:59 p.m. exactly.**
  - Keep current in the weekly textbook, discussion, and supplemental readings that pertain to the weekly assignments. Take notes highlighting the major themes/concepts in the text in preparation for the final exam.
  - **THE WEEKEND BEFORE THE FINAL EXAM:** Review the major themes/concepts presented in the textbook/discussion and supplemental reading materials.

**How to succeed in an online class.**

Successful completion of an Internet-based class requires students to:

1. develop a work plan (schedule) for the semester to meet the demands of the course. Once a work plan is developed, students should adhere to the plan;
2. stay focused;
3. keep in mind the late assignments accepted at the discretion of the instructor;

4. if there is an issue, notify the instructor immediately; and

5. if you fail to withdraw from the course by the designated drop date listed on the university calendar the letter grade of “F” will be assigned at the end of the semester, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor to complete the requirements for the course during the semester the student is enrolled.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."