

IDIS 210

Dr. LALANDE

FALL SEMESTER 2012

**MODERN URBANIZATION: DESTRUCTION AND
RESTORATION OF CITIES AROUND THE WORLD**

Dr. Jean-Pierre Lalande

Course: Monday – Wednesday 2:35 – 3:45 in Hall of Science 202

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PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The purpose of the course is to study how modern urbanization, during the 20th century, has drastically transformed many great cities and their cultures throughout the world. To do so we will focus on several cities worldwide: three (Berlin, Paris and Venice) in western developed countries, one (Kyoto) in a non-western developed country, and four more (Cairo, Beijing, Bangkok and Istanbul) in developing countries. Occasionally a few specific additional examples will be drawn from other well-know western or non-western cities, when necessary (Athens, Rome, Hiroshima, Warsaw, Shanghai, etc.).

The first part of the course will examine the main forces which, in one way or another, have contributed to the significant destruction of many cities' cultural heritage. The second part will concentrate on the variety of the restoration and preservation efforts that have been made to fight those destructive forces.

In the process we will see how destruction and restoration, while being universal, take on various forms depending upon the history, culture, politics and economic development of the cities affected. We will discuss some of the efforts that are made to protect those cities from destruction, their successes and their failures, and we will raise the question of the future of our urban cultures. Will the industrialization of architecture prevail in the near future to the point that all the great cities of the world will look alike, or will people be able to protect the cultural spirit of their cities from the forces of rapid modernization and uniformity?

READINGS:

Anthony M. Tung, *Preserving the World's Great Cities*, Three Rivers Press, New York, New York, 2001, ISBN 0-609-80815, 470p.

A series of hand-outs and of various articles pertinent to the topics studied will be distributed in class as the semester goes on.

SYLLABUS

Monday August 27 – Class 01

Introduction to the course

Assignment:

Read Tung's, *Preserving the World's Great Cities*, Introduction, pp. 1-14.

Read Tochtermann – *Cities under Stress – The urban Experience*

Wednesday August 29 – Class 02

Introduction to the course and presentation of the cities to be studied

Assignment:

Anthony Tung, *Preserving the World's Great Cities*, Chapter 14, *The City Redeemed: Berlin, Moscow, New York and Mexico City*, pp. 389-412.

Hand-out: J-P Lalande: *Berlin: a Historical Perspective*.

Hand-out: J-P Lalande: *Berlin: A Few Landmarks*

Read Eugene Linden, *The Exploding Cities of the Developing World*, Foreign Affairs, Vol. 75, No. 1, pp. 52-65.

Wednesday September 5 – Class 03

Introduction to Berlin, the capital city of the Federal Republic of Germany. Its Prussian past and culture.

Assignment:

Building Homes – Building Politics, Central European Review, Vol. 1, N. 21, 15
November 1999

Monday September 10 – Class 04

Berlin and its landmarks: today we focus on early 19th century, Third Reich Berlin, and war-destroyed Berlin.

Assignment:

Anthony Tung, *Preserving the World's Great Cities*, chapter 6, *Ideological Conflict with the Past: Moscow and Beijing*, pp. 131-168.

Hand-outs: J-P Lalande: *Beijing: A few Historical Landmarks*, *Beijing: A historical Perspective*, *Beijing Hutong*.

Hand-out: *A short history of Beijing*

Wednesday September 12 – Class 05

Berlin after WWII, during the Cold War, and today. Reunification and reconstruction (end).

Assignment:

Old Beijing Is Disappearing Under Development Pressure, The Epoch Times, October 8, 2004.

New Beijing to Combine Modern and Ancient Glories, Beijing Time, April 19, 2003.

Beijing: Architectural Showcase, China Today.

Preserving the Soul of Beijing, China Today, 2005.

Monday September 17 – Class 06

A presentation by Stevan Villar introduces the city of Beijing to the class

Beijing and its major landmarks: a survey of the destruction suffered by the city during the 20th century. We discuss the destructive effects on the center city of the politically-motivated construction of government and government-related buildings. Then we look at the effects of the recent modernization on the city.

Assignment:

Tung: *Preserving the World's Great Cities*, chapter 1, *The Century of Destruction*, pp. 15-28.

Hand-out: *Beijing puts in one billion yuan to protect cultural relics*

Hand-out: *Yongdingmen Gate being rebuilt*

Hand-out: *Beijing, the Fate of the Old* - China Heritage Newsletter, March 2005.

Wednesday September 19 – Class 07

First we take a walk through the Forbidden City by means of a slide show. Then we discuss the destruction caused by the recent modernization effort and the preparation for the Olympic Games. Then we look at the new city and discuss the questions that the modernization of Beijing raises.

Assignment:

Tung: Introduction, pp. 1 – 14 (second chance)

Chapter 1 – *The Century of Destruction*, pp.15 – 28

Hand-out: - J-P Lalande - *Kyoto: A historical perspective* and *Kyoto: A few landmarks*

Hand-out: *Historical Kyoto* and *Urbanization in Kyoto*

Monday September 24 – Class 08

We start with a series of photos showing the renovation and restoration efforts as they are going on in Beijing. Then we compare those efforts with what is done in Berlin. A comparison of Beijing and Berlin raises several important issues about preservation and destruction. What has been lost and what has been gained? What are the challenges facing the two cities?

Assignments:

Anthony Tung, *Preserving the World's Great Cities*, Chapter 13 *Kyoto, Reversing the Culture of Destruction*, pp. 368-385

Hand-outs – *Historical Kyoto* and *A few facts about Kyoto*.

Wednesday September 26 – Class 09

A presentation by Sophia Osbourne and Jaclyn Martorana introduces the city of Kyoto to the class.

Discussion of the main historical landmarks of the former capital city of Japan

Assignment:

For Kyoto: Read: Alex Kerr, *Dogs and Demons*, Hill and Wang, New York, 2001, pp. 164-173 and 187-189.

Read article *Kyoto Mitate* and *Kyoto Collective Housing Study Group*.

Monday October 1 – Class 10

Review and discussion of the material covered so far.

Wednesday October 3 - Class 11**Mid Term Test**Assignment:

Martine Jacot, *Living with Leviathan*, UNESCO Courier, January 1999, pp. 18-23.

Wednesday October 10 – Class 12

Discussion of the nature and consequences of the negative impact of industrialization and modernization on the city of Kyoto – destruction of machiya.

Assignment:

Hand-out: J-P Lalande: *Bangkok: A Few Landmarks*

Hand-out: J-P Lalande: *A short History of Bangkok*

Correction of the test

First paper is due

Monday October 15 – Class 13

A presentation by Ben Abbott and Matt Miele introduces the city of Bangkok to the class

As industrialization spread around the globe it triggered an urban expansion that brought chaos to the traditional culture of the cities it affected. Today we consider the case of Bangkok.

Read articles: *Pollution in Bangkok* and *Rediscovering the history behind Bangkok's historical buildings*,

Wednesday October 17 – Class 14

More than chaos, modernization has already caused the loss of many aspects of traditional culture. We see how Bangkok provides examples of such losses.

Read Tung, Chapter 11, *Venice, Tourism vs. the Habitable City*.

Read Hand-outs: J-P Lalande: *A brief History of Venice* and *A few Venice Landmarks*

Monday October 22 – Class 15

A presentation by Carlos La Luz and Jacob Donchez introduces the city of Venice to the class

Today we become acquainted with the history of **Venice** because, due to special geographical considerations, the city provides a unique example of the extent to which the combined effects of air, soil and water pollution caused by industrial waste can threaten the very survival of one of the greatest cities in the world.

Read Tung, Chapter 12, *Paris – London, the Comprehensible Urban Visage*.

Wednesday October 24 – Class 16

Continuation of the previous discussion on Venice

Read hand-outs – J.P. Lalande: *Paris, a few Landmarks – Paris, a historical perspective*.

Read article – *A short History of Paris* – The Economist.

Monday October 29 – Class 17

Second Test

Wednesday October 31 – Class 18

A presentation by Ryan Barwick introduces the city of Paris to the class.

A gradual and rational urban development has its advantages but may not be quite enough to avoid the challenge presented by modernity. Too much attention to the past is bound to generate problems of its own.

Read hand-outs – J-P Lalande: *Istanbul - Major landmarks* and *Istanbul - A short history*

Monday November 5 – Class 19

Continuation of the discussion on Paris and some comparisons with Venice

Assignment to be announced.

Wednesday November 7 – Class 20

A presentation by Khera Rufino and Mike O’Gorman introduces the city of Istanbul to the class.

Istanbul is unique in many ways for better and for worse. Sitting on two continents, the city has always been a crossroad of civilizations and cultures. It has also been destroyed and rebuilt numerous times (more or less) and today it too has to face modernity.

Anthony Tung, *Preserving the World’s Great Cities*, chapter 5, *The tragedy of the Megacity*, pp. 96-130.

Read hand-out J.P. Lalande: *Cairo, a historical perspective*
Also article: *Cairo, Megacity*

Monday November 12 – Class 21

Istanbul

Read article: *UNESCO and the Conservation of Old Cairo*

Wednesday November 14 – Class 22

A presentation by John Simone introduces the city of Cairo to the class.

Discussion of the presentation and further comments on the issue of conservation in Cairo today

Read Anthony Tung, chapter 9 – *The City of the Gods Besieged*, pp. 248-271.

Read hand-out J-P Lalande: *Athens at a glance*

Monday November 19 – Class 23

A presentation by Chris Lansberry introduces the city of Athens to the class.

First city to be built as a city-state, it served as a model for many cities in the western world. Today the model is long gone. The modern city is exploding within an

infrastructure that was conceived to accommodate barely half of the population it has to serve today.

Read Anthony Tung, chapter 2, *The City That Devoured Its Glory*, pp.29-50.

Monday November 26 – Class 24

Third Test

Wednesday November 30 – Class 25

A presentation by Hope Adam introduces the city of Rome the class.

Second paper is due.

Read Anthony Tung, chapter 3, *The City That Rewrote Its Past*, pp. 51-69.

Monday December 3 – Class 26

Discussion of the major issues connected with modernization as identified during the course of the semester.

Reading (if any) TBA

Wednesday December 5 – Class 27

A look at the future of our cities

Final Exams – Friday December 10 – Friday December 17

Absences and grading Policy

It is obviously imperative that students come to class on a regular basis and prepared, with the reading assignments done. Each student will be allowed to miss TWO classes during the course of the semester without any question asked. After two absences the student will need to bring a valid excuse from the Dean's Office. Failure to do so will impact negatively the participation grade which will be lowered. Example: one unexcused absence will turn a B participation grade into a C.

During the semester each student will take three tests, will give a 20-25 minute oral presentation on a topic assigned in advance and will have to write a 10-page paper which will have to be turned in on the date mentioned in the syllabus.

The average grade of the three tests will account for 40% of the final grade, the oral presentation for 10%, the paper for 20%, the class participation for 10% and the final exam for 20%. This kind of distribution should eliminate any feeling of pressure on the part of the students and be conducive to a productive and yet, relaxed semester.

Final points

In order to facilitate class discussions and lectures and create a better environment, make sure that all your cell phones are turned off (if there is some kind of emergency, let me know ahead of time and I will do likewise). ABSOLUTELY NO TEXTING IN CLASS WILL BE TOLERATED. Class periods are only 70 minutes and, assuming you take your precautions ahead of time, there should be no need for trips to the bathroom. As a result, such disruptive behavior will not be tolerated either because it does not foster a good learning environment. Finally, I will also ask you to refrain from eating in class. If you really have a problem with any of these rules, feel free to let me know ahead of time.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

I wish you all a pleasant and productive semester.