Urbanization in China Syllabus

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Classes: 3:25 – 5:05 pm every Monday and 3:25 – 5:05 am every Thursday in H4304

Course description: The goal of this course is to give students an understanding of how to apply the latest thinking and research in urban economics to analyze a series of topics related to urbanization in China.

Course requirements: Each student will be required to present one paper on the reading list or of his/her choice with approval to the class. A final research proposal will be due at the end of the semester. Each student will discuss the topic of his/her research proposal in the early December.

Grading: 1 class presentation (40% of final grade); 1 final research proposal (50% of final grade); class participation (10% of final grade)

Reading: Your primary source will be the provided notes, slides, and papers on the reading list. Barry Naughton's *The Chinese Economy*, MIT Press, 2007 will serve as the reference.

Course outline

Introduction

- > Evolutions of cities in the world
- > Topics

1. Background on Urbanization in China

- Geography
- Maoist era, 1949 to 1978
- Market transition, post 1978

2. Structural Transformation Phase I: Moving from Rural to Urban

- What is the true urban population of China? What is *hukou*?
- > Internal migration in China: disparities in destinations; political hierarchy of Chinese cities
- The geography of China's industrial production

3. Structural Transformation Phase II: Redistributions of Economic Activities

- > Spatial redistribution of manufacturing
- > Rise of services
- Regional differences in growth by sector

➤ Place-based policies: "helping the west," and the constructions of national expressway system and High-Speed Railway system

4. Why Cities Exist?

- The first-nature amenities and the second-nature amenities
- Production-side agglomeration economy
- ➤ Consumption-side agglomeration economy
- > The value of cities

5. Land Market and Urban Land Development

- Urban spatial structure and urban land use
- Land market reform in urban China
- ➤ What are land-use regulations? What are the impacts of the land-use regulations on the land and housing markets? What are the determinants of land-use regulations?
- How to develop urban land in China? What are the typical land-use regulations in Chinese cities? How restrictive are these regulations?

6. Housing Market in Urban China

- How much have housing prices in China appreciated during the last decade? How did the price appreciation vary across different Chinese cities?
- Public good provisions and local real estate prices

7. Capital Market

What are the underlying factors that cause the misallocation of capital?

8. Environmental Issues

- What is the current status of China's environment?
- ➤ What kind of environmental policies have been implemented in China? How effective is the policy? What is the impact of the policy on industrial development?

Reading list

1. Background on China's Economy

a. China leading up to 1949: geography, resources, historical background

Readings:

- 1. Naughton, Chapter 1, Geography
- 2. Naughton, Chapter 2, The Chinese Economy Before 1949

b. Maoist era, 1949-1978

Readings:

1. Naughton, Chapter 3, The Socialist Era, 1949-1978: Big Push Industrialization and Policy Instability

- 2. Putterman, Louis, 1993. *Continuity and Change in China's Rural Development*. New York: Oxford University. pp. 9-50.
- 3. Chen, S., Lan, X. 2017. "There Will be Killing: Collectivization and Death of Draft Animals." American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 9(4), 58-77.

c. Market transition, post 1978

Readings:

- 1. Naughton, Chapter 4, Market Transition: Strategy and Process
- 2. Putterman, L., 1997. "On the past and future of China's township and village-owned enterprises." World Development, 25 (10), 1639-1655
- 3. Li, W., Putterman, L., 2008. "Reforming China's SOEs: An overview." Comparative Economic Studies, 50, 353-380.
- 4. Guo, Y., Gan, J., Xu, C., 2008. "A nationwide survey of privatized firms in China." Seoul Journal of Economics, 21(2).
- 5. Gao, Mobo, 2017. "Whither rural China? A case study of Gao Village." The China Quartely, 229, 23-43.

2. Structural transformation Phase I: Moving from rural to urban

Naughton text, Chapter 5, Section 5.1: The Urban-Rural Divide

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Li, B., Lu, Y., 2009. "Geographic concentration and vertical disintegration: Evidence from China." Journal of Urban Economics, 65, 294-304.

Lu, J., Tao, Z., 2009. "Trends and determinants of China's industrial agglomeration." Journal of Urban Economics, 65, 167-180.

Rural-to-urban migration: Labor market & Occupational segregation

Naughton text

Chapter 8: Labor markets Chapter 9: Inequality

Lu, Z., Song, S., 2006. "Rural-urban migration and wage determination: the case of Tianjin, China." China Economic Review, 17(3): 337-345.

Ravallion, M, Chen, S., 2007. "China's (uneven) progress against poverty." Journal of Development Economics, 82(1): 1-42.

Yue, Z., Shuzhou Li, Marcus Feldman, and Haifeng Du. 2010. "Floating Choices: a Generational Perspective on Intentions of Rural-Urban Migrants in China." Environment and Planning, 42: 545-562.

Wang, Mark Y. and Jiang Wu. 2010. "Migrant Workers in the Urban Labour Market of Shenzhen, China." Environmental and Planning A, 42: 1457-1475.

Feng, Xiaojun, 2019. "Trapped in precariousness: Migrant agency workers in China's state-owned enterprises." The China Quarterly, 28, 396-417.

Zhang, Li and Meng Li, 2018. "Acquired but unvested welfare rights: Migration and entitlement barriers in reform-era China." The China Quarterly, 235, 669-692.

Lu, Yao, Wenjuan Zhang, and Wei Wang, 2017. "Migration and popular resistance in rural China: Wukan and Beyond." The China Quartely, 229, 1-22.

Rural-to-urban migration: Living conditions

Zhou M. and G. Cai. "Trapped in Neglected Corners of a Booming Metropolis." In J.R. Logan <u>Urban China in Transition</u> (2008)

Wu W. and E. Rosenbaum. "Migration and Housing: Comparing China with U.S." In J.R. Logan <u>Urban China in Transition</u> (2008)

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Goodburn, Charlotte, 2015. "Migrant girls in Shenzhen: Gender, education and the urbanization of aspiration." The China Quarterly, 222, 320-338.

Tang, Beibei, 2015. "'Not rural but not urban': Community governance in China's urban villages." The China Quarterly, 223, 724-744.

Lan, Pei-Chia, 2014. "Segmented incorporation: The second generation of rural migrants in Shanghai." The China Quarterly, 217, 243-265.

Zheng, Siqi, Fenjie Long, C. Cindy Fan and Yizhen Gu, 2009. "Urban villages in China: A 2008 survey of migrant settlements in Beijing." Eurasian Geography and Economics, 50(4), 425-446.

3. Structural transformation phase II: redistribution of economic activities

Fujita, Masahisa, Tomoya Mori, J. Vernon Henderson, and Yoshitsugu Kanemoto, 2004. "Spatial distribution of economic activities in Japan and China," in: J.V. Henderson and J.F. Thisse (ed.), Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics, edition 1, volume 4, chapter 65, pages 2911-2977.

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5. Land market

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Land-use regulations in Chinese cities

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Land markets: brownfield development

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6. Housing market in Urban China

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