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CONT CHINESE CITY (Fall 2014)  
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During the past two decades, China's economic growth has fueled an unprecedented urban expansion. Never before at this scale and sustained pace has the world experienced such a project. This growth is projected to continue at an accelerated pace as more and more rural Chinese migrate to the urban areas. By 2030, China's urban population could balloon to almost 1 billion people, nearly double what exists today. This seminar will explore how the mechanisms of this rapid urbanization have created new urban models, and how the resultant forms and patterns might influence cities of the future as the world becomes ever more urbanized.

The seminar will be organized by topic, with each session dedicated to a specific subject or phenomenon. The course will utilize multiple source disciplines to discuss each topic, including film, architecture, urban planning, landscape, politics, etc. Relevant to the topic of discussion, guest speakers may participate in the seminar to offer their insight and expertise. Parallel with the course topics will be viewings of contemporary Chinese films from a new generation of urbane filmmakers.

Students will be required to work in groups of approximately 3-4 people per team on a project during the semester. The project will be broken up into three parts. The project will combine the critical topics of the class with contemporary Chinese film. Through the urban spaces of the selected films and the critical analysis based on the class topics, a future urban condition will be imagined. What can be learned from the contemporary Chinese city? How might it inspire for the future city?