Plan 633 reviews theories and experiences of globalization and the city in Pacific Asian countries. The course begins by reviewing competing ideas about what globalization means. These ideas range from triumphant Western enlightenment to a chronic global clash of cultures, from increasing sameness to heightening diversity around the world, and from human betterment to insurmountable crises and human failures.

Discussion then focuses on the spatial dimensions of globalization with specific reference to global city networks and the globalization of migration, including the globalization of the household. The latter portion of the course looks at the specific contexts of Pacific Asia countries to assess global-local interaction and urban policy issues. Of particular interest is the rise of China and its impact on post-industrial East Asian economies and, in Southeast Asia, the rapid conversion of peri-urban areas into private new towns. The course concludes with a summary of key issues in a global-local policy framework.

**Course Schedule**

I  **Interpreting Globalization** – Competing Paradigms

II  **Spatial Dimensions of Globalization** – Networks, Nations, World Cities and Global Migration

III  **Urban Transitions and Rural Regions** – Uneven Development, Poverty and the Environment

IV  **East Asia** – Japan, Korea and the Rise of China

V  **Southeast Asia** – Urban transitions and Peri-urban Transformations

VI  **Course Summary and Final Paper Presentations**

Class organization and assessment: The class combines lectures by the instructor and, beginning in Week 4, student-led seminars on pre-selected topics. Assignments and grades for the course will consist of 2 short (10 page) “position papers” presentations (20% each) and a term paper (60% of the final grade). One of the position papers may be expanded into the term paper.

Expected Outcomes. Students will gain an understanding of the key debates on globalization. They will also gain an appreciation of and ability to assess the spatial dimensions of globalization as they relate to cities and systems of cities. They will be able to critically assess contemporary urban development processes and policies. They will be aware of long-term strategic choices for the urban future.
Readings (available online at course readings website)

I. Interpreting Globalization

Weeks 1 (August 24). Handing out course materials; introductions.

Week 2 (August 31)

Competing paradigms of globalization

- Thomas Friedman (2007), Excerpts from The World Is Flat (WikiSummary).
- Neoliberalism – Wikipedia.

II. Spatial Dimensions of Globalization: Networks, Nations, Cities and Global Migration

Week 3 (September 7) – Nations and Cities


Week 4 (September 14) – Migration as a Labor Process and/or Diaspora, Gendered


Week 5 (September 21) – Global Householding

Week 6 (September 28) – The Changing American City


III. Urban Transitions, Inequality and Rural Regions – Uneven Development and Poverty

Week 7 (October 5) – Globalization and Poverty – All boats rising or planet of slums?


Week 8 (October 12) – Rural Regions in a Global Urban Transition


IV. East Asia: Japan, Korea and China

Week 9 (October 19) – Japan: the Original Bubble Economy and Tokyo Fantasies


Week 10 (October 26) – Demographic Transitions, the Rise of China and Shrinking Cities


Week 11 (November 2) – Election Day – No Class

Week 12 (November 9) – Globopolis Versus Cosmopolis


Week 13 (November 16) – China: “Authoritarian Capitalism” and Urban Space

VI. Southeast Asia: Urban and Peri-urban Transformations through Global Investment

Week 14 (November 23) -- Mega-projects and 'secessionary networked spaces


Week 15 (November 30) – Civic Space and the State in Southeast Asia


VII. Week 16 (December 7) -- Final Paper Presentations (all final papers due 3 December).