

GEO 240 Geography of East Asia



Waterfront in Guangzhou
early 20th Century



Waterfront in Guangzhou
early 21st Century

DETAILS

Fall 2018
Monday & Wednesday 10:30 - 11:45
Room D 104

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DESCRIPTION

Contemporary economic and cultural development in Asia derives from ancient patterns of conflict and cooperation. For thousands of years, China profoundly influenced urban geographies throughout East Asia. Intended and unintended consequences of 20th century Japanese imperialism continues to influence East Asian spatial relations. This course allows students to gain understanding of this complex region at multiple scales—interpersonal, societal, and economic—and from multiple perspectives—historical, cultural, and political. Considering the everyday lives of ordinary North Koreans proffers fine-grained insight of complex relationships between this retrograde nation and its neighbors. Studying patterns of urbanization in China and Japan, particularly the organization of public space and patterns of land use, allows students to examine the impacts of urban planning on the lives of ordinary people. Exploring the rise of civil society, specifically neighborhood organizations and protest movements, offers students insight into how grassroots organizations are forcing states throughout East Asia to reevaluate the rationale of maintaining rigid top-down relationships with their constitutive societies. Finally, mapping the geographies of ラメン (ramen) students will learn how cultural geographies and Cold War geopolitical systems interacted to produce this iconic dish. This course is pivots on two pedagogical tools: lectures and seminar discussions. Using perspectives offered by political geography, historical geography, and urban geography lectures focus on patterns of urbanization, territoriality, and East Asian cultural complexes. The seminar discussions emerge directly from the required readings and foreground two regions: North Korea and the French Concession in Shanghai.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will:

1. Have learned fundamental geographical concepts and theories.
2. Have improved their reading comprehension skills.
3. Be comfortable using geographical terminology in written and verbal discourse.
4. Be able to think, write, and argue critically about geographical problems.
5. Have learned to recognize interdisciplinary relationships between geography, history, economics, and anthropology.
6. Have deepened their understanding of the political and urban geographies of East Asia.
7. Have gained insight into how these political geographies and urban geographies are affected and are coproduced cultural complexes.

READING

Required Texts

Barbara Demick (2010) *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*

Rob Schmitz (2016) *Street of Eternal Happiness: Big City Dreams Along a Shanghai Road*

Additional Readings

Periodically I will post on AIMS readings selected from my library

ASSESSMENT

Reading Responses	30
Seminar Papers	20
Seminar Participation	10
Midterm Exam	20
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20</u>
Total Points Possible	100

Reading Responses

In order to strongly encourage a collective and deep engagement with the assigned readings throughout the semester and to facilitate robust seminar discussions to which each student contributes, I will post reading questions on AIMS each week. Reading responses are due at the beginning of the second class period. Discussion questions will be graded on a scale of very good, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory.

For each reading response, I will provide you with a RAFT (Role, Audience, Format, Task). In other words, I will indicate what Role I want you to assume as the author. I will indicate the Audience to which I would like you to address your essay. I will remind you of the Format I expect. And I will give you a Task to accomplish with your short essay.

Seminar Papers

The presentation of seminar papers will form the basis of seminar discussions during the second part of the semester. For seminar papers, I give you a RAFT (Role, Audience, Format, Task). In other words, I indicate what Role I want you to assume as the author. I indicate the Audience to which I would like you to address your paper. I remind you of the Format I expect. And I give you a Task to accomplish with your paper.

Your *role* as an author of seminar papers is that of an undergraduate student taking part in a seminar. Your *audience* comprises your seminar colleagues, not me. I expect to read well organized papers that follow the following *format*. Seminar papers must be argumentative essays with an introduction, a body comprising a logical argument, and a conclusion. Scholarship of others, if included, must be adequately cited. The citation style is at the your discretion. Seminar papers must be double spaced and comprise between 1000 and 1500 words (four to six pages). The first page header must include all relevant identifying information (your name, the date, the course, my name, and a paper title). Your *task* in crafting seminar papers is NOT to summarize the entire reading; rather it is to translate one aspect of the reading into geographic terms and then to analyze this aspect using geographic theory. To accomplish this task students must select **one** compelling aspect from the reading, briefly summarize it, and then synthesize it within a geographical argument.

On days their seminar papers are due, students are also responsible for presenting their paper to the class. The presentation style is open and therefore may include mini-lectures, projected slides, handouts, group work, among other means of communicating and wrestling with ideas. At least two discussion questions, posed to the rest of the class are required of all presentations.

Seminar papers and presentations will be graded in accordance with the grading rubric posted on AIMS.

Seminar Participation

The consistent attendance and engaged participation of each student is essential to the success of seminars. This said, collaboratively and critically engaging with ideas is a powerful pedagogical tool that may lead to disagreement. Colleagues must learn to disagree *and* maintain respect for each other. I insist that students strive to learn from the differences that manifest while debating the merit of theoretical and empirical evidence by maintaining an atmosphere of civility during seminars.

I will maintain a log detailing each student's engagement in each seminar.

Midterm Exam

The midterm will cover material presented in lectures and in the reading assignments. It will cover *terms, concepts, and theories* as well as *regional specifics* presented during the first part of the semester. It will comprise multiple-choice, short answer, true/false and essay questions. Aside from an exceptional situation as outlined in the Student Handbook, There will be no chance to make up the midterm exam.

Final Exam

The final will cover material presented in lectures and in the reading assignments during the entire semester. It will cover *terms, concepts and theories* covered during the entire semester and *regional specifics* presented during the second part of the semester. It will comprise multiple-choice, short answer, true/false and essay questions. Aside from an exceptional situation as outlined in the Student Handbook, there will be no chance to make up the final exam.

ASSESSMENT POLICIES

Format Requirements

All written assignments must include the following in the upper left corner of the first page: Student's name, student ID number, assignment name, and due date. All assignments must be formatted in the following manner: double spaced, font size of 11 or 12 point, standard margins, and an indented first line for each paragraph.

Submission Requirements

Unless otherwise instructed, students are expected to submit written assignments on the AIMS platform. I will only accept PDF (.pdf) documents. I expect assignments to be submitted on time. Assignments due in class must be turned in at the beginning of class. I reserve the right to deduct points for late submissions and I reserve the right to determine the percentage to be deducted.

Makeup Work

Aside from *exceptional situations*, there will be no chance to make up missed exams or quizzes or turn assignments in past their due day/time. Proof of an exceptional situation must be submitted to me in writing and signed by the appropriate authority within 24 hours of the due date. I reserve the right to define an exceptional situation and furthermore to make all final decisions relating to amending, redoing, or making up late or incomplete work.

GENERAL POLICIES

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty consists of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission of the same work, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in the academic dishonesty other others. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated; the consequences of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to failing an assignment, failing the class, and possibly dismissal from the university. Students are responsible for being observant of and attentive to Akita International University's policies about academic honesty.

Attendance

Learning is an ongoing process; one that builds upon previously acquired insights and skills. Consistent and engaged attendance is vital for success in this course. I reserve the right to deal with exceptional or extended absences on a case-by-case basis.

Special Needs

If you require accommodations, please alert me of your needs on the first day of class so that I can work with the administration to meet them.

Civility & Classroom Decorum

Silence all cell phones, beepers, etc., during class. Speaking on cell phones, texting, or using electronic equipment in any way that is not directly related to class is strictly prohibited.

SCHEDULE

Week 1	Foundations
Sept 3	Course Overview
Sept 5	Lecture - What is Geography?
Week 2	Foundations
Sept 10	Lecture - The Social Production of Space
Sept 12	Lecture - First Effective Settlement and the State
Reading	Nothing to Envy

Week 3	Urban Geographies of China
Sept 17	NO CLASS
Sept 19	Lecture - Chinese urbanization
Reading	Nothing to Envy
Week 4	Urban Geographies of China
Sept 24	Lecture - <i>Chezongcun</i> - Chinese slums
Sept 26	Seminar
Reading	Nothing to Envy
Week 5	Rural Geographies of Japan
Oct 1	Lecture - <i>Satoyama</i> and the urban-wildland interface
Oct 3	Seminar
Reading	Nothing to Envy
Week 6	AIU Festival
Oct 8	NO CLASS
Oct 10	Seminar
Reading	Nothing to Envy
Week 7	Historical Geographies of Korea
Oct 15	Lecture - A shrimp among whales
Oct 17	Seminar
Reading	Nothing to Envy
Week 8	Political Geographies of Korea
Oct 22	MIDTERM EXAM
Oct 24	Lecture- Producing Korean nationalism
Week 9	Political Geographies of Korea
Oct 29	Lecture - Reconciling Korean nationalism with Japanese nationalism
Oct 31	Seminar
Reading	Nothing to Envy
Week 10	Political Geographies of Taiwan
Nov 5	Lecture - Taiwan's surveillance state
Nov 7	Seminar
Reading	Nothing to Envy
Week 11	Urban Geographies of Japan
Nov 12	Lecture - Tokugawa urbanization
Nov 14	Seminar
Reading	Street of Eternal Happiness
Week 12	Urban Geographies of Japan
Nov 19	Lecture - Tokyo slums
Nov 21	Seminar
Reading	Street of Eternal Happiness
Week 13	Urban Geographies of Japan
Nov 26	Lecture - Planning for authenticity in Kyoto
Nov 28	Seminar
Reading	Street of Eternal Happiness

Week 14	Cultural Geographies of Japan
Dec 3	Lecture - 日本酒 (nihonshu) geographies
Dec 5	Seminar
Reading	Street of Eternal Happiness
Week 15	Cultural Geographies of Japan
Dec 10	Lecture - ラーメン (ramen) geographies
Dec 12	Seminar
Reading	Street of Eternal Happiness
Week 16	Exam Week
Dec 17	FINAL EXAM (10:30 - 11:45 room D 104)