**Urban and Regional Planning in Asia**  
**Thurs 9:00-11:45 Saunders Hall 116**

**OVERVIEW.** Urban and regional planning attempts to address several key issues in Asian countries: (1) the livability of cities under conditions of rapid and uneven urbanization, (2) poverty and social inequalities in cities; (3) the quality of the urban environment; (4) rural-urban migration and the perception of overly rapid population growth that is overwhelming the capacity to plan for housing, services and infrastructure; (5) intercity competition for global investment; (6) slow growth and entrenched poverty in rural regions; and (7) social movements calling for greater access to political power. The course is organized into four parts to cover these and related issues.

**Part I** presents an overview of the policy issues and objectives in the context of Asia’s urban transition.

**Part II** assesses the livability of cities across 3 dimensions: personal well-being (e.g., poverty, health, security, livelihood), environmental services, and lifeworlds (associational life). The importance of NGOs and local government is highlighted.

**Part III** reviews attempts to develop spatial strategies to spread development more evenly over national space. The growth pole approach is assessed along with alternative approaches. Attention is given to incorporating the globalization of subnational spatial development processes into policy.

**Part IV** expands on regional development planning by reviewing experiences in promoting rural regional development and assessing policies to decentralize planning and policymaking. Questions of urban bias, the role of rural towns in rural development, and rural-urban linkages are considered. A regional network strategy is compared to conventional agriculture sector and industrial diffusion models of rural regional development.

**Organization & Grading.** The class combines lectures by the instructor and, from Week 4, student-led seminars on pre-selected topics. Assignments will consist of 2 short (8 page) “position papers” presentations (20% each) and a term paper (60% of the final grade). One position paper may be expanded for the term paper.
EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES: (1) to understand major urban and regional planning issues in Asia, (2) to gain the ability to critically assess development concepts and theories, (3) to be able to link explanations of issues with policy alternatives and questions of implementation, (4) to deepen knowledge of specific areas of interest to each student, and (5) to gain the ability to work through debates on issues, concepts and explanations of problems to develop each student’s own policy position.

This course is an elective for the interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Population Studies

COURSE READINGS
(Available online at UH Plan 630 course website).

I. URBANIZATION AND URD IN ASIA: OVERVIEW OF POLICY ISSUES

Weeks 1-3 – Urbanization and Spatial Transformations in Asia

II. LIVABLE CITIES

Week 4 – The Concept of Livable City

Week 5-6 – Livelihood, work and poverty

**Week 7-8 – the Urban Environment**


**Week 9 – Lifeworlds, Civil Society and the Public Sphere**

29. The bid-rent curve and urban land use under capitalist private property regimes

**III. NATIONAL URBAN & REGIONAL STRATEGIES & GLOBALIZATION**

**Week 10-14: Industrial Decentralization and National Spatial Strategies**

**Week 10 – Growth Pole ‘theory of concentrated decentralization’**

33. Douglass—Spatial Models.
34. Douglass–NUDs Components

**Week 11 – Spring Break (March 23-27)**

**Week 12 – One Country, Two Systems – The regional shift to China’s coastal cities**


**Week 13 – Lessons from the Korean experience**

**Week 14 – Globalization and Urbanization in the Open Economies of Southeast Asia**

**IV. RURAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING: WEEKS 14-15**

**Week 15 – Urban bias and Decentralization**

**WEEKS 16-17 [April 28-May 6]: Final Presentations**
- Term paper presentations April 29, May 1 and May 6. Final papers due: May 6, last day of class.