



HISTORY 454K (?)

Globalization, Development, and the Chinese Economy

Fall 2015

Dates / contact hours: 300 minutes of contact time per week for seven weeks
Academic Credit: 1 course
Areas of Knowledge: CZ, SS
Modes of Inquiry: CCI, STS
Course format: lectures and in-class discussion sessions; possible field trip(s)

Instructor's Information

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Prerequisite(s), if applicable

No prerequisites

Course Description

A historical perspective on issues of development and globalization in China, with special focus on Kunshan, said to be one of the richest and most environmentally-conscious cities in China. The course is broadly divided into three modules: the history, politics, and economics of global commodities; gender; and megacities. Class-time will be integrated with fieldtrips to Kunshan's multi-national corporations and government offices.

This course is parallel in concept and style to the course History 454S (cross-listed as African and African American Studies 407S; CIS 412S, Women's Studies 412S—course attributes: CCI; CZ; SS; STS) that was taught at Duke Fall 2014. Some of the topics have been modified and the readings have been updated. There is approximately 75% overlap in the material presented in the two courses. The Fall 2014 course topics of "global water issues" and "Korean labor history" have been replaced by the topics of "megacities" and "Kunshan's developmental model" in order to take full advantage of DKU's location in Kunshan. The current treatment should be more appropriate for the DKU audience and the 7-week format.

Course Goals / Objectives

Students will gain overall familiarity with the major theoretical debates on globalization and understand the issues of gender in globalization processes. Students will strengthen their skills of critical analysis through focus on case studies of global commodities, as well as the case of Kunshan and its particular developmental history of the past thirty years.

Required Text(s)/Resources

Primary Readings

- Leslie T. Chang, *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*, (Spiegel and Grau, 2008), selections.
- Reena Patel, *Working the Night Shift: Women in India's Call Center Industry*, (Stanford University Press, 2010), selections.
- Michael Nest, *Coltan*, (Polity Press 2011), excerpts in PDF on Sakai.
- Pietra Rivoli *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* (Wiley Press, 2009), E-book, selections.
- A. Sorenson and J. Okata, eds. *Megacities: Urban Form, Governance, and Sustainability* (Springer, 2011) E-book, selections.
- James H. Spencer, *Globalization and Urbanization: The Global Urban Ecosystem*. (Rowman and Littlefield, 2014). E-book, selections.
- Einar Tangen, *The Kunshan Way* (Foreign Languages Press, 2010), excerpts in PDF on Sakai.
- Shahid Yusuf and Tony Saich, eds. *China Urbanizes: Consequences, Strategies, and Policies* (World Bank Publications, 2008). E-book, selections.

Additional readings will be found on Sakai. Lectures include film clips and power-point presentations.

Additional Materials (optional)

None

Course Requirements / Key Evidences

Complete a world maps quiz; give individual presentations; take turns leading group discussion via Sakai forums; complete a journal on the production and consumption pathways of a chosen global commodity; write two response papers guided by prompts; and take a final exam. Class discussion and assignments will draw upon students' experience gained through fieldtrips to Kunshan's multi-national corporations and government offices.

Technology Considerations, if applicable

Utilization of Sakai to organize class discussions, and for students to upload assignments such as papers, quiz, and final exam. Classroom computer, projector, and screen.

Assessment Information / Grading Procedures

Coursework and Grading

Maps quiz: 5%

Class attendance, individual participation, and group discussion: 20%

Sakai postings: 15%

Journal on a global commodity: 20%

Two Response Papers: 25%

Final exam: 15%

Specific learning objectives will be aligned with the assignments and projects in the course. Students will receive detailed rubrics for course work so that they understand the criteria for performance and the system for assignment of points for grades. Guidance on group work and class participation will be provided for students not accustomed to an open discussion style of pedagogy.

Diversity and Intercultural Learning (see Principles of DKU Liberal Arts Education)

This course will be of interest to students of various backgrounds. Each may come with her or his own personal interests and objectives but the course fosters deep exchanges among these students to help them understand the relations between globalization and economy across the world, in the larger Chinese context, and also in the specific Kunshan environment.

Course Policies and Guidelines

- **COURSE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES:**

Instructors' expectations for all assignments and activities will be made as explicitly as possible, given the likelihood of a wide range of background conventions and habits among the students. The Duke Kunshan University Community Standard will be discussed and adhered to.

- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Each student is bound by the academic honesty standard of Duke Kunshan University. Its Community Standard states: "Duke Kunshan University is a community composed of individuals of diverse cultures and backgrounds. We are dedicated to scholarship, leadership, and service and to the principles of honesty, fairness, respect, and accountability. Members of this community commit to reflect upon and uphold these principles in all academic and non-academic endeavors, and to protect and promote a culture of integrity." Violations of the DKU academic honesty standard will not be tolerated. Cheating, lying, falsification, or plagiarism in any practice will be considered as an inexcusable behavior and will result in zero points for the activity.

- **CLASS ATTENDANCE:**

Students are responsible for all the information presented in class. Class attendance and participation are important components of the learning experience. All students are expected to participate during class time.

- **POLICY ON MAKE-UP WORK/EXAMS:**

Students are allowed to make up work only if missed as a result of illness or other unanticipated circumstances warranting a medical excuse, consistent with DKU policy. You must notify the

instructor in advance if you will miss an exam or project deadline. Project extensions requested for medical reasons must be negotiated at the time of illness.

The use of mobile phones, tablets, and laptops is not permitted during the class, except when approved by the instructor.

Tentative Course Outline or Schedule

Week One: The New Global Economy

*Course Introduction

*Theoretical Debates on Globalization

*China, India, and Russia to build the “New Silk Roads Economic Belt” and the “New Maritime Silk Road”

Week Two: Case Study: Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy

(Texas, China, New Jersey, Japan, Tanzania)

Week Three: Case Study: “Conflict Minerals” and Globalization

Possible fieldtrip to Alcoa (Aluminum Company of America), Kunshan

Week Four: Gender and Globalization I: Women Factory Workers in China

Possible visit to a multinational factory in Kunshan, (Foxconn, Giant Bicycles, Acer...)

Week Five: Gender and Globalization II: Women Workers in Transnational Call Centers in India

(To compare how Chinese and Indian women fare in the new spaces and places of globalized economies)

Week Six: Megacities: Problems and Promise

(A global comparative look, with focus on China)

Week Seven: The Kunshan Way

How did Kunshan become one of the richest and most environmentally-conscious cities in China?

Possible visit to the Kunshan County Government

(Version for DKU Ad Hoc Committee)