



**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS**

**HISTORY PROGRAMME**

**HIST 337: Wild China, People's China: Environment and Society in Chinese History**

**TRIMESTER 2 2009**

13 July to 15 November 2009

**1. Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October

Study week: 19 to 23 October

Examination/Assessment period: 27 October to 14 November

**2. Course coordinator and contact details**

Dr Pauline Keating

Old Kirk 418

Phone: 463-6760

email: [pauline.keating@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:pauline.keating@vuw.ac.nz)

web page: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/history/staff/pauline.aspx>

**Office Hours:**

Times when I will be available for student consultation are posted on my office door. If you need to see me outside these times, email me to make an appointment.

**3. Class times and locations**

**Lectures:** Tuesdays, 10 – 10.50 a.m., MY LT220

**Seminars:** Tuesdays, 4.10 to 6 p.m., OK406

Thursdays, 12 noon – 1.50 p.m., OK406

You'll be asked to nominate ONE of these seminar times at the first lecture on Tuesdays 14 July. A list of who is in which seminar will be posted on Blackboard and the History noticeboard by Friday, 17 July.

Information about any changes to the programme or timetable will be announced in lectures, posted on the History noticeboard, emailed to all students, and announced on the HIST337 Blackboard site.

**4. Course delivery**

The HIST 337 course is organised around a set of 11 topics (see below). Each week's topic will be introduced at the Tuesday lecture, and it will then be explored in more depth in the seminar that follows the lecture (on either Tuesday afternoon or on Thursday). Students are required to prepare for the weekly seminar by reading the assigned texts and completing a short written task (e.g. write

answers to some of the questions on the readings). Seminar preparation instructions will be issued at least a week before each seminar.

## 5. Course content

HIST 337 is an environmental history of China that explores the deep historical roots of China's contemporary environmental crisis. It examines state-led assaults on the environment over 2000 years, and particularly during the last three centuries (from the 1700s). It also focuses on environmental conservation efforts undertaken by both state officials and local communities. It draws attention to instances of state-society cooperation for environmental protection and conservation whenever and wherever such cooperation occurred.

The first half of the course is organised chronologically, and tracks the history of environmental degradation and conservation in China through five historical periods:

1. ancient China (pre-221 B.C.)
2. the imperial period, from 221 BC to the 1700s
3. the 19<sup>th</sup> century
4. Republican China, 1911 – 1949
5. The People's Republic, 1949 - 2009

The second part of the course is organised around six themes:

1. population and migrations
2. water and its managers
3. water, floods, drought and famine
4. forests and farmers
5. greening, greenies and environmental NGOs in the 1990s and 2000s
6. the environment and democracy in China

## 6. Learning objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

- ◆ understand the historical dimensions of China's current environmental crisis and the socio-cultural factors that can energise the search for solutions; and
- ◆ be sensitive to the complex and fluid state-society dynamic that has pertained in state-led assaults on China's "good earth" through the centuries.

HIST 377 will consolidate and build on the skills introduced in history courses at levels one and two. In particular, we expect level-three History students to be able to:

- ◆ research a topic extensively and to weigh the evidence they collect judiciously;
- ◆ to distinguish fact from opinion;
- ◆ to formulate arguments convincingly and concisely, and to present an oral argument lucidly;
- ◆ to come to terms with conflicting or different interpretations; and
- ◆ to use library and on-line resources efficiently and constructively.

### History Graduate attributes

As with all HIST courses, HIST 337 learning objectives contribute to the attainment of specific attributes:

#### Critical Thinking

- 1: Assess conflicting or different arguments
- 2: Develop understanding of historical events, context and change
- 3: Use appropriate methodologies to evaluate evidence

### **Creative Thinking**

- 1: Synthesise information in a clear, logical and lively way
- 2: Create well documented interpretations of historical events
- 3: Search for patterns in historical processes over time and space

### **Communication**

- 1: Develop lucid historical arguments through writing and oral discussion
- 2: Use library print and online resources efficiently and constructively
- 3: Strengthen learning through collegial interchange

### **Leadership**

- 1: Pursue and manage independent research
- 2: Develop critical citizenship
- 3: Develop confidence through public speaking
- 4: Strengthen decision making capabilities

### **Other**

- 1: Understand the development of the historical discipline

## **7. Expected workload**

In accordance with Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Guidelines, HIST 337 has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote **18 hours per week** to the course. This includes three hours of formal class work (a one-hour lecture and a two-hour seminar), and **15 hours per week** for lecture and seminar preparation, research and essay-writing.

## **8. Readings**

**Essential text** (i.e. must be purchased):

*HIST 337 Book of Readings 2009*

For the first two weeks of trimester, all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two, all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

### **Recommended Reading:**

#### **A. Survey Histories of China**

Patricia Ebrey, *China: A cultural, social and political history* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006; a long history of China (ancient to modern), for beginners

John King Fairbank, *China: A new history* Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press, 1992; covers more than 2000 years of Chinese history

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (W. W. Norton, N.Y., 1990 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition: 1999); covers the 1600s – 1990 period

*Cambridge Histories of China*, vols 1 to 15, edited by J. K. Fairbank and D. Twitchett. The *Cambridge Histories*, published between 1978 and 1998, consist of essays on a wide range of subjects by preeminent scholars in the field of Chinese history. Volume 1 covers the Qin and Han empires (221 BC to 220 AD); volume 15 cover the People's Republic, from 1949 to the 1980s. See the VUW Library catalogue for details of its holdings: DS735 C178

### **B. Environment and Society in China**

- Elvin, Mark, *The Retreat of the Elephants: An environmental History of China* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004
- Elvin, Mark, "Three thousand years of unsustainable growth: China's environment from archaic times to the present", *East Asian History* Vol. 6, 1993, pp. 7 - 46
- He Bochuan [Ho Po-ch'uan], *China on the edge: the crisis of ecology and development*. Translated by Jenny Holdaway ... et al., San Francisco: China Books and Periodicals, 1991 [HC430 E5 H678 S E]
- Hou, Wenhui, "Reflections on Chinese Traditional Views of Nature." *Environmental History* 2, no. 4 (1997): 482 - 92.
- McNeill, J. R., "China's environmental history in world perspective", in *Sediments of Time: Environment and Society in Chinese History*, ed. Mark Elvin and Ts'ui-jung Liu, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Needham, Joseph. "The past in China's present: A cultural, social, and philosophical background for contemporary China." *The Centennial Review* 4, no. 2 (1960).
- Pomeranz, K. *The great divergence : Europe, China, and the making of the modern world economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000 [HC240 P785 G]

In the *HIST 337 Book of Readings*, you will find a long list of English language sources on China's environmental history; it is organised under topic headings.

## **9. Assessment requirements**

The HIST 337 assignments are:

- (i) TWO essays, each worth 35% of the final grade:
- Essay 1:** (2500 – 3000 words) on a topic related to **one period of Chinese history** (that is, one of the periods that we study in Part 1 of the course). Choose ONE question from the list of questions that will be distributed at the first lecture on Tuesday, 14 July.  
**Deadline: Monday, 24 August at 6 p.m.**
- Essay 2:** (2500 – 3000 words). This essay will be an historical exploration of one of the six **themes** that we study in Part 2 of the course; detailed instructions about this assignment will be distributed before the mid-trimester break.  
**Deadline: Monday, 5 October at 6 p.m.**
- Assignment aims:*  
In the two essays, you are expected to demonstrate the skills listed under "Learning Objectives" on page 2 above
- (ii) ONE **Take-home Test**, worth 30% of the final grade. The test will be distributed at the final lecture on 13<sup>th</sup> October, and the completed test is to be submitted by 6 p.m. on **Friday, 16 October**
- Test aims:*  
You will be expected in your test answers to demonstrate an understanding of the *historical dimensions* of China's current environmental crisis, and the search for solutions to environmental problems at both official and unofficial levels.

## 10. Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of:

- 5% for the first day late and,
- 2% thereafter for a **maximum of eight days** (including weekend days);

Thereafter work can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g. illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other unexpected emergencies. **In such cases prior information will be necessary. It is in your interests to contact the course coordinator as soon as a potential problem emerges – not just before a deadline.** Obtain an extension form from the History Programme Administrator (Old Kirk 405) and agree to a new due date for the assessment.

## 11. Mandatory course requirements

For reasons of equity and fairness to all, the assessment requirements for HIST 337 must be rigidly adhered to.

To pass the course each student must:

- a) Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).

AND

- b) Participate in at least eight (**8**) out of the eleven (11) seminars. Faculty guidelines allow you to miss up to 25% of the seminars (i.e. 3) without penalty. In other words, you are allowed a **MAXIMUM** of 3 weeks “sick leave”. Extra absences will result in a student failing the course, except in cases of serious illness (supported by a medical certificate), or serious personal crisis. **THERE IS NO PROVISION IN THIS COURSE FOR MAKE-UPS TO COMPENSATE FOR ADDITIONAL ABSENCES EXCEPT UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.** You should allow for the possibility of unforeseen illness when using up your quota of permissible absences.

**All assigned work must be completed and submitted by Friday, 16 October.** A list of students who have completed the assigned work will be posted on the History Programme noticeboard.

The **FINAL DATE** on which any written work can be accepted in this course is 5pm, **Friday, 16th October**. The provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after that date must be sought in writing from the Head of the History Programme, Dr. Glyn Parry, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by a medical certificate), or in case of serious personal crisis.

## 12. Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University’s learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University’s reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else’s work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. ‘Someone else’s work’ means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **13. General university policies and statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic/Publications.aspx>