OVERVIEW. Urban and regional planning in Asia reviews concepts and policies on key issues under conditions of rapid and uneven urbanization: (1) the livability of cities, including poverty and social inequalities in cities; the quality of the urban environment; and socio-cultural lifeworlds (2) rural-urban migration and the perception of rapid population growth that is overwhelming the capacity to plan for housing, services and infrastructure; (3) intercity competition for global investment; (4) slow growth and entrenched poverty in rural regions; and (5) 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 of cities across 3 dimensions: personal well-being (e.g., poverty, poverty, health, security, livelihood), environmental services, 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 policy tools and each student’s own policy positions.
COURSE READINGS
(Available online at UH Plan 630 course website).

I. URBANIZATION AND URD IN ASIA: OVERVIEW OF POLICY ISSUES
Weeks 1-2 – Development Goals and Urbanization in Asia
• UNESCAP (2005), “A Future Within Reach: Reshaping Institutions in a Region of Disparities to Meet the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific” (Bangkok: UNESCAP).

II. LIVABLE CITIES
Weeks 3-4 – The Concept of Livable City

Week 5 – Livelihood, work and poverty
Week 6-7 – the Environment


Week 8 – Lifeworlds, Civil Society and the Public Sphere

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

III. NATIONAL URBAN & REGIONAL STRATEGIES & GLOBALIZATION

Week 9-14: Industrial Decentralization and National Spatial Strategies

Week 9 – Growth Pole ‘theory of concentrated decentralization’

- Douglass–Spatial Models.
- Douglass–NUDs Components

Week 10 – One Country, Two Systems – The regional shift to China’s coastal cities


Week 11 – Spring Break (March 22-26)

Week 12 – Lessons from the Korean experience

**Week 13-14 – Globalization and Urbanization in the Open Economies of Southeast Asia**


**IV. RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES AND REGIONAL PLANNING: WEEKS 15-16**

**Week 15-16 – Urban Bias and Rural Regional Development**

• Chambers, Robert (1983), “Rural Poverty Unperceived”, in Rural Development; Putting the Last First (Longman).
• Adell, Germán (1999), “Theories and Models of the Peri-Urban Interface: A Changing Conceptual Landscape (Literature Review). Development Planning Unit, University College London; Strategic Environmental Planning and Management for the Peri-urban Interface Research Project
• Douglass, Mike (2000), “Rural Habitat – Spatial Development Planning for Improving Rural Livelihood,” Entwicklung + Laendlicher Raum (Agriculture + Rural Development), special issue on Spatial Development Planning, January (also published in German and French).

**WEEKS 16-17 [April 19-May 4]: Final Discussions and Student Presentations**

• Open discussion on what we have learned from the course on April 27
• Term paper presentations April 29 and May 4. Final papers due: May 4, last day of class.