



CIEE Beijing, China

Course title:	Environmental Management
Course number:	ENVI 3004 BJCH
Programs offering course:	Sustainable Development
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

This course addresses the Chinese experience in managing environmental issues such as air and water pollution, energy and climate change, biodiversity, toxic waste and solid waste management, and regulatory strategies for risk assessment and management. It teaches students how to analyze and manage natural environments for ecosystem health and human benefit. Students then apply their knowledge to evaluate the efficacy of Chinese environmental management approaches at local, regional, and national scales. Lectures and class discussions are supplemented by field trips to relevant environmental facilities.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand management as an approach towards conservation of natural resources, protection of habitats and control of hazards
- Recognize the management principles enshrined in Chinese environmental laws and practices
- Compare and evaluate environmental management outcomes using sources and indicators obtained through secondary research
- Explore and analyze the successes and shortcomings of environmental management in the Chinese context

Course Prerequisites

Introductory course-work in environmental studies, public policy, or Chinese government would be beneficial but not required.

Methods of Instruction

The course will be delivered as lectures and extensive in-class discussion of environmental management text book material, peer-reviewed publications about the Chinese context, published case studies, and data-sets and indicator-based reports. Additionally, students will have opportunities to visit relevant field sites, such as environmental NGOs, urban planning institutions, and waste management and processing sites.

Assessment and Final Grade

Class Participation:	15%
In-class Discussion Facilitation:	15%



Mid-term Exam:	25%
Concept Briefs (2):	20%
Case Study Analysis:	25%

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed and on their own initiative.

In-class Discussion Facilitation

Once during the term, each student will have to lead class discussion of the assigned reading material for the day. Students will have to sign up to lead discussion on a particular topic on a particular day in the beginning of the semester. By Sunday evening prior to the class session, student has to email the professor with a plan for the discussion. Successful discussion stimulates fellow students to actively engage with the reading material and evaluate the merit of the presented arguments. Half of the discussion facilitation grade is based on the quality of pre-discussion plan submitted to the instructor, while other half evaluates the discussion itself. If there are more students than class sessions available, students will have to work in pairs and the same grade will be awarded to both students in the team

Concept Brief

Students will be asked to submit two briefs (1000 words each) describing key concepts discussed in class. Instructor will identify which concepts should be addressed. The brief should define and describe the concept, explain its theoretical applications and extent to which the concept has been implemented in policy in China. Consistent citation format must be used, preferably MLA.

Mid-term Exam

Sit-down open books exam with short response (choose two questions out of three, up to 150 words each) and extended response questions (choose two questions out of three, each between 300 and 400 words).

Case Study Analysis

On the last day of the program, students are required to submit a case study focusing on one or a set of environmental management concepts and tools discussed in class. The case study must examine the application of the concept in the Chinese context, and must draw on extensive desk-top research that extends beyond class reading materials. Expected length is 3000 to 3500 words. Consistent citation format must be used, preferably MLA. The use of a [citation management](#) tool is highly recommended.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program. Students must notify their instructor



beforehand if they will miss class for any reason. Students are responsible for any materials covered in class in their absence. Students who miss class for medical reasons must inform the instructor and CIEE Academic Coordinator and provide appropriate documentation. Make-up opportunity will be provided to the extent this is feasible. Excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students will be marked as absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided. Persistent absenteeism may lead to a written notification to the student's home school, and/or dismissal from the program in addition to reduction in class grade. Students with unexcused absences exceeding 20% of the total course hours will fail the course.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1	Orientation Week Introduction to Environmental Management Reading: Barrow, p.3-40.
Week 2	Sectoral approach to Environmental Management: Micro-economics Economics as the science that focuses on individual, firm, and public choice. In this session we will discuss how economic considerations shape individuals' and firms' choices and action. Reading: Jaeger, p.35-61
Week 3	Sectoral approach to Environmental Management: Market Interactions and Market Failure Individuals and firms interact in a marketplace. Effective market exchange ensures lowered costs and higher efficiency, ideally reducing environmental burden. Not all exchanges are accounted for and not all markets are efficient, leading to externalities and market failures. Reading: Jaeger, p.72-82
Week 4	Sectoral approach to Environmental Management: Institutional Economics and the Governance of the Commons Many successful and sustainable natural resource management systems do not work on market principles. Institutional economy theory helps explain sustainability of the commons where conventional economics expect a market failure. Reading: Marshal, p.29-36. Field trip to waste management plant
Week 5	Sectoral approach to Environmental Management: Legislation Legislative action sets environmental management goals and enables management tools and approaches. Reading: Percival, p.1-26, 44-48.



First concept brief due by noon.

- Week 6** **Sectoral approach to Environmental Management: Implementation of Laws**
There are differences between how environmental governance is envisioned in legislation and implemented. Bridging implementation gap is key to successful environmental management.
Reading: Lazarus, p.311-374
- Week 7** **Mainstreaming Environmental Management: Environmental Impact Assessment**
Environmental Impact Assessment, a key legal process that ideally leads to clearly and systematically available information but does not produce binding recommendations, is central to making individual projects and large initiatives accountable and acceptable to governments and the public.
Reading: Watern, p.1-31.
- Week 8** **Mid-term exam**
Following the exam, showing and discussion of excerpts from *Under the Dome*.
- Week 9** **Environmental Law-making in China**
China claims a state history that reaches back five millennia, yet the current legal system is less than four decades old. Environmental legislation is among the crown jewels of China's legal code.
Reading: Feng & Liao, p. 1549–1558.
- Week 10** **The Rise of Market Approaches to Managing Environment in China**
China has embraced economic liberalization to encourage economic development. Market mechanisms are being trialed for environmental management to counter some of the harmful effects of development.
Reading: Nai et al., p.138–150.
- Week 11** **The Role of the State-owned Sector of the Economy**
State-owned enterprises have a special status in China's economy. They play by both market and administrative rules. This gives state leverage over environmental decisions in large companies. Yet at the same time, these companies often have the administrative power to off-load externalities.
Reading: p. Eaton & Kostka, p. 685–704.
- Week 12** **The Role of the Private Sector**
Private companies are playing an increasingly important role in China's economy. The state's ability to influence their environmental



management along with public expectation of corporate environmental responsibility are key factors in ensuring sound environmental performance of these companies.

Reading: Yang et al., p. 30–48.

Second concept brief due by noon.

Week 13

The Environmental Management of Public Spaces

Urbanization is the major driver of China’s development, economic growth, and improvement of living standards. Managing the interplay between the market and policy while focusing on public benefit is the key challenge to managing the urban environment.

Reading: Wolch et al., p.234–244.

List any due dates for exams, papers, etc.

Week 14

Environmental Impact Assessment in China

How to assess the impacts of individual developments as well as large-scale initiatives in the largest and most rapidly changing developing country?

Reading: Wang. P. 543–579.

Visit to the Legal Section of the Friends of Nature.

Week 15

**Environmental Management with Chinese Characteristics:
Implementation Gaps**

Government structures and internal sticks and carrots are key determinants of the successes and shortcomings of environmental policy in China.

Reading: Ran. p. 17-39.

Week 16

Conclusion

Watch excerpts from hit propaganda film *Amazing China* and discuss the pathways that China can be expected to take in terms of environmental decision-making and management.

Case study due at noon on the last day of the program

Course Materials

Readings

Barrow, Christopher J. *Environmental management and development*. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Eaton, S., & Kostka, G. Central Protectionism in China: The “Central SOE Problem” in Environmental Governance. *The China Quarterly*, 231, 2017. p. 685–704.

Feng, L., & Liao, W.. Legislation, plans, and policies for prevention and control of air pollution in China: achievements, challenges, and improvements. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 112, .2016. p. 1549–1558.

Jaeger, William K. *Environmental economics for tree huggers and other skeptics*. Washington, DC: Island



- Press, 2005.
- Lazarus, Richard J. *Law and Contemporary Problems*. Vol. 54, No. 4, Assessing the Environmental Protection Agency after Twenty Years: Law, Politics, and Economics. Autumn, 1991., p. 311-374.
- Marshall, Graham R. *Economics for collaborative environmental management: renegotiating the commons*. London Sterling, VA: Earthscan, 2005.
- Nai, P., Luo, Y., & Yang, G. The establishment of carbon trading market in People's Republic of China. *International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 2017. p. 138–150.
- Percival, Robert V., et al. *Environmental regulation: law, science, and policy*. New York: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, 2013.
- Ran, Ran. *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, , Perverse Incentive Structure and Policy Implementation Gap in China's Local Environmental Politics, Vol. 15, No. 1, 2016. p. 17-39.
- Wang, Y., Morgan, R. K., & Cashmore, M. Environmental impact assessment of projects in the People's Republic of China: new law, old problems. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, Vol. 23, No. 5, 2003. p. 543–579.
- Wathern, Peter. *Environmental impact assessment: theory and practice*. London New York: Routledge, 1990.
- Wolch, J. R., Byrne, J., & Newell, J. P. Urban green space, public health, and environmental justice: The challenge of making cities “just green enough.” *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 125, 2014. p. 234–244.
- Yang, H. H., Craig, R., & Farley, A. A review of Chinese and English language studies on corporate environmental reporting in China. *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, 28, 2015. p. 30–48.

Other materials

- Under the Dome*, documentary by Chai Jing. 2015.
- Amazing China*, documentary. 2018.