

POSCI 347: Topics in Chinese Politics: Environmental Politics and Gendered Health

Spring 2007
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Class: T 6c (2:20-4:00 pm)

Office Hours: T, Th 10:30 am-12:30 pm and other times by appointment.

Course Description

This course explores the ways in which environmental politics differentially impacts governance, community life, activism, and the health of men and women in contemporary China. To provide a better, more complete comprehension of the relationship between China's environment, its sustainability, related policy-making and collective action, and its social impact, this class begins with an introduction to China's environmental and political histories. Next, the course examines the relationship between politics and the environment in contemporary China. After covering different approaches, both external and indigenous, to understanding China's environmental politics, the class investigates two major kinds of environmental issues in China (water and diseases; energy and industrial pollution) and the types of activism associated with these problems (international, governmental, and NGO). This class is **writing intensive** and fulfills the **M5 LinC** requirement.

Goals and Objectives

- a) Learn about the relationship between politics, the environment, and health in China.
- b) Understand and take part in policy debates about and media analysis of both China's and global environmental issues.
- c) Broaden critical thinking and analytical skills about the impact of history and different traditions on governance, the community, the individual, and the environment in non-American or European cultural contexts.
- d) Develop comprehension of comparative theoretical perspectives and questions, particularly as concerns China's environmental politics.
- e) Enhance research abilities and knowledge of sources related to the differences in values and practice between China and the U.S. on matters of the environment, development, international cooperation, and a global future.

Course Guidelines

1. All work must be submitted on due date for full credit. **Late assignments are NOT accepted.**

2. All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, printed, stapled, use complete sentences, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. All assignments must be personally handed to the instructor. No handwritten assignments will be accepted. No emailed assignments will be accepted **except in case of emergencies and not without prior permission of the instructor.**

3. Regular attendance is expected. Assigned work can only be made up 1) after an in-person discussion with the instructor and 2) in cases of **appropriately documented** family emergencies, extended leave, or school sponsored-commitments. If an emergency should arise, you must notify me prior to an assignment's due date and not after. If you plan to miss a class please notify me in advance. Students are allowed a maximum of **three** absences within this semester. If you miss class more than the allowed times, 5% will be deducted from your final course grade. Another 5% will be deducted from your final course grade for each additional absence. Two late arrivals to class will be counted as an absence. Please be aware that absences are not divided into excused and unexcused. Regardless of the reason, an absence from class is counted as an absence.

4. In case of any crisis or emergency, or an extended absence from class, you must inform your professor through Learning Services or the Academic Dean's Office.

5. Learning disability accommodations: students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities should contact Learning Services (x1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

6. These guidelines are intended for the benefit of the students as far as clarification of the instructor's expectations for the course; however, in exceptional circumstances the instructor reserves the right to exercise discretion in the application of these guidelines to individual cases or to refer a particular case to the Academic Dean if necessary.

Classroom Expectations

- 1) Respect for others' answers and views. Disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken.
- 2) Equal time for opposing opinions.
- 3) Please turn off cell phones in class. If yours rings during class, you will be dismissed from class and counted as absent.
- 4) Non-alcoholic drinks are allowed in class, other food is not.
- 5) Attention to course related material only.
- 6) Necessary breaks at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Texts: Available at the college bookstore-

- Economy, Elizabeth. *When the River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future*. NY: Cornell University Press, 2004.
- Gallagher, Kelly Sims. *China Shifts Gears: Automakers, Oil, Pollution, and Development*. MA: MIT Press, 2006.
- Shapiro, Judith. *Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China*. NY: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Course Requirements

A. Graded Requirements

Class Participation-20% of your final grade. Class participation includes coming to class on a very consistent basis, keeping up with assigned readings by thoroughly reading and thinking about the readings before coming to class, active involvement in interactive lectures, substantive contributions to discussions, and engagement with in-class activities. For class participation, **effort counts heavily. Attempting to answer a question, asking a question, or voicing an opinion are all part of participation.** I will evaluate your participation highly if you: a)attend class regularly; b)discuss the videos and readings I make available; c)raise relevant questions/offer thoughtful comments; d)demonstrate you understand the material by your full involvement during in-class activities. Every class session is counted toward your final participation grade. **If you do not participate actively in each class, you will reduce your participation grade by 50% for each given day.**

Research Proposal: 5% of your grade. This is the first component of your research paper for this class. The proposal will set out the central question you want to answer through your research. After completing your research, the answer to the central question you lay out in your proposal will serve as the focus of the research paper in its full draft form. The proposal will also include the issue area of environmental politics in China on which you will conduct research to answer your central question. This issue area will serve as the case study the details of which you will use to concretely answer your central research question. The three issue areas from which you can choose are the following: I) land resources, property rights, housing, food and hunger; II) water resources, water pollution, water shortages, and disease; III) energy and industrial pollution, jobs, growth, and public health. The guidelines attached to this syllabus include the list of what to include in your proposal.

Annotated Bibliography: 10% of your grade. The second component of your research paper is an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents, in which each citation is followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The annotated bibliography for this paper will expand on the sources required for the research proposal. In the annotated bibliography you will need to cite (and annotate) the complete list of those books, articles, documents, and online sources that you will use in your research. The basic requirements for sources in this bibliography and on the research paper are the following: two books, five journal articles, and no more than three online sources. The guidelines attached to the syllabus include instructions for the annotated bibliography.

Research Outline: 5% of your grade. The research outline is the third component of your research paper. It basically outlines your entire paper from central research question to supporting points to examples that illustrate those points. The outline for this paper will be in the form of a sentence outline (using complete sentences throughout). Instructions for constructing such an outline are attached to the syllabus.

Research Paper Introduction: 10% of your grade. The research paper introduction is the

fourth component of your research paper. It consists of the full introductory section that you will use in your research paper. Be aware that this introduction will go through significant revisions in the two drafts of the paper which follow. This draft of the introductory section is to be no more than three pages in length. Instructions for constructing the introduction are attached to the syllabus.

Research Paper First Draft (peer review): 25% of your grade. The first draft is the fifth component of your research paper. It is to be submitted in polished form as it will be reviewed by one of your classmates in a class session devoted to peer editing of these drafts. Instructions for peer editing the draft will be covered prior to this class session. The draft should be as close to a polished paper as you can write because the goal of the peer editing session is to give you valuable feedback on your paper. The more information you can give your classmates, the more feedback they can provide. The peer review session will be an open interactive forum in which you can discuss your paper with both your classmates and the instructor. Be aware that this draft is weighted more heavily than the final draft of the paper in the calculation of your final grade.

Final Draft (instructor copy): 15% of your grade. The sixth, and final, component of your paper is the final draft. This is the copy of your paper which will be submitted to the instructor for your final grade. The technical details for the paper, besides its 15 page length requirement, are attached to the syllabus. When handing in this final draft, make sure and hand in all notes, drafts, and sources used in the writing of the research paper. The details of this requirement will be discussed in class.

Student Lead Discussion: 10% of your grade. Each student will lead discussion for part of a class session (20-25 minutes). Dates for leading discussion will be chosen in the first week of class from a list provided by the instructor. On the day you are to lead class discussion, you will need to bring enough copies for each person in the class of a one page (maximum) handout that includes: the main thesis of the assigned reading in your own words; a statement of why a certain point of the author's is central to understanding environmental politics in China; how and why you disagree with the conceptual or analytical approach taken in the reading; and three open-ended discussion questions (questions that ask "how," "why," or "in what ways") that you will use to begin and continue discussion. The second part of your leading discussion must be an activity designed by you, and involving the class and the instructor, that teaches the significance or importance of the reading for the global future. You will need to meet with the instructor one week prior to your presentation to discuss your plans for leading discussion and to obtain the instructor's approval for your plan.

Pop quizzes-If class discussions do not yield evidence of careful reading and thought, I may administer unannounced ("pop") quizzes. These quizzes will be factored in as part of your participation grade (20 points each). These quizzes will help me determine if quiet students are keeping silent because they are shy or because they are not keeping up with the reading assignments. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

B. Grade Components: all assignments under graded requirements must be completed in order to pass this class.

Your final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Student lead discussion	10%
Class Participation	20%
Research Proposal	5%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Research Outline:	5%
Research Paper Introduction	10%
Research Paper First Draft (peer review)	25%
Final Draft (instructor copy)	<u>15%</u>
	100%

Guidelines (Rubric) for Written Assignments (Written by Ben Slote and modified slightly by Ann Bomberger)

1) Written work in the A range is based on an original, logical and coherently organized set of ideas; it makes a clear and persuasive argument (even if the reader disagrees with its argument); it brings in specific, relevant examples to back up its assertions; its points, at each turn, are clearly articulated: the words carry precise meaning, they don't obscure it; its sentences use only the words their ideas require, not any more; its paragraphs have distinct though related roles in the essay's cohesion as a whole, each holding one thoroughly asserted idea (not two competing ideas, not one idea half-asserted); if appropriate it accurately and thoughtfully uses other sources; and its sentences are without the grammatical, spelling, or typographical mistakes that exacting proof-reading would catch. (All of this takes a lot of work. If it is all very nearly accomplished, the essay usually earns an A-.)

2) Written work in the B range: a very good paper, the writing of which is clearly, thoughtfully, and effectively executed. What sometimes prevents an "A" is a lack of originality, thorough thinking or careful proofreading. If two of these virtues are absent and the other areas of the paper are strong, the essay will usually earn a B-.

3) Written work in the C range: some conspicuous flaw usually earns an essay a C; its argument is really underdeveloped, it contains only minimal textual support, it has problems with organization and/or sentence clarity, it is in dire need of proofreading.

4) Written D work either contains more than one of the large problems cited in the "C" description or finds another way to convince its reader that the author has not spent nearly enough time on the thinking or writing in the essay.

5) Written work that earns an F misses on all criteria (originality, articulateness, persuasiveness, organization, the absence of mechanical mistakes).

Final Grade Scale

93-100	A
90-92.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
83-86.9	B
80-82.9	B-
77-79.9	C+
73-76.9	C

70-72.9	C-
67-69.9	D+
63-66.9	D
60-62.9	D-
less than 60	F

Note: It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignment and for the course final grade.

Academic Honesty Policy

All students are expected to follow the principles of academic honesty as set out in the policies of Moravian College. See the Student Handbook for details. Any and all written work must be done in your own words (with the exception of direct quotations which are clearly indicated as such), and written work must include proper citations indicating the sources for any ideas, concepts, facts, or other information derived from others, whether or not you have restated it in your own words. Any cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Affairs Office. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course.

Schedule and Assignments (Schedule may be changed at the discretion of the instructor; advance notice will be given)

*You will be expected to spend 2 1/2-3 hours on work outside of class for every hour in class.

**Be sure to bring assigned readings to class each day.

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
1: Tues. 1/16	Introduction Imperial China's Environmental Legacy	None Edmonds, pp. 9-32
2: Tues. 1/23	China's Environment and Politics in the 20 th Century	Economy, Ch. 1 Shapiro, pp. 1-19
3: Tues. 1/30	China's Philosophical Tradition & Mao's Legacy of Exploitation	Economy, Ch. 2; Gallagher, Ch. 1 Research proposal due
4: Tues 2/6	Dams, Political Repression, and the Past	Shapiro, Ch. 1 Gallagher, Ch. 2
5: Tues. 2/13	Maoism, Industrialization, Food, and Hunger	Shapiro, Ch. 2 Gallagher, Ch. 3
6: Tues. 2/20	Economic Reform and Environmental Costs	Economy, Ch. 3 Annotated Bibliography

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
		due
Feb. 23, 2007	Midterm	
7: Tues. 2/27	Mao's Industrialization, Forced Relocation, and Environmental Degradation	Shapiro, Ch. 4 Gallagher, Ch. 4
March 3-11, 2007	Spring Break	No classes
8: Tues. 3/13	Greening China and Environmental Governance	Economy, Ch. 4 Gallagher, Ch. 5
9: Tues. 3/20	Failed Political Experiments and Questions of Sustainability	Shapiro, Ch. 3 Gallagher, Ch. 6 Outline and Introduction due
10: Tues. 3/27	China's Environment and the International Community	Economy, Ch. 6 Gallagher, Ch. 7
11: Tues. 4/3	China's Environment: Past, Present & Future	Shapiro, Ch. 5 First Draft due
April 6-9, 2007	Easter Break	No classes
12: Tues. 4/10	China's Environment and the International Community	Economy, Ch. 6 Gallagher, Ch. 8
13: Tues. 4/17	GONGOs, NGOs, & Environmental Activism in China	Economy, Ch. 5 Final Draft due
14: Tues. 4/24	Averting an Environmental Crisis for the Future	Economy, Ch. 8 Gallagher, Ch. 9
Final Exams April 30-May 4, 2007		