



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**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 1 2013
4 March – 3 July 2013**

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 4 March to 7 June 2013
Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break: 22–28 April 2013
Last piece of assessment due: 7th June 2013
Examination/Assessment Period: 14 June to 3 July 2013

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Pauline Keating
Room No.: Old Kirk (OK) 418
Phone: 04 463 6760
Email: Pauline.Keating@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Wednesdays, 3 to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, 2 to 3 p.m.

Class times and locations

Can be found on the Victoria website at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/subjects/coursecatalogue>

It is advisable to check the above for any changes to the timetable programme.

Lecture Time: Weds 2.10 – 3.00 pm
Lecture Venue: Hugh Mackenzie (HM) LT001

Seminars:

1. Wednesdays 4.10 – 6 p.m., OK406
2. Thursdays 12 to 1.50 p.m., KK202
3. Thursdays 3.10 to 5 p.m., KK203

Teaching/learning summary

The HIST 337 course is organised around a set of 10 topics (see under “Course Content” below). Each week’s topic will be introduced at the Wednesday lecture, and it will then be explored in more depth in the seminar that follows the lecture (on either Wednesday or Thursday). 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).

Preparation instructions for each week’s seminar will be distributed a week ahead of time and posted on Blackboard.

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the HIST 337 Blackboard site.

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 by individuals, NGOs and the state (the Beijing government) during the last thirty years.

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 (before 221 BCE)
2. The imperial period, from 221 BCE to the 1700s
3. The 19th century
4. Republican China, 1912 – 1949
5. The People’s Republic, 1949 - 2013

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

Learning objectives

Students who pass this course will:

1. 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
2. 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.

Graduate attributes

As with all History courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific graduate attributes. For more details please consult our website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/hist-overview#grad-attributes>

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to HIST 337 throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, and seminars, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

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, and to take one turn at editing, collating and submission for assessment their group's postings. The submission is worth 15% of the total course grade.

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. After the oral presentation, a written report is to be submitted for assessment (worth 10% of the course total; each member of the group will get the same mark).

More details are under "Assignment Requirements" below, and in the Course Reader.

Readings

Set text:

- HIST 337 Book of Readings

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre Foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks, Easterfield Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to 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 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

Recommended reading:

Patricia Ebrey, *China: A cultural, social and political history*, Boston, 2006

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

J. R. McNeill, 'China's environmental history in world perspective' in *Sediments of Time: Environment and Society in Chinese History*, Mark Elvin and Ts'ui-jung Liu (eds), Cambridge, 1997

Judith Shapiro, *China's Environmental Challenge*, Cambridge, 2012

Assessment requirements

1. **Essay 1** (2000 - 2500 words), worth 25% of the final grade.
An environmental history of **any one of the five historical periods** that we study in Part 1 of the course. More details are in the Course Reader.
Deadline: Friday 26th April
2. **Essay 2 Proposal** (400 – 500 words), worth 10% of the final grade
An **essay plan** that identifies your essay 2 topic, its timeframe, an outline of its content, the question/s that you will address in your essay, and a proposed list of sources. More details are in the Course Reader.
Deadline: Friday 3rd May
3. **Essay 2** (3000 – 3500 words), worth 40% of the final grade.
This essay will be an historical exploration of one of the five **themes** that we study in Part 2 of the course. Detailed instructions are available in the Course Reader.
Deadline: **One week after the seminar on your essay topic** (each student's deadline will be fixed at the seminars during Week 7)

4. **Small Group Assignment** (1000 – 1500 words in total), worth 25%
- a. 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 c. below)
 - b. Beginning in week 3, and at least 24 hours before the Wednesday 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)
 - c. **Individual submission** (600 – 800 words), worth 15%
After group discussion in class, and under a set of headings on a two-page form, **ONE** group member is to collate, edit 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.
Deadline: within **one week after** the seminar in which you are group leader
 - d. **Final presentation** (each student should contribute at least 400 words), 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; the selected video clips 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 are to be submitted on Friday 7th June. The grade for each submission will be a **group grade** (worth 10%)

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days**. Work that is more than 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

Mandatory course requirements

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- Submit the two essays, the essay 2 plan and the small group assignment on or by the specified dates and participate in the week 12 group presentation
- Attend at least 8 (eight) of the 11 seminars

Submission of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy to the History Programme office with History Programme cover sheet attached.

Return of marked course work

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, Room 405, Old Kirk Building between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

Class representative

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

Statement on legibility

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

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>

Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at 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. Most statutes and policies are available at 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 (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic.