

*Course Outline*

EST 797, Section 01  
Environmental Studies Seminar

# **CHINESE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**David A. Sonnenfeld\*** and **Zhen Lin\*\***  
*Department of Environmental Studies*

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
*Fall 2011, W 4:00-4:55 pm*

## **DESCRIPTION**

### **Overview**

On a per capita basis, China remains a poor country; yet today it has the world's second largest economy. China has become a leader in development and implementation of renewable energy; yet remains heavily dependent on soft coal for its primary energy supply. High-speed railways and stringent automobile emission standards will push China past the US into the future of environmentally advanced transportation systems; yet its cities are clogged with and polluted by rapidly expanding automobile ownership and use. China's population remains primarily rural, but its cities are growing rapidly and at very large scale, creating new challenges and opportunities for urban environmental management and planning. On the global level, China is now infamously the world's premier emitter of greenhouse gases, surpassing the US; its role in international climate change negotiations is critical. There is much for us all to learn and appreciate about the complexities, accomplishments and challenges of environmental policymaking in China. This *one credit-hour*, graduate research seminar will be conducted as a reading, writing, and discussion group. We will start with a common set of readings and then delve further into topics of particular interest to seminar participants, including from research and work in-progress.

### **Enrollment**

Graduate students with an interest in learning more about and/or exploring research topics related to Chinese environmental policy, at any level of analysis, are welcome. The seminar will be limited to a maximum of 15 participants.

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## Requirements

- Attend and participate in all seminar sessions;
- Read and discuss all required course texts;
- Help organize one or more seminar sessions based on student interests; and
- Prepare, present, and submit a seminar paper related to the theme of the course.

## Grading

Attendance and overall participation, 33%

Discussion leadership (one or more sessions), 33%

Seminar paper, 33%

-- Written paper, 75%

-- Oral presentation, 25%

## Communication

<i>Instructor</i>	<b>David Sonnenfeld</b>	<b>Zhen Lin</b>
<i>Office</i>	211B Marshall	406 Bray
<i>Hrs.</i>	TuTh 11:00am-2:30pm, & by appt.	TBA
<i>Tel.</i>	315.470.4931	TBA
<i>E-mail</i>	dsonn (at) esf.edu DASonnenfeld (at) gmail.com	g-lzhen (at) esf.edu
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld">http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld</a>	

## TEXTS

### Required

- Required readings, listed below – all available online or as e-journal articles
- Additional readings based on student interests

## SEMINAR PAPER

*Scope.* May include: a literature review essay, an exploratory 'desk' study, a thesis/dissertation proposal, a proposal for funding of graduate research, a draft paper for submission for presentation at a professional conference, a draft manuscript for submission for publication to a peer-reviewed journal, etc.

*Proposal.* By **Week 3**, submit a brief (1-2 pp.) description of what you would like to write your Seminar Paper on. Should relate to the course topic, and be 1-2 pp., typed, double-spaced. (Sept. 14)

*Outline.* By **Week 6**, submit an outline for your Seminar Paper, including working abstract/ executive summary and preliminary bibliography. (Oct. 5)

*Oral Presentation.* Present your Seminar Paper in class, ~10 min., including questions and discussion. **Week 14.** (25% of Seminar Paper grade; Dec. 7)

*Written Paper.* Typed, double-spaced, w/ cover page & references. Due at the beginning of the regularly scheduled **Final Exam** period for this course. (75% of Seminar Paper grade; week of Dec. 14)

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The instructors would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Lei Zhang and Prof. Dayong Hong (Renmin University); Prof. Arthur Mol (Wageningen University); and Prof. David Newman (SUNY-ESF) for helpful suggested readings for this course.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **I. Introduction**

#### ***Week 1 – Course Introduction***

##### REQUIRED

Liu, J.G., and J. Diamond. (2005). "China's Environment in a Globalizing World", *Nature*, v 435, June 30, pp. 1179-1186. Supplemental material available: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v435/n7046/supinfo/4351179a.html>

##### RECOMMENDED

Hanson, Arthur J., Claude Martin, et al. (2006). "One Lifeboat: China and the World's Environment and Development." Winnipeg, Manitoba: International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available: [http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2006/china\\_one\\_lifeboat.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2006/china_one_lifeboat.pdf)

##### ADDITIONAL

Economy, E. (2010). *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Elvin, M. (2004). *The Retreat of the Elephants: An Environmental History of China*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Friedmann, John. (2005). *China's Urban Transition*. Minneapolis: Univ. Minn. Press.

Scott, J. C. (2009). *The Art of Not Being Governed*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Shapiro, J. (2001). *Mao's War against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **II. Foundational Readings**

#### ***Week 2 – Overview of Environmental Issues in China***

##### REQUIRED

Ministry of Environmental Protection. (2010). "2009: Report on the State of the Environment in China". People's Republic of China, Beijing. May 31. Available:

<http://english.mep.gov.cn/download/Documents/201104/P020110411532104009882.pdf>

Wen Jiabao. (2011). "Report on the Work of the Government." Delivered at the Fourth Session of the Eleventh National People's Congress, March 5. Available: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/Report%20on%20the%20Work%20of%20the%20Government.pdf>

#### RECOMMENDED

China Environment Forum (2008/09). Special issue on "Environment and Health", *China Environment Series*, No. 10. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. Available: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/ces10.pdf>

OECD. (2006). "Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in China: An Assessment of Current Practices and Ways Forward. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Available: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/33/5/37867511.pdf>

#### ADDITIONAL

Carter, N.T., & Mol, A.P.J., eds. (2007). *Environmental Governance in China*. London and New York: Routledge. Reprint of a special issue of *Environmental Politics* 15(2), 2006.

Ministry of Environmental Protection, People's Republic of China. (2009). "2008: Report on the State of the Environment in China". Beijing, June 4. Available: <http://english.mep.gov.cn/download/Documents/201002/P020100225377359212834.pdf>

Tilt, B. (2010). *The Struggle for Sustainability in Rural China*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Zhang Kun-min. (2001). *Policies and Actions on Sustainable Development in China*. Beijing: China Environmental Science Press.

### **Week 3 – Structure and Process of Environmental Policymaking**

#### REQUIRED

Liu Jingjing and Adam Moser. (2011). "Environmental Law – China". Pp. 220-223 in *The Law and Politics of Sustainability*, vol. 3 of the *Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability*. Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Publishing Group.

Zhang Kun-min and Wen Zong-guo. (2009). "Review and Challenges of Policies of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in China," *Journal of Environmental Management* 88(4): 1249-1261.

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

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

#### RECOMMENDED

Jahiel, Abigail R. (1998). "The Organization of Environmental Protection in China," *China Quarterly*, n156: 757-787, School of Oriental and African Studies.

Lo, C., Fryxell, G. and Wong, W. (2006). "Effective Regulations with Little Effect? The Antecedents of the Perceptions of Environmental Officials on Enforcement Effectiveness in China," *Environmental Management* 38(3): 388-410.

- Lo, C.W.H., and Tang, S. Y. (2006). "Institutional Reform, Economic Changes, and Local Environmental Management in China: The Case of Guangdong Province," *Environmental Politics* 15: 190-210.
- Orts, E.W. (2003). "Environmental Law with Chinese Characteristics," *William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal* 11: 545-567.
- Van Rooij, B., and Lo Wing-Hung C. (2010). "Fragile Convergence: Understanding Variation in the Enforcement of China's Industrial Pollution Law," *Law & Policy* 32(1): 14-37.

## ADDITIONAL

- VJEL. (2007). Special issue on "China in Transition: Environmental Challenges in the Far East," *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law* 8(2). Available: <http://www.vjel.org/journal/VJEL10051.html>
- Edmonds, Richard L., ed. (1998) *Managing the Chinese Environment*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Van Rooij, Benjamin. (2006). *Regulating Land and Pollution in China: Lawmaking, Compliance, and Enforcement. Theory and Cases*. Ph.D. Thesis, Leiden University, the Netherlands. Available: <https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/bitstream/handle/1887/5433/Thesis.pdf?sequence=1>

\*\*\* Seminar Paper Topic Due \*\*\*

#### **Week 4 – Selected Case Studies (Air, Water, Natural Resources)**

## REQUIRED

- Zhang Junfeng, et al. (2010). "Environmental Health in China: Progress towards Clean Air and Safe Water," *Lancet* 375: 1110-1119.
- Kendy, Eloise, et al. (2007). "Can Urbanization Solve Inter-sector Water Conflicts? Insights from a Case Study in Hebei Province, North China Plain," *Water Policy* 9 (Supp 1): 75-93.
- Xu, Jintao, et al. (2006). "China's Ecological Rehabilitation: Unprecedented Efforts, Dramatic Impacts, and Requisite Policies," *Ecological Economics* 57(4): 595-607.
- Zhong Lijin and Arthur P.J. Mol. (2010). "Water Price Reforms in China: Policy-Making and Implementation," *Water Resources Management* 24(2):377-396.

## RECOMMENDED

- Chan Chak K. and Yao Xiaohong. (2008). "Air Pollution in Mega Cities in China," *Atmospheric Environment* 42: 1-42.
- Cheung Kui Yin and Mun Tuen. (2010). "Economic Analysis of the Beijing Green Olympics: Implications on Environmental Protection in China," *International Journal of Economics and Finance* 2(3):104-113.
- Larsen, Thorjorn, et al. (2006). "Acid Rain in China," *Environmental Science & Technology*, January 15, pp. 418-425.
- Ma Jinzhu, et al. (2009). "Sources of Water Pollution and Evolution of Water Quality in the WuWei Basin of Shiyang River, Northwest China," *Journal of Environmental Management* 90(20): 1168-1177.
- Mol, Arthur P.J. (2011). "China's Ascent and Africa's Environment," *Global Environmental Change* 21(3):785-794.

- Wang, Mark, et al. (2008). "Rural Industries and Water Pollution in China," *Journal of Environmental Management* 86: 648-659.
- Zhong Lijin, Arthur P.J. Mol, and Tao Fu. (2008). "Public-Private Partnerships in China's Urban Water Sector," *Environmental Management* 41(6): 863-877.
- ADDITIONAL
- Hyde, William F., Brian Belcher, and Jintao Xu, eds. (2003). *China's Forests: Global Lessons from Market Reforms*. Washington, DC: Resources for the Future.
- Mol, Arthur P.J., and Joost C.L. van Buuren, eds. (2003). *Greening Industrialization in Asian Transitional Economies*. Lanham, MD: Lexington.
- Rock, Michael T. (2002). *Pollution Control in East Asia: Lessons from Newly Industrializing Economies*. Washington DC: RFF Press.
- Yin, Runshen, ed. (2009). *An Integrated Assessment of China's Ecological Restoration Programs*. New York: Springer.

### **Week 5 – Eco-Civilization: Integrating Environment and Development**

#### REQUIRED

- Jin Yong. (2008). "Ecological Civilization: from Conception to Practice in China," *Clean Technology & Environmental Policy* 10: 111-112.
- Greene, Herman F. (2010). "China and Ecological Civilization". Paper presented at the United Nations, May 7.
- Guo Jinfu, et al. (2009). "Research on Eco-ethics and Eco-civilization's Construction in Chinese Ethnic Regions," *Journal of Sustainable Development* 2(3):122-126.
- Mol, A.P.J. (2006). "Environment and Modernity in Transitional China: Frontiers of Ecological Modernization," *Development and Change* 37(1): 29-56.
- Zhang ZhongXiang. (2010). "China in the Transition to a Low-carbon Economy," *Energy Policy* 38(11): 6638-6653.

#### RECOMMENDED

- Wang Chunmei and Lin Zhaolan (2010). "Environmental Policies in China over the Past 10 Years: Progress, Problems and Prospects." Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Information Sciences (ISEIS).
- Wang Lijun. (2010). "The Changes of China's Environmental Policies in the Latest 30 years". Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Information Sciences (ISEIS).
- Zhang Kun-min and Wen Z.G. (2008). "Review and Challenges of Policies of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in China," *Journal of Environmental Management* 88: 1249-1261.
- Zhang Lei, A.P.J. Mol, and D.A. Sonnenfeld (2007). "The Interpretation of Ecological Modernisation in China," *Environmental Politics* 16(4): 659-668.

#### ADDITIONAL

- Fang Yiping and Yong Zeng. (2007). "Balancing Energy and Environment: The Effect and Perspective of Management Instruments in China," *Energy* 32(12):2247-2261.
- Pintér, László. (2006). "International Experience in Establishing Indicators for the Circular Economy and Considerations for China." Report for The World Bank. May. Available: [http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2006/measure\\_circular\\_economy\\_china.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2006/measure_circular_economy_china.pdf)

- Price, Lynn, et al. (2008). "China's Top-1000 Energy-Consuming Enterprises Program: Reducing Energy Consumption of the 1000 Largest Industrial Enterprises in China". Berkeley, CA: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Available: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/9x31r6kq>.
- Wang Tao, and Jim Watson. (2010). "Scenario Analysis of China's Emissions Pathways in the 21st Century for Low Carbon Transition," *Energy Policy* 38(7): 3537-3546.
- World Bank. (2004). *Clean Development Mechanism in China*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington, DC.

## Interlude

### **Week 6 – Seminar Paper Workshop**

Presentation and Discussion of Outlines

\*\*\* Outline, Abstract, and Bibliography due \*\*\*

## III. Special Topics

### **Week 7 – Climate Change Policy**

#### REQUIRED

- NDRC. (2007). "China's National Climate Change Programme". National Development and Reform Commission, Beijing, June. Available: <http://en.ndrc.gov.cn/newsrelease/P020070604561191006823.pdf>
- Gang Fan, et al. (2009). "Going Clean: The Economics of China's Low-carbon Development". Stockholm Environmental Institute, November.
- Seligsohn, Deborah, et al. (2009). "China, the United States, and the Climate Change Challenge". Policy Brief. World Resources Institute, Washington, DC, October.

#### RECOMMENDED

- China Environment Forum. (2010/11). Special issue on "Energy and Climate", *China Environment Series*, No. 11. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. Available: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/CES%2011%20%20Full%20Publication.pdf>.
- Pang Jun, and Zou Ji. (2008). "China: Climate Change Policy-making Process". In *Climate Change in Asia: Perspectives on the Future Climate Regime*, eds. Yasuko, et al. Tokyo: UNU Press
- Roberts, J. Timmons (2011). "Multipolarity and the New World (dis)Order: US Hegemonic Decline and the Fragmentation of the Global Climate Regime," *Global Environmental Change* 21(3):776-784.
- Wang Tao, and Jim Watson. (2007). "Who Owns China's Carbon Emissions?" Briefing Note No. 23. Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia, UK, October.

#### ADDITIONAL

- Heggelund, Gorild. (2007). "China's Climate Change Policy: Domestic and International Developments," *Asian Perspective* 31(2):155-191.
- Wang Qiang and Yong Chen. (2010). "Energy Saving and Emission Reduction Revolutionizing China's Environmental Protection," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 14(1):535-539.

- Yin, Runshen, Roger Sedjo, and Ping Liu. (2010). "The Potential and Challenges of Sequestering Carbon and Generating Other Services in China's Forest Ecosystem," *Environmental Science & Technology* 44(15): 5687-5688.
- Zhang Peidong. (2009). "Opportunities and challenges for renewable energy policy in China," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 13:439-449.
- Zhang ZhongXiang. (2010). "Is it Fair to Treat China as a Christmas Tree to Hang Everybody's Complaints? Putting Its Own Energy Saving into Perspective," *Energy Economics* 32 (Suppl 1, September): S47-S56.

### **Week 8 – Public Participation/ Environmental Governance**

#### REQUIRED

- Van Rooij, Benjamin. (2010). "The People vs. Pollution: Understanding Citizen Action against Pollution in China," *Journal of Contemporary China* 19(63):55-77.
- Xiao Chenyang and Hong Dayong. (2010). "Gender Differences in Environmental Behaviors in China," *Population & Environment* 32: 88-104.
- IPE & NRDC. (2011). "Environmental Open Information: Between Advance and Retreat. The 2009-2010 Pollution Information Transparency Index (PITI) Second Annual Assessment of Environmental Transparency in 113 Chinese Cities." Beijing: Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs, and Natural Resources Defense Council. Available: [http://china.nrdc.org/files/china\\_nrdc\\_org/PITI%202010%20EN.pdf](http://china.nrdc.org/files/china_nrdc_org/PITI%202010%20EN.pdf)

#### RECOMMENDED

- Ge Junjie, Jun Bi, and Wang Shi. (2009). "Public participation in Chinese environmental protection". In *Building Effective Governance for Water Environment Conservation in China*. Chiba, Japan: Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization. Available: [http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Publish/Download/Jrp/pdf/153\\_ch2.pdf](http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Publish/Download/Jrp/pdf/153_ch2.pdf)
- Kang Shih-Hao. (2010). Book review: "Hong Dayong, 'The Growing Nongovernmental Forces for Environmental Protection in China,'" *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 4: 457-460.
- Mol, A.P.J. (2009). "Urban Environmental Governance Innovations in China," *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 1(1): 96-100.
- Moorman, Jesse L., and Ge Zhang. (2007). "Promoting and Strengthening Public Participation in China's Environmental Impact Assessment Process: Comparing China's EIA Law and U.S. NEPA," *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law* 8(2):281-336.
- Xue, L., U.E. Simonis, et al. (2006). "Environmental Governance in China", Report of the Task Force on Environmental Governance, China Council of International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). Beijing (ch. 1 and 2). Available: <http://skylla.wz-berlin.de/pdf/2007/p07-001.pdf>.
- Yang, Ruby, and Thomas Lennon. (2010). "The Warriors of Quigang". Film. Yale Environment 360, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT. Available: [http://e360.yale.edu/feature/the\\_warriors\\_of\\_quigang/2358/](http://e360.yale.edu/feature/the_warriors_of_quigang/2358/)
- Zhong Lijin and Arthur P.J. Mol (2008). "Participatory Environmental Governance in China: Public Hearings on Urban Water Tariff Setting," *Journal of Environmental Management* 88(4):899-913.



## ADDITIONAL

Mertha, A. (2010). *China's Water Warriors: Citizen Action and Policy Change*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Saich, Tony. (2011). *Governance and Politics of China*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

Tilt, Bryan. (2010). *The Struggle for Sustainability in Rural China: Environmental Values and Civil Society*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Wang Qing-jie. (2005). "Transparency in the Grey Box of China's Environmental Governance: A Case Study of Print Media Coverage of an Environmental Controversy from the Pearl River Delta Region," *Journal of Environment & Development* 14(2):278-312.

Watts, Jonathan. (2010). *When a Billion Chinese Jump: How China Will Save Mankind or Destroy It*. New York: Scribner.

Xie Lei. (2007). "Environmental Activism in Urban China: The Role of Personal Networks." Ph.D. Dissertation, Environmental Policy. Wageningen Univ., NL.

**IV. Student Organized Sessions**

***Week 9 – TBA***

***Week 10 – TBA***

***Week 11 – TBA***

***Week 12 – TBA***

**THANKSGIVING BREAK****V. Concluding Sessions**

***Week 13 – Open Session/ Discussion***

***Week 14 – Oral Presentations; Course Conclusion***

**VI. Final Exam Week**

***Seminar Paper Due***