

PLA6526 Environmental Policy and Planning in Urban China

Spring 2015

Tuesdays 11-1pm, Buell Hall 200
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Office: 303 Buell Hall
Office hours: Tue 1-2:30pm
and by appointment

This course explores the environmental ramifications of economic development in China after the country's first environmental protection law was enacted in 1989. Over the past twenty-some years, although both national and local Chinese governments have passed numerous environment-related policies and regulations, residents in China have experienced a deterioration of their living environment related to air and water quality, food safety, and brownfields. As conflicts over these problems and related news reports have escalated in recent years, the Chinese government is confronting an extremely pressing request to tackle them, both from its citizens and the international community. But how can it accomplish this task when the damage has been done and the consequences seem so un-reversible?

This course focuses on environmental management that targets urban China. Using major environmental programs as case studies, students will learn to understand the rationale and theories behind each program and to evaluate the effectiveness and weaknesses of the program. In the light of the burgeoning use of the internet and social networks, students will also learn strategies for engaging civil society in sustainable development.

Requirements

Students are expected to do all the readings (suggested readings are optional), attend all lectures, and participate actively in class discussions. Students will be required to write a two-stage research paper about an environment-related policy based on their own interest, and present their findings to the class toward the end of the semester. Details on all of the assignments will be provided in class.

The grade will be based on the following:

- 10% Attendance at lectures
- 20% Contributions to class discussions
- 30% Mid-term paper (stage-one)
- 15% Final presentation
- 25% Final paper (stage-two)

Schedule

| Week | Date | Session | Assignment |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Week 1 | 01/20 | Session 1 – Introduction | |
| PART I: Environmental Policy History, Practice and Contemporary Issues | | | |
| Week 2 | 01/27 | Session 2 – Contemporary environmental issues | |
| Week 3 | 02/03 | Session 3 – A brief history of environmental policy | |
| Week 4 | 02/10 | Session 4 – Environmental regulatory system | |
| PART II: New Trends in Environmental Governance | | | |
| Week 5 | 02/17 | Session 5 – Environmental governance | |
| Week 6 | 02/24 | Session 6 – Market mechanisms | |
| Week 7 | 03/03 | Session 7 – International environmental cooperation | |
| Week 8 | 03/10 | Session 8 – The civil society | |
| Week 9 | 03/17 | No class – Spring break | |
| PART III: Specific Topics | | | |
| Week 10 | 03/24 | Session 9 – Air pollution | Mid-term paper due |
| Week 11 | 03/31 | Session 10 – Brownfields | |
| Week 12 | 04/07 | Session 11 – Food security | |
| Week 13 | 04/14 | Session 12 – Environmental impact assessment | |
| Week 14 | 04/21 | Session 13 – Energy policy | |
| Week 15 | 04/28 | Session 14 – Class presentation | Final paper due |
| Week 16 | 05/05 | Final exam week – no class | |

Readings

1/20 [Session 1] Introduction

Zheng, S. and Kahn, M. E. 2013. Understanding China's Urban Pollution Dynamics. *Journal of Economic Literature* 51(3): 731-772.

PART I: Environmental Policy History, Practice and Contemporary Issues

1/27 [Session 2] Environmental Issues in Contemporary China

Economy, Elizabeth. 2010. *The River Runs Black*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Ch. 3.

Economy, Elizabeth. 2007. The Great Leap Backward?: the Costs of China's Environmental Crisis. *Foreign Affairs* 86(5): 38-59.

2/3 [Session 3] A Brief History of Environmental Policy

Edmonds, Richard Louis. 1999. The Environment in the People's Republic of China 50 Years On. *The China Quarterly* 159: 640-649.

He, Guizhen et al. 2012. Changes and Challenges: China's Environmental Management in Transition. *Environmental Development* 3: 25-38.

Suggested:

Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century, 8th edition, Norman J. Vig, Michael E. Kraft, editors, 2012. Chapters 1 & 2.

2/10 [Session 4] Environmental Regulatory System

Jahiel, Abigail R. 1998. The Organization of Environmental Protection in China. *The China Quarterly* No. 156, Special Issue: China's Environment. pp.757-787.

Wang, Canfa. 2007. Chinese Environmental Law Enforcement: Current Deficiencies and Suggested Reforms. *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law* 8(2): 159-194.

Suggested:

Wang, Alex. 2007. The Role of Law in Environmental Protection in China: Recent Developments. *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law* 8(2): 195-224.

PART II: New Trends in Environmental Governance

2/17 [Session 5] From Environmental Government to Governance

What are the environmental challenges faced by Chinese cities? Have China made any progress in environmental governance? What are the current system's weaknesses?

Mol, Author P.J. and Neil T. Carter. 2006. China's Environmental Governance in Transition. *Environmental Politics* 15(2): 149-170.

Lieberthal, K. & M. Oksenberg. 1988. *Policy Making in China: Leaders, Structures, and Processes*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.

Suggested:

Economy, Elizabeth C. 2004. *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future*. Cornell University Press. Chapter 5: The New Politics of the Environment.

2/24 [Session 6] Market Mechanisms

Stavins, Robert and Bradley Whitehead. 2005. Market-Based Environmental Policies in *Debating the Earth: the Environmental Politics Reader* edited by John S. Dryzek and David Schlosberg. 2nd edition. Oxford University Press. Ch. 16.

Economy, Elizabeth. 2006. Environmental Governance: the Emerging Economic Dimension. *Environmental Politics* 15(2): 171-189.

3/3 [Session 7] International Environmental Cooperation

Economy, Elizabeth. 2010. *The River Runs Black*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapter 6.

Jahiel, Abigail R. 2006. China, the WTO, and Implications for the Environment. *Environmental Politics* 15(2): 310-329.

3/10 [Session 8] The Civil Society

Yang, Guobin and Craig Calhoun. 2007. Media, Civil Society, and the Rise of a Green Public Sphere in China. *China Information* 21: 211-236.

Stalley, Phillip and Dongning Yang. 2006. An Emerging Environmental Movement in China? *The China Quarterly* 186: 333-356.

PART III: Specific Topics

3/24 [Session 9] Air Pollution

Guest Lecture: TBA

Nam, K.-M., Waugh, C.J., Paltsev, S., Reilly, J.M., and Karplus, V.J. 2013. Carbon Co-benefits of Tighter SO₂ and NO_x Regulations in China. *Global Environmental Change* 23(6): 1648-1661.

Matus, K., Nam, K.-M., Selin, N.E., Lamsal, L.N., Reilly, and J.M., Paltsev, S. 2012. Health Damages from Air Pollution in China. *Global Environmental Change* 22(1): 55-66.

Suggested:

World Bank and State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), P.R.C., 2007. *Cost of Pollution in China: Economic Estimates of Physical Damages*. World Bank, Washington, DC. Chapters 1&2, pp. 1-32.

3/31 [Session 10] Brownfields

Jenkins, Robin R. Elizabeth Kopits, and David Simpson. 2009. Policy Monitor—The Evolution of Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulation in the United States. *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 3(1): 104–120.

Xie, Jian and Fasheng Li. 2010. Overview of the Current Situation on Brownfield Remediation and Redevelopment in China. The World Bank Discussion Papers.

Suggested:

Gong, Yuyang. 2010. International Experience in Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Brownfield Site Management. The World Bank Discussion Papers.

4/7 [Session 11] Food Security

Falkner, Robert. 2006. International sources of environmental policy change in China: the case of genetically modified food. *The Pacific Review* 19(4): 473-494.

Food Fight: A Fierce Public Debate over GM Food Exposes Concerns about America. *The Economist* Dec 14th, 2013.

4/14 [Session 12] Environmental Impact Assessment

Mao, Wenfeng and Peter Hills. 2002. Impacts of the Economic-Political Reform on Environmental Impact Assessment Implementation in China. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* 20(2): 101-111.

Bina, Olivia. 2008. Context and Systems: Thinking More Broadly About Effectiveness in Strategic Environmental Assessment in China. *Environmental Management* 42: 717-733.

4/21 [Session 13] Energy Policy

Kuby, Michael, Canfei He, Barbara Trapido-Lurie and Nicholas Moore. 2011. The Changing Structure of Energy Supply, Demand, and CO₂ Emissions in China. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 101(4): 795-805.

Cherni, Judith A. and Joanna Kentish. 2007. Renewable Energy Policy and Electricity Market Reforms in China. *Energy Policy* 35: 3616-3629.

4/28 [Session 14] class presentation