**Synopsis of Proposed Course Outline**

This course has been designed as an introductory course for students in undergraduate programs in Asian studies. Students who have some background in the social sciences (planning, geography, architecture, history, anthropology, economics and political science) are more likely to feel comfortable with the course material. But the instructor will make an effort to give any extra support to students from other disciplines if they decide to register.

The purpose of this course is to analyze, in order to better understand the geography and political economy of the contemporary Asian urban mega region. It will highlight the key intellectual contributions on this subject and will give students a strong conceptual and methodological grounding in this topic. Major influences from the intellectual disciplines of planning, geography, political science, social anthropology and economics on urban Asia will be summarized first. Later, the influence of multilateral organizations like the World Bank and UN Habitat to policies will be presented and broader level policy shifts will be identified in the context of economic globalization. This will be followed by case studies on major Asian mega regions (in Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam) and some of their experiences with planning new towns, managing informality, building new infrastructures, flows of rural migrants, management of environmental pressures, water and sanitation issues will come in for special focus. **This material is the focus of the Alison Bain and Linda Peake textbook.** Both ethnographic and non-ethnographic material will be presented as part of these case studies.

Theories that have been developed or applied in the urban Asian context, viz. the anthropologist, Clifford Geertz’s early work on urban informality in the 1960’s, W Arthur Lewis’s dual sector model from development economics and finally, Terry McGee’s formative contribution on the Asian desakota and recent post-colonial critiques will be first presented as paradigmatic contributions from the field of urban studies in Asia. These theories will form the bedrock of the course and students are expected to pay a lot of attention to this content presented in the first four weeks of the course. This initial material will then be placed in the public policy and governance context and issues involving jurisdiction, sovereignty and levels of initiative at the urban level will also be covered.

A second major objective of this course is to give students a rigorous grounding in the urban context of Asia where they are able to merge intellectual/critical/theoretical frameworks with the policy context of urbanization on the Asian continent. Thus, while reading from the main lists, we will cover disparate ideas from fields as wide ranging as post-colonial studies, political ecology, the governance literature in urban studies. The course will move from providing a synoptic overview of the main arguments in critical urban studies literature to covering major policy questions.

A third objective of this course will be to develop a deeper understanding of contemporary urbanization and public policy issues in India and China through the main textbooks and other readings in this course. This part of the course will have a focus on urban spatial patterns, city-systems, the persistence of urban informality in India, the challenge of migration to cities in India and China and the achievements and failures of urban infrastructure development and industrialization in both countries. **One of the highlights of this course is the focus on urban disasters through a critical reading of Krupa Ge’s book on the 2015 flooding in the southern Indian city of Chennai.** Students are expected to engage closely with this book. While the text book will help us understand environmental issues in the Asian mega city, comparisons will be made between Mumbai and Chennai and other Indian and Chinese cities. An example of this focus is on how local Indian democracy fares in ensuring the rights of rural migrants and informal workers in comparison to that of urban governments in other parts of Asia and in countries like China where such rights have been suppressed and there has been a greater priority given to pursuing economic growth. We will thus try to understand cities in various countries and regions in their unique cultural, political and economic context(s). Similarly, we shall examine how some parts of Asia have been able to solve problems of collective action in the environmental context (e.g. pollution, water management) in comparison and contrast to India’s efforts in the same sphere and the problems and potential of co-operation between cities and towns in the Asian mega region. For the winter semester of 2020, these comparisons will be placed in the broader context of the Asian urban experience.

**Weekly Reading List**

**Week 1: 10th January 2020**

Introduction to the course: Political Economy and other approaches to Asian Urbanization.

(Lecture Slides)

**Compulsory Readings**

Linda Peake and Alison Bain (2017) Chapter “Introduction” Urbanization and Urban Geographies in Bain and Peake. Urbanization in a Global Context. Oxford

P McCarney and Richard Stren (2016) Urbanization as a transformative force. Chapter 2 in World Cities Report. Pg. 27-45

Link: [http://wcr.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WCR-2016-Full-Report.pdf](about:blank)

**Suggested Readings**

UNDP (2017) Rapid urbanisation: opportunities and challenges to improve the well-being of societies.

Link: [http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/rapid-urbanisation-opportunities-and-challenges-improve-well-being-societies](about:blank)

Amitabh Kundu 2009. Urbanisation and Migration: An Analysis of Trend, Pattern and Policies in Asia. New York: UNDP

Link: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdrp\_2009\_16.pdf](about:blank)

**Week 2: 17th January 2020**

**Theme:** The Asian Mega-Region: Geography, Social Characteristics and Economic Patterns.

**Compulsory Readings:**

Mc Gee T.G. (1991) The Emergence of Desakota Regions in Asia. Expanding a Hypothesis. In: Ginsburg NJ, Koppel B, Mc Gee TG (Eds.) The Extended Metropolis. Settlement Transition in Asia. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu: p. 3-26

Kenneth Cardenas and Philip Kelly (2017) Shifting Urban Contours: Understanding a World of Growing and Shrinking Cities in Bain and Peake “Urbanization in a Global Context

Richard Harris and Roger Keil (2017) Globalizing Cities and Suburbs in Bain and Peake. Chapter 4 “Urbanization in the Global Context”

**Weeks 3: 24th January 2020**

**Theme**: Models, Frameworks and Metaphors in Asian Urbanization: The Contributions of Geertz, Friedmann, Lewis, McGee and their role in our knowledge and understanding of the Asian urban context.

**Compulsory Readings**

Friedmann J; Douglass M. “Agropolitan development: towards a new strategy for regional planning in Asia in Lo FC, Salih K, ed. Growth pole strategy and regional development policy: Asian experience and alternative approaches. Oxford, England, Pergamon, 1978. 163-92

# Geertz, Clifford. Chapters 1 & 2 in Peddlers and Princes: Social Development and Economic Change in Two Indonesian Towns (to be provided online the U of T portal)

# **Week 4: 31st January 2020 (contd.)**

**Theme**: Models, Frameworks and Metaphors in Asian Urbanization: The Contributions of Geertz, Friedmann, Lewis, McGee and their role in our knowledge and understanding of the Asian urban context (contd.)

**Compulsory Readings**

The Lewis Model : [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual-sector\_model](about:blank)

Andre Sorensen. “National Urban Systems in an Era of Transnationalism” chapter 3 in Bain and Peake “Urbanization in a Global Context

Lisa Drummond and Douglas Young. Socialist and Post-Socialist Cities in the twenty First Centuries, Chapter 8 in Bain and Peake. Urbanization in the Global Context. Oxford University Press

**Suggested readings/videos**

The Lewis model explained: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cgvYrGBW6w](about:blank)

Financial Times: China Migration at a turning point. [http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/767495a0-e99b-11e4-b863-00144feab7de.html#axzz4JmWVQoJO](about:blank#axzz4JmWVQoJO)

The Economist: The largest migration in history. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNXg-kYk-LU](about:blank)

# **Week 5: 7th February**

# **Theme** Contemporary Indian Urbanization: Major Patterns, Conundrums and Policy Challenges.

**Compulsory Readings:** Bhagat, R B 2012. Emerging Pattern of Urbanization in India. Economic and Political Weekly. Accessed at [http://suburbin.hypotheses.org/files/2011/09/RBBhagatUrbanisation.pdf](about:blank)

Chattaraj, Shahana, 2017 Infrastructure, Institutions and Industrialisation: The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Regional Development in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, ORF Issue Brief ( available online)

Ananya Roy 2009. Why India cannot plan its cities. Informality, Insurgence and the Idiom of Urbanization. Planning Theory. Volume: 8; Issue: 1; Page: 76-87 ( available online)

Om Mathur 2017 How urban is India. Financial Express, November 1st

[http://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/open-letter-to-cea-arvind-subramanian-how-urban-is-india/914665/](about:blank)

**Suggested Readings/ Videos:**

The Economist. 2013: Is India Becoming More Urban?

Link : [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtMeyAs7Vz0](about:blank)

Kundu Amitabh and Debolina Kundu. 2011. India’s urban legend.

Link: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/amitabh-kundu-debolina-kundu-india-s-urban-legend-111091500114\_1.html](about:blank)

Mathur, Om 2015. Smart Cities: A Work in Progress. Financial Express. Accessed at

[http://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/smart-cities-is-a-work-in-progress-2/87513/](about:blank)

Mathur, Om 2016. Smart Men for Smart Cities.

Link: [http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/urbanisation-in-india-demographers-the-smart-men-for-smart-cities/](about:blank)

Isher Ahluwalia 2011. TED Talk- Role of Cities In India’s Development

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvSuUZw0j0M](about:blank)

Dani Rodrik 2015 Premature deindustrialization in the developing world

Link: [http://rodrik.typepad.com/dani\_rodriks\_weblog/2015/02/premature-deindustrialization-in-the-developing-world.html](about:blank)

Vivek Dehejia 2016 Can India develop without industrialization? Livemint, August 6, 2016

Link: [http://www.livemint.com/Sundayapp/UZ4Gyf1IzqR0i6IqoiZ1PJ/Can-India-develop-without-industrialization.html](about:blank)

**Week 6: 14th February**

**Theme:** Rural-Urban Migration: Migrants in India and China

**Compulsory Readings:** Chapters

Liza Weinstein: Demolition and Dispossession, 2013 “Toward an Understanding of State Violence in Millennial Mumbai”. Studies in Comparative International Development. 48: 285-307 (to be made available online, also available via the Robarts library website)

Chan, Kam Wing, 2015. “Five Decades of  the Chinese Hukou System,” in Robyn

R. Iredale and Fei Guo (eds.),  [*Handbook On Chinese Migration, Identity and Wellbeing*,](about:blank#v=onepage&q=%22Kam%20Wing%20Chan%22&f=false) Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd, Cheltenham, UK, pp.23-47 ( to be made available online the U of T portal, also available via the Robarts library website )

Solomon Benjamin, 2008 Occupancy Urbanism: Radicalizing Politics and Economy beyond Policy and Programs. International Journal of Urban and regional Research. Volume 32, Issue 3, Pages 719–729 (to be made available online, also available via the Robarts library website, course reserves)

Max D. Woodworth Jeremy L. Wallace 2017 Seeing ghosts: parsing China’s “ghost city”. Controversy. Volume**,** 38 (Issue8) Urban Geography. (available on course reserves through the Robarts library website)

**Suggested Readings:**

Dipti Jain: Circular migration is holding back India’s urbanization

Link: [http://www.livemint.com/Politics/p9l9OfhAoycxqPq9wShSmI/Circular-migration-is-holding-back-Indias-urbanization.html](about:blank)

The Hindu 2016. Only Gandhi wrote on paupers. Interview with Jan Breman.

Accessed at [http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/interview/jan-breman-takes-a-long-view-of-the-changes-hes-seen-in-india-over-half-a-century/article8261990.ece](about:blank)

Patrick Heller, Partha Mukhopadhyay and Michael Walton, 2016 Cabal City: Regime Theory and Indian Urbanization. The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University Working Paper No. 2016-32 ( available online)

Dorothy Sollinger 2014: The Modalities of Geographical Mobility in China and their Impacts, 1980-2010, (China-India Pathways of Economic and Social Development) ( available online)

NDTV 2013. Distress Migration: from Bharat to India

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbLaFwOzHjY](about:blank)

**Week 7: 28th February 2020**

**Theme**: Disasters and Urban Informality in India

**Compulsory Readings:**

Saskia Sassen 2015. Bringing Cities into the Global Climate Framework India in Craig Johnson et al The Urban Climate Challenge (Taylor and Francis)

Krupa Ge 2019 Rivers Remember pages 1-58 (available in the library)

**Week 8: 6th March**

**Compulsory Readings**

**Theme:** Disasters and urban Informality in India

Craig Johnson, Heike Schroeder and Noah Toly Introduction: Urban Resilience, Low Carbon Governance and the Global Climate Regime in Craig Johnson et al The Urban Climate Challenge (2015) ( available on library course reserves)

Emily Boyd and Aditya Ghosh (2015). Climate Change adaptation in Mumbai, India in Craig Johnson et al The Urban Climate Challenge (Taylor and Francis)

Krupa Ge Rivers Remember pg 62-120

**Week 9: 13th March**

**Compulsory Readings**

International Telecommunications Union 2019. Turning digital technology innovation into climate action Chapters 1 & 5 from Turning Digital Technology innovation into climate action

Weblink: <https://www.itu.int/en/publications/Documents/tsb/2019-Turning-digital-technology-innovation-into-climate-action/files/downloads/19-00405E-Turning-digital-technology-innovation.pdf>

Pushpa Arabindoo 2016. Unprecedented natures. An anatomy of the Chennai floods. City November 2016, 20(6) p.800-821 (available online)

**Week 10: 20th March**

**Compulsory Readings**

**Theme:** Disasters and Urban informality in India.

**Compulsory Readings**

N Bhuvana and Arul Aram 2019 . Facebook and Whatsapp as disaster management tools during the Chennai (India) floods of 2015. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 39, October 2019,

**Week 11: 27th March**

**Theme:** Metropolitan Governance and the Water Question in Asia.

Krupa Ge 2019. Rivers Remember pg 122-191

Rebecca McMillan, Sawanya Phakphian and Amrita Daniere 2017. Urban Water Governance ( chapter 23) in Bain and Peake “Urbanization in a Global Context” . Oxford University Press

Naim Laeni Margo van den Brink Jos Arts 2019 “Is Bangkok becoming more resilient to flooding? A framing analysis of Bangkok's flood resilience policy combining insights from both insiders and outsiders” . Cities . Volume 90, July 2019, Pg 157-167 ( available course reserves)

**Suggested Videos/ Readings**:

Center for Policy Research: Metropolitan Governance in India: International Workshop on Governance of Megacity regions.

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hox7wW1Jpyw](about:blank)

Sahil Gandhi and Vaidehi Tandel 2017. Urban upgrade to smart governance

Link: [http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/urban-upgrade-to-smart-governance/article19786549.ece](about:blank)

**Week 12: 3rd April**

Course Review and Exam rubric