

POSCL 347: Topics in Chinese Politics: Environmental Politics

Spring 2012

Office: Comenius 104

Office Ph.: 610-861-1418

Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 11:30 am-1 pm; other times by appointment.

Professor Lisa Fischler

Email: fischler@moravian.edu

Class: T, Th 5b

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 three major kinds of environmental issues in China (land and food; 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.

Required Texts: Available at the college bookstore:

- ❖ Shapiro, Judith. *Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China*. NY: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- ❖ Economy, Elizabeth. *The River Runs Black*. NY: Cornell University Press, 2004
- ❖ Tilt, Bryan. *The Struggle for Sustainability in Rural China*. NY: Columbia University Press, 2010
- ❖ Mertha, Andrew C. *China's Water Warriors: Citizen Action and Policy Change*. NY: Cornell University Press, 2008

Course Grades, Policies, and Responsibilities

1. Participation-will include aspects of the course such as attendance, promptness, in-class participation, preparation, effort, and involvement in and contributions to the class. For assigned readings, you will be expected to read carefully, take notes, list questions, and come prepared to discuss (both verbally and in writing) in the session they are due. You can plan to spend two-three hours outside of class preparing for every hour spent in class. For class, participation includes active involvement in interactive lectures, substantive contributions to discussions, and engagement with in-class activities. Effort counts heavily. Attempting to answer a question, asking a question, or voicing an opinion and supporting it are all part of participation. I will evaluate your participation highly if you: a) attend class regularly and are there for the full class period; b) critically discuss the videos, materials, and readings I make available; c) raise relevant questions and offer thoughtful comments; d) demonstrate you understand the material by your full

involvement during in-class activities; e) engage effectively in peer-review sessions in class. Every class session is counted toward your final participation grade. If you do not participate actively in each class, or are not there, your final participation grade will decrease because I cannot grade you when you do not participate.

-You are expected to attend all classes. **Please be aware that absences are not divided into excused and unexcused. Regardless of the reason, an absence from class will be counted as an absence.** Extended or excessive absences (three or more) are required to be reported to the Dean's Office and each absence after the third will lower your participation grade.

-Arriving late or leaving early can lower your participation grade. After the second instance of late arrival or leaving early, the disruptive classroom policy may be applied.

Research Proposal: 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 project in its entirety. The proposal will also include the specific issue related to water politics and a particular geographic area in the environmental politics of China on which you will conduct research to answer your central question. This issue and region will serve as the case study context the details of which you will use to concretely answer your central research question. The issues from which you can choose are the following: water and land resources, water rights, water pollution, water shortages, and pollution –related water-borne disease and public health. The geographic areas are the ones related to water politics as covered in assigned readings or discussed in class.

Research Outline: The research outline basically delineates your entire project 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).

Research Project Introduction: The research introduction consists of the full introductory section that you will use in your research project. Be aware that this introduction will go through significant revisions as you develop your project over the semester. This draft of the introductory section is to be no more than three pages in length.

Research Paper (final draft): This paper will include your research findings, in polished form, and will be a prelude to your participation in a roundtable/panel session. Your paper will delineate a position on the issue and region you have been researching. You should summarize the background to your issue regionally, as well as present regional challenges, concerns, and future prospects with regard to the particular issue chosen. This position is the one from which you will begin the roundtable/panel session, at which you'll be representing local and regional officials within your researched geographic area. You'll be asked to approach this research using the working assumption that the research issue and geographic area on which you are working are only one piece in a huge puzzle about environmental politics in China.

Roundtable/Panel Session: The goal of this graded session is to put the results of the class together in a coherent conclusion that answers the questions, "Where should China go from here?" and "What is to be done nationally and internationally?" As indicated in the research presentation summary, you each will come to the roundtable/panel session representing local and regional officials from your researched geographic area. The session will be given the description of a portion of a problem related to the questions just mentioned; each student will be asked to negotiate and discuss with others in the class in order to reach a compromise solution to the problem as if they were representing officials from China. In other words, it is your job to best represent the issue and region as you have researched about it while incorporating the formal and informal values and norms of environmental politics in China as you have learned them over the course of the term. Success in the session will be defined by the degree to which consensus is reached and the greatest number of regions benefit, but a specific rubric for participation

also will be discussed prior to the session.

Student Lead Discussion: Each student will lead discussion for part of a class session (20 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, that teaches the significance or importance of the reading for the global future. One week prior to your presentation, you will need to send the instructor your plans for leading discussion in detailed summary form via email and to obtain the instructor's approval for your plan. If the email is not received on time, then the student will not be able to lead discussion on the chosen day. If free class sessions are available, then an alternate day to lead discussion may be possible but this option is not guaranteed.

-All assignments are due at the time, date, and place noted on the syllabus. Late assignments (except student lead discussions which are covered above) will be accepted with a five (5) point deduction for each full day late beginning just after the due time and date (e.g. from 4:00 pm on the due date to 4:00 pm the next day is a 5 point deduction), up to 7 full days late at which time late papers and other assignments will no longer be accepted and students will receive a 0 grade on the assignment. No exceptions will be made for technical difficulties. I will only accept written work turned in by email if you have arranged with me beforehand to do so for that specific assignment. In the case of an assignment turned in via email, be aware that I must be able to open the attachment (which must be in .doc format) and email (which must have the assignment cut and pasted into its body) without a problem in order for the assignment to be accepted for credit.

4. Accommodations, Expectations, and Responsibilities

-Requests for accommodation on these policies will only be made in extenuating, documentable, and compelling circumstances; will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; require immediate notification be given to the instructor; and can be referred to Learning Services.

-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

- Drinks are allowed in class, other food is not.

-Cell phones need to be turned to OFF and put away in a purse or bookbag during class. Use of cell phones in any way during class may result in dismissal from class and can lower your participation grade.

-Disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken.

-Learning Disability accommodations: students who wish to request accommodation in this class for support of learning disabilities should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer at Learning Services (610-861-1510), 1307 Main St. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

-The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

-Academic Honesty-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.

-Email etiquette-students can expect email to be answered within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends, provided that email is correctly addressed (to Dr. Fischler or Professor Fischler), signed by the student, and civil in content.

-For the well-being of both students and the instructor, I will insist on a 24 hour waiting period after each assignment is passed back before I will discuss it with you. After that, I am happy to engage in a reasonable, rational discussion about your assignment or exam with you.

-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.

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	100 points
Class Participation	100 points
Research Proposal	150 points
Roundtable Session	200 points
Research Outline	150 points
Research Paper Introduction	100 points
Research Paper (final draft)	<u>200 points</u>
	1000 points

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.

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 Assignments Due
1: Tues. 1/17/12	Introduction	None
1: Thurs. 1/19/12	China's Environmental Politics in the Twentieth Century	Economy, Ch. 1
2: Tues. 1/23/12	China's Hydraulic Society	Mertha, Ch. 1
2: Thurs. 1/25/12	China's Philosophical Tradition & Mao's Legacy of Exploitation	Economy, Ch. 2
3: Tues. 1/31/12	Economic Reform and Environmental Costs	Economy, Ch. 3
3: Thurs. 2/2/12	Environmental Values, Civil Society and Sustainability	Tilt, Ch. 1
4: Tues. 2/7/12	The Development Imperative	Tilt, Ch. 2
4: Thurs. 2/9/12	Who, What and Why	Mertha, Ch. 2
5: Tues. 2/14/12	Maoism, Industrialization, Food, and Hunger	Shapiro, Ch. 2

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignments Due
February 13, 2012 (Wednesday)	Written Assignment	Research proposal due by 4 pm in Comenius 206
5: Thurs. 2/16/12	Policy Conflict to Policy Showdown	Mertha, Ch. 3
6: Tues. 2/21/12	Greening China and Environmental Governance	Economy, Ch. 4
6: Thurs. 2/23/12	Dams, Political Repression, and the Past	Shapiro, Ch. 1
7: : Tues. 2/28/12	The Problem of Water: Dujiangyan	Mertha, Ch. 4
February 29, 2012 (Wednesday)	Written Assignment	Research Outline due by 4 pm in Comenius 206
7: Thurs. 3/1/12	Capitalism and the Environment	Tilt, Ch. 3
March 3-10, 2012	Spring Break	No classes
8: Tues. 3/13/12	Mao's Industrialization, Forced Relocation, and Environmental Degradation	Shapiro, Ch. 4
8: Thurs. 3/15/12	Environmental Costs of Progress	Tilt, Ch. 4
9: Tues. 3/20/12	The Nu River and Political Pluralization	Mertha, Ch. 5
9: Thur. 3/22/12	Pollution, Perception, and Environmental Values	Tilt, Ch. 5
10: Tues. 3/27/12	Failed Political Experiments and Questions of Sustainability	Shapiro, Ch. 3
March 28, 2012 (Wednesday)	Written Assignment	Research Introduction due by 4 pm in Comenius 206
10: Thurs. 3/29/12	China's Environment and the International Community	Economy, Ch. 6
11: Tues. 4/3/12	China's Environment in Comparative Perspective	Economy, Ch. 7
11: Thurs. 4/5/12	Civil Society and Enforcement	Tilt, Ch. 6

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignments Due
April 6-9, 2012	Easter Break	No classes
12: Tues. 4/10/12	China's Environment: Past, Present, & Future	Shapiro, Ch. 5
April 11, 2012 (Wednesday)	Written Assignment	Research Paper (final draft) due by 4 pm in Comenius 206
12: Thurs. 4/12/12	GONGOs, NGOs, & Environmental Activism in China	Economy, Ch. 5
13: Tues. 4/17/12	A New "Fragmented Authoritarianism"	Mertha, Ch. 6
13: Thurs. 4/19/12	Averting an Environmental Crisis for the Future	Economy, Ch. 8
14: Tues. 4/24/12	The Struggle for Sustainability	Tilt, Ch. 7
14: Thurs. 4/26/12	Where Does China Go From Here?	Roundtable/Panel Session