

Georgetown School of Continuing Studies

BALS Program

**Interpreting China's Rise: Beijing Olympics 2008, Shanghai Expo 2010
Summer 2010
Syllabus**

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May – August
6:15 PM - 8:55 PM

Course Description and Objectives: At the close of the 2008 Beijing Games most of the world agreed with most Chinese that this \$40 b mega-project was a stunning success, the best Olympics ever, organizationally, visually and technically. From May to October 2010 China will host a second global spectacle, the Shanghai Expo, a 21st century version of the old world's fair projected to cost upwards of \$45 b. What do these events mean to China? What are China's leaders trying to achieve in hosting them? This course examines what's been called the Olympic-Expo "one-two punch" from three angles: 1) historically, as part of the narrative of modern national identity formation in which the 'century of humiliation' is replaced by visions of the 'Chinese century,' 2) as a measure of China's rise to global prominence, economically, politically, and culturally, and 3) as a statement of China's intent to take a lead role internationally in technology innovation and transformation of urban space. The aim of the course is to provide students a basic understanding of where China has been and where China is headed, essential knowledge for Americans whose fortunes, inescapably and increasingly, will be China-bound as the 21st century progresses.

This course fulfills BALS non-Western requirement.

Course Requirements: Material will be presented through lectures, DVDs, and guest speakers. Students are expected to attend each and every class and to arrive on time to avoid disrupting the session which will begin promptly at 6:15. If a student must be absent for emergency reasons, he/she is responsible for all make-up work. Should a student miss more than two classes, his/her status in the class will be reviewed with the Associate Dean. The final grade for the course will be based on a quiz (10%), two 5-6 page essays (50%), a final exam (25%) and class participation (15%). Key factors in determining the class participation grade are evidence of consistent, careful reading of assigned materials and seriousness of purpose in selecting current media reports on China to be shared at each class session. Project due dates, specifics of weekly assignments, and requirements for the papers, including the allowable citation system, will be discussed at the first meeting of the course. Please note that late papers will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances and that incomplete grades must be requested before the last class. For

an explanation of the official undergraduate grading system, please see the BALS Student Handbook.

Resources and Policies:

Georgetown Honor Code: All students are expected to adhere to the provisions of the honor code absolutely without exception. Please read the honor code material available at www.georgetown.edu/honor, in particular, *Honor Council Pamphlet*, “What is Plagiarism?” “Sanctioning Guidelines,” and “Expedited Sanctioning Process.” When submitting material in fulfillment of requirements for this course, keep in mind the Georgetown honor pledge as follows:

“In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.”

Any student in violation of the honor code will be subject to academic penalties, including failure of the course.

Writing assistance: For your essays, I would encourage you to take advantage of the free coaching available at the University Writing Center. Both beginning and experienced writers can benefit from suggestions made by perceptive readers. You can find out more about the center and make an appointment at <http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu>

Disabilities: If you have a disability, contact the Academic Resource Center at 202-687-8354 for information about accommodations.

Required books (available at Lauinger Library or for purchase in the University Bookstore):

- Brownell, Susan. 2008. *Beijing’s Games: What the Olympics Mean to China*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Gries, Peter Hays. 2004. *China’s New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Price, Monroe E. and Daniel Dayan, ed. 2008. *Owning the Olympics: Narratives of the New China*. University of Michigan Press.

Recommended books (available at Lauinger Library):

- Bergsten, C. Fred et al. 2009. *China’s Rise: Challenges and Opportunities*, Petersen Institute of International Economics.
- Close, Paul, David Askew and Xu Xin. 2007. *The Beijing Olympiad: The Political Economy of a Sporting Mega-Event*, Routledge.
- Li, Lillian, Alison J. Dray-Novoy, Maili Kong. 2008. *Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City*. Palgrave MacMillan.
- Wasserstrom, Jeffrey N. 2009. *Global Shanghai, 1850-2010: A history in fragments*, Routledge.
- Worden, Minky. 2008. *China’s Great Leap: The Beijing Games and Olympian Human Rights Challenges*. Seven Stories Press.
- Xu Guoqi. 2008. *Olympic Dreams: China and Sports, 1895-2008*. Cambridge: Harvard

University Press.

Topics and Reading Assignments:

Introduction

Session 1: Review of syllabus, course objectives, course requirements, assigned books.

Session 2: PowerPoint presentation: Basic China tools: geographical setting, population distribution, party/government apparatus, current economic pluses and problems

Constructing National Identity: Overcoming the “century of humiliation”

Session 3: Defining the “Century of Humiliation”

video: NOVA “*The Genius That Was China*”

Scenes from the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony

Brownell, “What the Olympics Mean to China,” *Beijing’s Games*, 1-19

Jeffrey Wasserstrom, “1925: A City in the Streets,” *Global Shanghai: 1850-2010*, 62-77

Session 4: Sports and the National Self-Image in Early 20th Century China

Andrew Morris, “To Make the ‘Four Hundred Million Move’: The Late Qing Dynasty Origins of Modern Chinese Sport and Physical Culture,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 42, No. 4 (Oct 2000), 876-906

Xu Guoqi, *Olympic Dreams*, 12-34

Quiz

Session 5: Protesting the “Century of Humiliation”

Gries, *China’s New Nationalism*, 1-85

Session 6: Lead-up to Beijing 2008: Remaking the national image at home and abroad

Brownell, “Mixing Sport and Politics,” *Beijing’s Games*, 129-149

Brownell, “Why Were Chinese People So Angry about the Attempts to Seize the Torch in the International Torch Relay?” and “China’s Olympic Road,” in *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance*, 81-87, 147-161

Charting a Path to Global Power and International Prestige

Session 7: The Beijing Games as China’s “Coming Out Party”

Kate Merkel-Hess, “China in 2008: Reflections on a Year of Great Significance,” *China in 2008*, 1-11

Xu Guoqi, “Beijing 2008,” *Olympic Dreams*

Paul Close et al, “Olympism, Individualism, and Nationalism,” *Beijing Olympiad*, 39-61

Session 8: How could China afford Olympics 2008 and Expo 2010?

Bergsten, *China’s Rise*, 9-56

Jeffrey Owen, "Estimating the Cost and Benefit of Hosting Olympic Games: What Can Beijing Expect from Its 2008 Games?" *Industrial Geographer* (Jan 2010)
DVD: "China Rises: Getting Rich"

Session 8: Public Diplomacy: Selling China's "Peaceful Rise"

Alan Tomlinson, "Olympic Values, Beijing's Olympic Games and the Universal Market," Price, *Owning the Olympics*, 67-86
Ramo, Joshua Cooper. 2007. *Brand China*. <http://fpc.org.uk/fsblob/827.pdf>
James Fallows, "Their Own Worst Enemy," *The Atlantic* (Nov 2008)
www.theatlantic.com/doc/200811/chineseprogress/3

Technology Innovation and Transforming Urban Space

Session 9: Olympics and Expo: visions of a high-tech future

Promotional videos for Expo 2010/Maglev transport
Lee Humphreys/Christopher Finlay, "New Technologies, New Narratives,"
Owning the Olympics, 284-306

Session 10: Art and Architecture: iconic structures, maverick artists

Xuefei Ren, "Architecture and Nation Building in the Age of Globalization: Construction of the National Stadium of Beijing for the 2008 Olympics," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, Vol. 30, No. 2, 175-190 (available online)
On Ai Weiwei: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hddG7u1hlOU 6 min Title: *Ai Weiwei: Olympic Bird's Nest and Beyond*
www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqBdlN5xlls 9 min Title: *China Beijing Olympic National Stadium-Bird's Nest*

Session 11: Urban transformation: Beijing

Carolyn Marvin, "All Under Heaven—Megaspaces in Beijing," Price, *Owning the Olympics: Narratives of the New China*, 229-259
Brownell, "Symbols of State Power," *Beijing's Games*, 73-96
Lillian Li et al, *Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City*, 226-262

Session 12: Urban transformation: Shanghai

Wasserstrom, "2000: A city in a hurry" and "Conclusion: Ten theses on twenty-first-century Shanghai," in *Global Shanghai, 1850-2010*, 109-140
"Shanghai Urbanisation and Expo 2010," World Cities Forum Workshop (available online), 1-24
Howard French, "Disappearing Shanghai," *China in 2008*, 117-121
DVD: "China Rises: City of Dreams"

Progress and Its Perils: Managing Massive Urbanization

Session 13: Rural-Urban Inequality and the Problem of the New Urban Poor

Guest speaker: World Bank China Department

Minky Worden, "China's Olympic Dream, No Workers' Paradise," *China's Great Leap*, 125-139, 171-192 + photos, 235-245
"Homeowners' Protests in Shanghai: An Interview with Benjamin Read," *China in 2008*, 19-21

Session 14: Environmental Challenges to Urban Growth

Evan Osnos, "Green Giant: China's Crash Program for Clean Energy," *New Yorker* (Dec 21, 2009)

Hefa Cheng, "Meeting China's Water Shortage Crisis," *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 2009, 43 (2), 240-244