



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century City

### ***ENVI 385: City and Environment***

#### **Course Description**

As one of the world's largest and fastest growing cities intricately connected to global flows of commodities and people, Shanghai represents an enormous environmental challenge regionally, nationally and globally. With a rapidly growing population, rising lifestyle expectations, and continuing industrial production, urban China's usage of water and energy resources is a key question for those concerned with a sustainable future. This class will localize these issues by investigating Shanghai as a case study of urban environmental issues in China. How does Shanghai face the challenges of resource use and waste that its sprawling urban footprint creates? How does Shanghai's leadership represent the city as being at the cutting edge of creating a 'green' urban environment? How do long term and newer residents perceive the impact of environmental policies and regulations? Where does Shanghai's energy and water come from and how efficiently is it used (and reused)? What green technologies are being researched and built into the infrastructure and buildings of Shanghai to lessen the need for energy and water resources? How sustainable can Shanghai become? Through lectures, readings, and case studies, students will investigate and analyze these questions and learn methods used by researchers and policy makers. Students will be encouraged to utilize these methods in pursuing their own research.

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#### **Course Schedule**

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##### **Session 01-13 Introduction to the Course: City and Environment.**

This session is an introducing lecture on the series, explaining the context of the unprecedented scale and speed of China's rapid urbanization and its consequences for environment and livability.

At the end of this session the tasks for the students will be explained, which is making a short video documentary (preferably in duo's) about the changing environment, and writing a short essay (individual) about your personal vision and recommendations for Shanghai's future.

##### Readings:

Brown, L.R. (1995) *Who Will Feed China? A Wake-Up Call for a Small Planet*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

King, F.H. (1911) *Farmers of Forty Centuries, or Permanent Agriculture in China, Korea and Japan*. Madison (Wisconsin): Mrs. F.H. King.

Scheffer M. (2009) *Critical Transitions in Nature and Society*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Shapiro, J. (2001) *Mao's War against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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### **Session 02-13            Shanghai as 'Post-industrial city'.**

Field Trip: G+ Glass Theme Park and Shanghai International Energy Conservation & Environmental Park (Baoshan).

During the trip the relocation of industries to suburbs and beyond will be explained and discussed. Also the reuse of old buildings as creative factory will be discussed in this session.

#### Readings:

Ley, David. (1966) *The New Middle Class and the Remaking of the Central City*. Oxford: Oxford UP.

Florida, Richard. (2002) *The Rise of the Creative Class: And How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community, and Everyday Life*. New York: Basic Books.

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### **Session 03-13            City and hygiene: 'slum' clearance and relocation.**

Field Trip to a partly destroyed urban neighborhood and relocation area (in the Hongkou District).

#### Readings:

Davis, Mike. (2006) *Planet of Slums*. New York: Verso.

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### **Session 04-13            City and Nature.**

Guest Lecture by a representative of WWF Shanghai about environmental challenges, pilot projects, experiences and challenges in Shanghai.

#### Readings:

Costanza, R. et al. (1997) The value of the world's ecosystem services and natural capital in Nature; Vol. 387 pp. 253-260.

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### **Session 05-13            Water Works: Protecting the city against flooding.**

Field Trip: Suzhou Creek (dam), the Bund (elevation), Cool Docks / South Bund, and by ferry to Pudong side.

#### Readings:

Meyer, H., Nijhuis, S. (2013) *Delta Urbanism: Planning and Design in Urbanized Deltas*, in: *Journal for Urbanism*. New York: Routledge.

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**Session 06-13            Shanghai as 'Post event city': Legacy of World Expo 2010 / reconnecting the city with the river.**

Field Trip: Urban Best Practice Area, Hamburg House (passive-energy building) and Power Station of Art (reuse industrial buildings). Optional after the trip: a walk along the West Bund river front redevelopment and park.

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**Session 07-13            Greening the New Towns.**

Field Trip: Gaoqiao, a new town development around a beautified creek near petrochemical industries. During the trip the role of green structure and public spaces will be discussed. Also Shanghai's general new town strategies, and land use protection policies will be explained and discussed.

Readings:

Hartog, Harry den. (2010) Shanghai new towns: Searching for community and identity in a sprawling metropolis. Rotterdam, 010.

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**Session 8-13            Reconnecting Urban and Rural / Green buffer to protect the countryside.**

Field Trip: Malu Grape Theme Park and Art Village (Jiading New City).

Readings:

Cronon, William. (1991) Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West. W. W. Norton & Company.

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**Session 9-13            Environment and street life.**

Lecture on changes in the use of public space, from sidewalk to shopping mall, and the consequences for environment and livability.

Readings:

Sorkin, M. Ed. (1992) Variations on a Theme Park: The New American City and the End of Public Space. New York: Hill and Wang.

Den Hartog, H. (2012) Everyday Theme Parks - The mall as escape from reality. Shanghai: Urban China

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**Session 10-13            Community and identity, the construction of new neighborhoods.**

Field Trip: Caoyang workers village, build since the 1950ies to accommodate factory workers in a green environment. Meeting with neighborhood committee about green and water on a neighborhood level.

Readings:

Bray, D. (2005) Social Space and Governance in Urban China: the Danwei System from Origins to Reform. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

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**Session 11-13            City and infrastructure: China's high density cities and public infrastructures.**

Field Trip Hongqiao Hub, followed by a short lecture on Shanghai's public transportation system and plans.

Readings:

TBA

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**Session 12-13            The story of Dongtang Eco City and Chongming 'Green' Island.**

Field Trip: Chongming Island Wetland Park and model eco-village.

Readings:

Sze, Julie. (2015) Fantasy Islands: Chinese Dreams and Ecological Fears in an Age of Climate Crisis. University of California Press.

Assignments:

**Deadline for hand-in individual essay.**

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**Session 13-13            City and air.**

Group discussion about the essays and videos made by the students.

Field visit Shanghai Tobacco Museum (nearby campus) and discussion about air pollution and the future of Shanghai.

Assignments:

**Deadline for short video-documentary.**

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**Evaluation**

Class participation	30%
Class presentations	20%
Video	25%
Individual paper	25%

## Grading

Alliance programs utilize the follow standard grading policy well accepted by most US institutions.

Excellent	A	93-100%	Good	B+	87-89%	Acceptable	C+	77-79%
	A-	90-92%		B	83-86%		C	73-76%
				B-	80-82%		C-	70-72%
						Unsatisfactory	D+	67-69%
							D	63-66%
							D-	60-62%
						Failing	F	<60%

## Course Policies

### Exams and Assignments

Students are required to take all regularly scheduled exams in courses for which they are registered, and to submit all assignments on time. Any compelling academic, personal, or medical reason that might justify a rescheduled exam or assignment must be brought up to the Resident Director, not program faculty. Failure to take scheduled exams or submit the requisite assignments for a course will adversely affect your grade as per the stated grading criteria for each course.

### Classroom Conduct

Student punctuality is extremely important in China and India. Please do not be late for classes or other activities, as it is considered impolite to do so. It is improper to eat in class, to engage in other activities such as texting, or to slump or nap. Students are expected to be alert and engaged as a sign of respect for their professors.

### Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. It is essential that the students participate fully in the coursework and all required academic activities. Authorized absences may only be approved by the Resident Director, and students are expected to make up any missed work. Unauthorized absences will adversely affect a student's grades.