Course title: Introduction to Sustainable Development

Course code: NRE 165	**No. of credits:** 1	**L-T-P:** 14-0-0	**Learning hours:** 14

Pre-requisite course code and title (if any):

Department: Energy and Environment

Course coordinator: | **Course instructor:** Dr Akash Sondhi

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Course type: Core | **Course offered in:** Semester 1

Course Description

The course seeks to build an inter-disciplinary perspective on understanding sustainable development concerns and challenges. This course familiarizes students with current debates and perspectives in analyzing constraints and opportunities for sustainable development. It also aims to provide students with a general introduction to the basic core competencies and practical skills required of a "generalist" development practitioner.

Course topics will be grounded in a practical, multi-disciplinary approach that will focus on the inter-relationship of each of the following core fields of study (Agriculture and Nutrition, Economics, Environment and Climate Science, Management, Policy, Anthropology and Social Studies, Public Health and Technology and Engineering), thereby exposing students to the complex relationships between social, economic and environmental processes.

Course objectives

1. The course seeks to build an inter-disciplinary perspective on understanding sustainable development concerns and challenges.
2. It also aims to provide students with a general introduction to the basic core competencies and practical skills
3. This course familiarizes students with current debates and perspectives in analyzing constraints and opportunities for sustainable development.

Course content

Module	Topic	L	T	P
1.	Changing Perspectives • Definitions & Principles of Sustainable Development • Millennium Development Goals: Status (global and Indian), Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction, Impact on approach to development policy and practice in India, future directions	3		
2.	Challenges to Sustainable Development • Agriculture, Population & Food Security • Public Health and Nutrition • Education • Natural Resources (Forests, Energy, Water) • Climate Change	6		
3.	Responses to Sustainable Development Challenges • Public Policy (Community Participation and Participatory Learning) • Gender and Human Rights • Technology and Engineering • Economics and Policy Coherence	5		

	Total	**14**		

Evaluation criteria

- Written Review: 60%
- Presentation: 40%

Learning outcomes

1. The students will have a "generalist" development practitioner's perspective towards environmental management.
2. The students will have fairly good understanding of the current debates around concepts of sustainable development and practices.

Pedagogical approach

Materials

Required text

1. Hazell P. and Diao X. (2005) *The Role of Agriculture and Small Farms in Economic Development*, Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute.
2. Sachs J. (2006) *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*, Penguin (Chapters 1-4, 8, 14-18).

Suggested readings

1. Cornwall A. and Brock K. (2005) What Do Buzzwords Do for Development Policy? A Critical Look at 'Participation', 'Empowerment' and 'Poverty Reduction', *Third World Quarterly* 26(7), 1043–1060.
2. Human Development Reports
3. IPCC (2007) Summary for Policymakers of the Synthesis Report of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report.
4. Johnson J.D. and Louka K. (2006) *Migration, Aid and Trade: Policy Coherence for Development*, OECD Development Centre Policy Brief No 28.
5. Laurence W.F. et al. (2001) The Future of the Brazilian Amazon, *Science*, Vol. 291 (5503), 438-439.
6. Luboobi L. and Mugisha J.T. (2005) *HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Africa: Trends and Challenges*, FondazioneEni Enrico Mattei.
7. Sachs D.J. and Wing T.W. (1994) *Structural Factors in the Economic Reforms of China, Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*, Economic Policy, 9 (18), pp. 101-145.
8. Sachs J. and Malaney P. (2002) The Economic and Social Burden of Malaria, *Nature*, 415 (7).
9. Sarah D. (2004) *Key Policy Coherence Issues in Agriculture and Migration*, OECD.
10. UN Millennium Project (2005) *Innovation: Applying Knowledge in Development*, Science, Technology and Innovation Task Force Report.
11. UN Millennium Project (2005) *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals, Overview.*
12. World Bank (2006) *Enhancing Agricultural Innovation: How to Go beyond the Strengthening of Research Systems,* World Bank: Agriculture and Rural Development
13. World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) *Our Common Future*, Oxford, OUP.

Case studies

Websites

Journals 1. Development and Change 2. Economic and Political Weekly
Additional information (if any)
Student responsibilities Attendance, feedback, discipline, guest facultyetc