

Discussions on contemporary urban planning and design in China

中国当代城市规划与设计专题研讨 (02031401)

Tutor: Harry den Hartog

Max. 25 students.

Please write a short motivation letter for participation (150 words).

Shanghai & the Future of the Global City

Shanghai has one goal: become an Excellent Global City by 2035 — rivaling New York, London, Singapore, and Tokyo in economy, image, and quality of life. But what does that actually take? In this course, we dig into the real challenges behind that ambition, connecting Shanghai's urban growth to global trends in planning and design.

Group Project: Walk the City, Read the City

Pick an 8-kilometer route through Shanghai and turn it into a story. Present it like a film script — what do we see, what spatial issues come up, how are they being tackled? Choose a theme, focus on one or two sharp issues, and back it up with visual analysis: qualities, tensions, and a concrete proposal for improvement. Big or small — a building, a public artwork, a renewal plan, a tiny intervention — what matters is a bold, well-argued statement.

Individual Essay: City vs. Countryside

Migration has reshaped lifestyles and communities across China. So — where is the countryside headed? What's the future relationship between urban and rural China? Make your case with strong arguments, and feel free to bring in stories from your own hometown. Illustrate it however you want: photos, drawings, collage, even video.

Get involved

The course consists of lectures, discussions, and field visits. Active participation is expected. There are small assignments almost every week, and students present and help co-organize parts of the program. More details at our first meeting. This is your chance to think critically about one of the world's fastest-changing cities — and make your voice part of the conversation.

Schedule

Friday morning 10:00-11:35, week 1-16 (total 16 sessions)

We have double sessions every other week, which will be 08:00-12:00, during these double sessions we have excursions, during which tasks are given to the students. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. If you are unable to attend, please let me know at least three days in advance. Double sessions will be compensated on other days, so the total number of contact hours remains the same.

The detailed weekly schedule will be confirmed later in advance.

Calculation of the final score:

Group task: 30%

Individual task: 30%

Participation during classes: 40%