

IDIS 210

Dr. LALANDE

FALL SEMESTER 2015

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

Dr. Jean-Pierre Lalande

Course: Monday – Wednesday 1:10 – 2:20 in Reeves Library 212

Office hours: M-W-F 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

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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 31 – 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 September 02 – 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*

Monday September 07 – Class 03

Discussion of the development of cities around the world

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

Wednesday September 09– Class 04

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 14 – Class 05

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 16 – Class 06

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 21 – Class 07

Class presentation on Beijing

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 23 – Class 08

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 28 – Class 09

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 30 – Class 10

Class presentation on Kyoto

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 05 - Class 11

More on Kyoto and review

Assignment:

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

Wednesday October 07 – Class 12**Mid Term Test****FALL BREAK****Wednesday October 14– Class 13**

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**Monday October 19 – Class 14****Class presentation on Bangkok**

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 21 – Class 15

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 26 – Class 16

Class presentation on Venice

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 28 – Class 17

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 November 02 – Class 18

Second Test

Wednesday November 04 – Class 19

Class presentation on Paris

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 09– Class 20

Continuation of the discussion on Paris and some comparisons with Venice

Assignment to be announced.

Wednesday November 11 – Class 21**Class presentation on Istanbul**

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.

Monday November 16 – Class 22

Istanbul

Wednesday November 18 – Class 23

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 23 – Class 24**Class presentation on Athens**

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.

Monday November 30 – Class 25**Third Test**

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

Also article: *Cairo, Megacity*

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

Wednesday December 02 – Class 26

Second paper is due.

Class presentation on Cairo

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

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

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

Monday December 07 – Class 27**Class presentation on Rome**

Discussion of the presentation and further comments on the issue of conservatism in Rome in the past and today

Wednesday December 09 – Class 28

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

Final Exam

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 (one week of class) 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 two 20-25 minute oral presentations on a topic assigned in advance and will have to write one 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. If someone is caught texting all students will have to turn in their phones before class for the rest of the semester. Also, all cell phones will have to be left on my desk before taking a test.

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, the water fountain or anywhere else. As a result, such disruptive behavior will not be tolerated 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 the Academic Support Center, located on the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

NOTE ON TIME COMMITMENT

The student work in this course is in full compliance with the federal definition of a four credit hour course. It is expected that you will work an average of 10 hours per week on this course outside of the regular class meetings.

I wish you all a pleasant and productive semester.