

Course Title: Environment and Society				
Course code:	No. of credits: 2	L-T-P: 30-0-0	Learning hours: 30	
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None				
Department: Natural and Applied Sciences				
Course coordinator:		Course instructor:		
Contact details:				
Course type: Core		Course offered in: Semester 1		
Course Description The course is designed to understand the association between the environment and society to understand the role played by society and its interface over the environment. It focuses on the interplay between humans and their environment including complex issues such as climate change, population growth, pollution, and management of natural resources faced by our modern society. Further, the course aims to understand community participation towards sustainable practices and environmental protection.				
Course objectives The course aims to build the following basic understanding among students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop critical thinking on global environmental challenges, conflicts between development and environment, and environmental impacts on society. • To understand the importance of community participation for sustainable practices and environmental protection. 				
Course content				
	Topic	L	T	P
1	Module 1: Social Perspectives of Environment			
	This module focuses on introducing social perspectives, thought processes and ethics to the students through the following topics: Social and cultural construction of ‘environment’; environmental thought from historical and contemporary perspective in light of the concepts of environmental wellbeing and Aldo Leopold’s land ethics.	4		
2	Module 2: Global Environmental Issues			
	This module focuses on discusses the contemporary environmental issues being faced globally and their historical context. It will be highly relevant from learning point to view to develop a broader perspective of these issues. The topics covered under this module are as follows: Significant global environmental issues such as climate change and resource depletion; historical developments in cultural, social and economic issues related to land, forest, and water management including land reclamation in a global context; interface between environment and society, environmental ethics	10		
3	Module 3: Development and Environment Conflict			
	It is essential to understand the linkages between the issues related to development, how these have been leading to conflicts within societies and impacting the environment as well. Under the following topics, this module discusses in detail such issues and the efforts being carried out to minimize these conflicts: Developmental issues and related impacts such as ecological degradation; impact of industry and technology on environment, environmental	10		

	pollution; development-induced displacement, resettlement and rehabilitation: problems, concerns and compensative mechanisms; climate change at global level (North-South Divide); efforts and commitments made by India.			
4	Module 4: Environment and Community Participation			
	This module emphasizes on studying, through case studies, the importance of community-level initiatives in management of environmental issues and achieving sustainability. The module contents are as follows: Ecosystem services; state, corporate, civil society, community, and individual-level initiatives to ensure sustainable development; ecosystem management along with sustainable development; case studies of environmental movements-global and local; environmental education and awareness.	6		
	Total	30		
Evaluation criteria				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minor Test 1: Written test [at the end of teaching of modules 1 and 2] -- 20% - Minor Test 2: Written test [at the end of teaching of module 3] -- 20% - Major Test: Written test [at the end of the semester, full syllabus] -- 40% - Assignment: 20% 				
Learning outcomes				
<p>Upon completion of the course, the students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gain the understanding of complex relations between society and the environment. [Modules 1, 2 and 3; Minor Tests 1 and 2] - enhance knowledge of traditional community practices for sustainability and resource conservation. [Module 4; Major Test] 				
Pedagogical approach				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course will be delivered through lectures that will focus on developing critical thinking and a clear foundation of the linkages between development and society. • The course will also focus on classroom discussions and assignments to discuss current approaches and to develop student's perspective towards improving community participation and addressing the domain-specific challenges. 				
Reading resources				
<p>Carson, R. (2015). <i>Silent spring. In thinking about the environment</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Chokkan, K.B., Pandya, H., Raghunathan, H. (2004). <i>Understanding environment</i>. Sagar Publication India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.</p> <p>Elliot, D. (2003). <i>Energy, society and environment, technology for a sustainable future</i>. Routledge Press.</p> <p>Guha, R. (2000). <i>The unquiet woods: ecological change and peasant resistance in the Himalaya</i>. University of California Press.</p> <p>Leopold, A. (1949). <i>The land ethic</i>. Chicago, USA.</p> <p>National Research Council (NRC). (1996). <i>Linking science and technology to society's environmental goals</i>. National Academy Press.</p> <p>Pandit, M.K. 2013. <i>Chipko: Failure of a Successful Conservation Movement</i>. In: Sodhi,</p>				

NS, Gibson, L & Raven PH. Conservation Biology: Voices from the Tropics. pp. 126-127. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, UK.

Sodhi, N.S., Gibson, L.G., Raven, P.H. (2013). *Conservation biology: voices from the tropics*. Wiley Blackwell.

World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987). Our common future. Oxford, OUP.

Student Responsibilities

The students are required to come prepared with readings that are suggested during the class and ensure timely submission of assignments. They are also expected to participate and further strengthen their understanding of concepts through classroom discussions.

Course Reviewers

The course is reviewed by following reviewers:

1. Prof. Anupam Pandey, Head, Department of Geography, University of Allahabad
2. Dr. Madhu Bajaj, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, Miranda House