Social Science 1400 Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area

Spring 2024

3 Course Credits

Tuesday & Thursday 12-13:20          Room: LTG

Instructor: Jerry Patchell
Email: sopatch@ust.hk; Rm. TBA; Office hrs: TBA

TA: Daphne Deng
Email: daphnedy@ust.hk; Rm. 2359; Office hrs TBA

Introduction

The Greater Bay Area (GBA) has become the world’s largest urban area. Consisting of Hong Kong, Macau and the nine cities of the Pearl River Delta, in less than forty years the area has transformed from a rural backwater to an economic engine of advanced manufacturing and services. It has lifted millions of people out of poverty and provided them with new homes and communities. The GBA has also become an important node in a network of megacity regions that are responsible for much of the world’s economic dynamism. Yet, aspirations are higher. Government and businesses and many other want to harness the region’s synergies so that the GBA can compete with other highly developed bay areas. Becoming an innovative high quality living region is the goal.

This course is designed primarily to familiarize you with the GBA because its development is important to the people that live in Hong Kong and the GBA region, because the region has a big impact on the world, and because the GBA is a model for other mega-city regions. To understand what makes this large and diverse region so successful, we focus the challenge by examining the region through the agglomeration processes of external economies, governance and urbanization. These processes led the GBA’s development and will determine its future—in terms of continued economic development and more importantly in terms of the wellbeing of the GBA’s people. We will examine how the GBA can function as a cohesive region, but also how the actions of the cities and the diversity of activities within the cities add vibrancy. We will also put the GBA’s development in perspective, reflecting on the regional culture of the past and what other megacity regions tell us the GBA can be.

Two main objectives:

1) Discover more about the region you live in and whose evolution will have a great impact on your own future and quality of life.

2) Understand the processes of regional economic development and urbanization as they apply to the GBA and megacity regions in general.
Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Describe the various actors, institutions and natural endowments that have influenced the GBA’s development.
2. Explain how key agglomeration processes have shaped economic, social and sustainable development.
3. Compare and contrast different development patterns within the GBA and the GBA with other megacities in China and elsewhere.
4. Develop individual and group research, writing and presenting skills.

Evaluation System

The course is designed principally to familiarize you with the GBA so that you understand its present situation, its potential and significance. To secure that understanding you will need to know the processes driving and facilitating the development and governance of the GBA. You will be evaluated on: a knowledge of what is going on in the GBA and an understanding of why it is going on. Most of the evaluation will be done through a midterm and a final exam, both of which will be multiple choice with some short answer. You will be given numerous opportunities to answer similar MC questions in class. We will also do exercises in class that will count to participation and exam evaluation.

Students must also make a presentation to examine some issue about the GBA that is of interest to you. You can do the presentation as a group or individual, with the presentation lasting 5-7 minutes depending on group size. Besides PPT, you can also use a video, Google Earth Tour Builder or some other format. Presentations will begin in after the midterm. Final exam questions will be taken from the presentations.

75% Exams: 35% Midterm; 40% Final (2nd half topics, conceptually cumulative)  
15% Presentation  
10% In-class exercises, games, participation, quizzes/PRS

Readings and Supporting Materials

A textbook for the course has been written by the instructor and can be purchased at the campus bookstore or online and can also be read online through the library. PPTs will be put on canvas before lectures if you want to print them out for note taking. Supplementary readings appropriate to each topic are on canvas and are helpful for you to broaden and deepen your understanding.

Electronics
The use of electronics in class is encouraged for learning purposes, but please don’t let them distract you or annoy other students. Moreover, note taking by hand on paper has been proven to more effective in developing understanding and retention and paper is a renewable resource, supports employment and communities.

**Academic Integrity**

You come to university to learn how to think and use information creatively. To do so you are exposed to and asked to search out new ideas, theories, and practices. You learn how to use them to create your own ideas, to argue their importance, and see them put into action. If you do so you will greatly enhance your career, enhance your relationships, live a more interesting life, drive a Tesla, etc. Simply copying other people’s work or ideas (usually called cheating) doesn’t help you develop creativity. In this course, you will learn how to extend other peoples’ ideas, to use them for your own purposes and generate your own ideas. If cheating is an issue the University (therefore ‘yours truly’) must deal with you harshly (see: [http://www.ust.hk/vpao/integrity/](http://www.ust.hk/vpao/integrity/)).

**Schedule**

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<td>Feb. 6 Purposes and Processes</td>
<td>Feb. 1 GBA Overview</td>
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<td>Happy New Year</td>
<td>Feb. 15 Lignan</td>
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<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>Feb. 22 Crossing many rivers</td>
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<td>Feb. 20 Crossing many rivers</td>
<td>Feb. 29 Clusters and Regional Coordination</td>
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<td>Feb. 27 Clusters and Regional Coordination</td>
<td>Mar. 6 Spatial Interaction and Networks</td>
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<td>Mar. 5 Spatial Interaction and Networks</td>
<td>Mar. 12 Regional Innovation System</td>
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<td>Mar. 19 Mid-term Review: Lignan &amp; Development</td>
<td>Mar. 14 Regional Innovation Systems</td>
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<td>Governance</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>Mar. 26 Many Systems, One Region</td>
<td>March 28—April 7</td>
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Readings: required and supplementary

Required readings are the chapters of the text book titled *China's Greater Bay Area: Agglomeration, External Economies, Governance and Urbanisation*. Textbook is available at the bookstore; online at library; or at amazon.com or Routledge.com.

Supplementary readings listed below can give you further insight into topics covered. The supplementary readings are are available on Canvas unless marked Electronic which means they can be found on the internet.

Chapter 1 Purposes and Processes

Supplementary readings:


Government of China, Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Canvas)

Scott, A. (2019) City-regions reconsidered, EPA: Economy and Space, 51(3). (Canvas)

Scott A. et al. Ch. 1 Global City-Regions: An Overview, Ch. 1 in Scott, A. 2001 *Global City-Regions: trends, theory, policy* Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Canvas)


Stimson, R. et al. 2006 "Perspectives on Regional Economic Development" Ch. 1 in Regional Economic Development New York: Springer. (CANVAS)

McKinsey Global Institute 2009 *Preparing for China's Urban Billion* (CANVAS)


McCann, P. (2013) *Modern Regional and Urban Economics* Oxford: Oxford University Press; Ch. 2 Agglomeration and Clustering (CANVAS)
### Chapter 2 Lingnan

Supplementary readings:
- **Marks, R.** 2007 People Said Extinction Was Not Possible, Ch. 8 in A. Hornberg, J.R. McNeil and J. Martinez-Alier *Rethinking Environmental History*, Plymouth U.K.; AltaMira. (CANVAS)

### Chapter 3 Crossing Many Rivers

Supplementary readings:
- **InvestHK Greater PRD Report 2014** (CANVAS)
- **InvestHK Greater PRD Report 2010** (CANVAS)
- Lin, G. 1997 Economic and Spatial Transformation, Ch. 5 in *Red Capitalism in South China*, Vancouver: UBC Press. (CANVAS)
- Li, Si-ming 2009 The Pearl River Delta: The Fifth Asian Little Dragon, Ch. 7 in *HongKong, Macau and the Pearl River Delta: A Geographical Survey*. Ed. K. Wong. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Educational Publishing Co. (CANVAS)
- HKTDC 2016 *Pearl River Delta West: new bridge signals new opportunities*. Hong Kong: HKTDC (Canvas)

### Chapter 4 Clusters and Coordination

Supplementary readings:

### Chapter 5 Networks and Interaction

Supplementary readings:
- Xu, J. and Yeh, A.G.O. 2013 Interjurisdictional Cooperation through Bargaining: The Case of the Guangzhou–Zhuhai Railway in the Pearl River Delta, China (CANVAS)

### Chapter 6 Regional Innovation Systems

Supplementary readings:
- Sharif, N. and Huang, C. 2012 "Innovation strategy, firm survival and relocation: The case of Hong Kong-owned manufacturing in Guangdong Province, China" *Research Policy* 41, 69–78 (CANVAS)

### Chapter 7 One region, many systems

Supplementary readings:
### Chapter 8 Urbanization and Populating of the GBA:

**Supplementary readings**

- **Lin, G.** 1997 Economic and Spatial Transformation, Ch. 5 in *Red Capitalism in South China* Vancouver: UBC Press. (CANVAS)

### Chapter 9 Built Environment

**Supplementary readings**


### Chapter 10 Social Structure and Issues

**Supplementary readings**

- **Oxfam** (undated) Hong Kong Inequality Report, Hong Kong: Oxfam. (CANVAS)

### Chapter 11 Communities

**Supplementary readings**


### 12. Sustainable Development

**Supplementary readings**

- **Flynn, A. and Li, Y.** (2020) The Protean Environmental State in Dongguan: Reconceptualising the local state and ecological development in China, EPC: Politics and Space 38(3) 443-463. (CANVAS)
- **Fu, Y. and Zhang, X.** (2018) Two faces of an eco-city? Sustainability transition and territorial rescaling of
a new town in Zhuhai, Land Use Policy, 78, 627-636. (CANVAS)

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<th>13. GBA Futures</th>
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