

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

**HISTORY PROGRAMME**

**HIST337: Wild China, People's China: Environment and Society in Chinese History**

**TRIMESTER 2 2011**

11 July to 12 November 2011

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**1. Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 11 July to 14 October 2011

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2011

Study week: 17–21 October 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 21 October to 12 November 2011

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**2. Course coordinator and contact details**

Dr Pauline Keating

Old Kirk 418

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

webpage: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/staff/pauline-keating.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**

*Lecture time:* Tuesdays, 2.10 to 3.00pm

*Lecture venue:* AM LT105

*Seminar times and venues:*

Tuesdays 3.10 to 5pm, OK406

Thursdays 2.10 to 4pm, AM102

You'll be asked to nominate ONE of the seminar times at the first lecture on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. A list of who is in which seminar will be posted on Blackboard and the History noticeboard by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Information about any changes to the programme or timetable will be announced in lectures, posted on the History glass 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 10 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 or Thursday afternoon). Students are required to prepare for the weekly seminar by:

- reading the assigned texts
- contributing to the group assignment (see details below under "Assignment Requirements"), and
- completing a short written task (e.g. written answers to some of the questions on the readings).

Seminar preparation instructions are in the Book of Readings.

**5. Course Prescription**

This course is an environmental history of China that examines the deep historical roots of China's contemporary environmental crisis, giving particular attention to the state-led assaults on the environment during the last 300 years. It examines also the ideological roots and history of environmental conservation in China, and the increasingly influential conservation drives during the last thirty years.

**6. Course content**

A different topic is studied each week, from week 2 to week 11.

**Part A:**

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 - 2010

**Part B:**

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

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

## 7. 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 to environmental degradation
- ◆ 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 337 will consolidate and build on the skills introduced in history courses at levels one and two. In particular, we expect stage-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's learning objectives contribute to the attainment of specific attributes. For more details please consult our website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/subjects/hist.aspx#Grad-attributes>

## 8. Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, HIST337 has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote **14 hours per week** over the 14 weeks of the course (about 200 hours in total). This includes three hours of formal class work (a one-hour lecture and a two-hour seminar), and **11 hours per week** for lecture and seminar preparation, research and essay-writing.

**Group Work:**

There is a *Group Work* Assignment worth 25% of the total assessment package (15% will be an individual mark, and 10% a group mark). Each student will be required to post a contribution to their

group before each weekly seminar. Most group discussions will occur *within* class (that is, during the weekly seminar). The only exception is in weeks 11 and 12, when groups will need to meet outside class to prepare a presentation to be made in the week 12 seminars. More details are under “Assignment Requirements” below, and in the Course Reader.

## 9. Readings

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

*HIST 337 Book of Readings 2011*

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 4 to 22 July 2011, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 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 nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00am – 6.00pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00pm 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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, New York: W. W. Norton, N.Y., 1999 [covers the 1600s – 1990 period]

#### B. Environment and Society in China

Elvin, Mark, *The Retreat of the Elephants: An environmental history of China* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004

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

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

Pomeranz, K. *The great divergence: Europe, China, and the making of the modern world economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000

Shapiro, Judith. *Mao's war against nature: Politics and the environment in revolutionary China*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001

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

## 10. Assessment requirements

The HIST337 assignments are:

- (i) **TWO essays**, one worth 35% and the other worth 40% 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). More details are in the Course Reader.  
**Deadline: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 6pm**
- Essay 2:** (3000 – 3500 words). This essay will be an historical exploration of one of the five **themes** that we study in Part 2 of the course. See pages 7 – 8 below for details. More detailed instructions are available in the Course Reader.  
**Deadline: At 6pm one week after the seminar on your essay topic** (each student’s deadline will be fixed at the seminars during Week 7)
- (ii) **ONE Small Group Assignment** (1000 – 1500 words)
1. Small groups will be organised at the week 2 seminars, and each group member is to select the ONE week in which they will collate their group’s contributions (see under 3. below)
  2. Beginning in week 3, and at least 24 hours before the Tuesday or Thursday seminar, everyone is to post a **news item on a designated topic** to their group’s folder on Blackboard (topics are specified in the instructions for each seminar)
  3. **Individual submission** (worth 15%)  
 After group discussion in class, and under a set of headings on a two-page form, **ONE** group member is to collate and assess the items in their group’s folder. **That form is to be submitted for assessment**; an individual grade (not a group grade) worth 15% of the course total will be awarded to the submitter
  4. **Final presentation** (worth 10%):
    - Each group will be asked to select a short video clip (no longer than 10 minutes) on an “environment and society” issue relating to China; it will be screened at the week 12 seminars
    - Each group is to prepare a commentary on, and evaluation of, the video clip (a set of headings and questions will be provided)
    - Oral presentations of the commentaries and evaluations will be made at the week 12 seminars
    - Hard copies of each group’s commentary and evaluation is to be submitted by 6pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The grade for each submission will be a **group grade** (worth 10%)

### Return of marked course work

Assignments will be returned during lectures and or tutorials. If students fail to attend, they may collect their essay from the History Programme Office in level 4, Old Kirk Building between the hours of 2 and 3pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

## 11. Penalties

History Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. Students lose 5% for the first day late and 2% thereafter for a maximum of 8 days. After 8 days, work can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but **all extensions require the student to provide documentation**. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact your lecturer as soon as a problem emerges. Extension forms are available in the History Programme office.

Note that **Friday 14 October 2011** is the final date on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, because this is the date on which we must certify whether students have met the course requirements. The provision for late submission with penalty does not apply beyond this 14 October date.

## 12. Mandatory course requirements

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

## 13. Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator, tutors and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

## 14. 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>

## 15. WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study). Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic).