

Course title: Major Project				
Course code: PPS 100	No. of credits: 27	L-T-P: 0-0-810	Learning hours: 405	
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None				
Department: Policy Studies				
Course coordinator(s): Mr. Shri Prakash		Course instructor(s): Mr. Shri Prakash		
Contact details: shri.prakash@terisas.ac.in				
Course type: Core		Course offered in: Third and -Fourth semester		
Course description:				
<p>It is an opportunity for the students to apply knowledge and skillsets, which they have obtained during classroom teaching, practical course work and field visits, spread over the two semesters. The major project is conceptualized to independently think and engage in research to provide sustainable solutions based on learning during the master's degree course work. It requires a deeper understanding of the development process, the driving factors, and the inter-linkages within the earth system science, climate change issues, sustainable development challenges, renewable energy, community engagement, legal frameworks, among others. The students are expected to write a research dissertation in an area of his/her choice. The research project may include a policy issue relevant to his/her Department/Ministry. However, the student is at liberty to choose any topic of his/her interest in consultation with the supervisor. The policy document should contain all the following steps involved in policy making, which is reflection of knowledge acquired in previous studies and demonstrates the prospect to probe profoundly into a research question and integrate the learning while findings the answer. Along with the dissertation/thesis the students are required to present the entire work before an evaluation committee based on the major project guidelines (see additional information).</p>				
Course objectives:				
The purpose of major project is				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To widen the students' perspective by providing an exposure to real life issues. The entire work for the project is to done at the place of work of the students. ▪ To enable the student to develop deeper knowledge, understanding, capabilities and attitudes in the context of the climate science, environmental resource, its management, policy implications, development issues, community engagement, holistic approach for energy, environment and sustainable development and providing them opportunity/exposure to real environmental issues. ▪ To equip the students with a research mind-set, which would expose them to methods and instruments for analysis of issues, perspectives and concerns related to public policy and sustainable development. ▪ To provide an opportunity to the students to put into practice all the theoretical knowledge gained through the course work. To independently emphasize on technical/scientific/socio-behavioural aspects of the environmental resource management/ environmental problems/ community-based interventions/ adaptations and to develop critical and analytical thinking towards simplifying and solving such problem/issue. 				
Course content				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1.	The students are expected to write a research dissertation in an area of his/her choice. The research project may include a policy issue relevant to his/her Department/Ministry. However, the student is at liberty to choose any topic of his/her interest in consultation with the supervisor. The policy document should contain all the following steps involved in policy making. The students choose a topic based on their research interests while associating with an organization. The students are continuously supervised by their assigned supervisor at TERI SAS, and the progress is monitored accordingly.	0	0	810
Evaluation criteria:				
An evaluation committee will be formed to assess the major project. The distribution of marks for the				

evaluation would be as per the following criteria (marks of each component is indicated in parenthesis)

Evaluation distribution

- a. Timeline adherence (10 marks) consisting of: synopsis and topic (2), four progress reports (1 each), final dissertation/thesis (5).
- b. Synopsis (10 marks)
- c. Presentation and viva (30 marks) - The presentation will be evaluated based on the (a) Background/Introduction; (b) Research Questions; (c) Objective(s); (d) Materials & methods; (e) Results and discussion; (f) Conclusion; (g) Limitations and future scope of work.
- d. Dissertation/thesis (50 marks)

Grading criteria

- a. The students scoring less than or equal to 40% (or $\leq 40\%$) overall marks in the evaluation would be considered unsuccessful and would be graded F (fail).
- b. Grading of the Major Project will be done as per the table 1:

Table 1. Major project part – grading

>90	A+
>80 \leq 90	A
>70 \leq 80	B+
>60 \leq 70	B
>50 \leq 60	C+
>45 \leq 50	C
>40 \leq 45	D
\leq 40	F

Plagiarism

TERI SAS has zero tolerance for plagiarism. As per UGC (Regd. no. D. L.-33004/99) dissertation/thesis or any other such documents are free of plagiarism at the time of submission by the student. Plagiarism test shall be conducted on the draft submission of the report. The plagiarism report will be shared with the students and would be assigned to external/internal supervisors to address the plagiarism concerns. The plagiarism report and its percentage would be evaluated with a plagiarism check/verify committee within the department and would be analysed in terms of similarity section if that can be treated as plagiarised such as in case of mathematical formulations/ derivations etc. Based on the finalized plagiarism percentage (of similarity) the marks would be deducted as given in Table 2. It would be responsibility of the student in consultation with external/internal supervisor to resolve the plagiarism issue and the thesis would deemed to be fit for submission upon written consent of external/internal supervisors to minor project coordinator.

Table 2. Penalty imposed on the student based on plagiarism as per UGC guidelines.

Levels of Plagiarism	Percentage of similarity	Maximum percentage marks to be deducted from dissertation/thesis
Level 3	> 60%	Students registration to the program stands cancelled
Level 2	> 40% \leq 60%	Student repeats the major project next year

Level 1	> 10% ≤ 40%	The student is required to resubmit the thesis within a week
Level 0	≤ 10%	0%

Learning outcomes: At the end of this course, the student should be able to –

- Conceptualise research questions, objectives, methodology and conduct appropriate analysis for a chosen research/development project.
- Independently demonstrates/display the knowledge and capability to conduct research and contribute to large scale research and development works.
- Approach and analyse a problem holistically, and to recognize, formulate and deal with complex issues critically, independently, and innovatively.
- Integrate knowledge critically and systematically, and clearly present and discuss the findings in addition to the knowledge and arguments, which constitute the basis for the findings.
- Identify, analyse, and critically evaluate the environmental issues that must be addressed within the framework while taking account of all dimensions of sustainable development.
- Realize the ethical and moral aspects of research work while learning and applying the techniques.

Pedagogical Approach: As required by the dissertation/thesis topic identified by the student and agreed by the supervisor.

Course Reading Materials:

1. Topic relevant books and published papers and reports. Sources can be found on but not limited to –

www.scopus.com

www.sciencedirect.com

www.springer.com

www.wiley.com

www.jstor.com

www.taylorandfrancis.com

Additional Information:

1. A separate Major project guideline indicating timeline of different activities, and other details will be issued by the department before the start of the semester.
2. Only students meeting the CGPA criteria of 6, for third semester, as defined in Students Handbook will be allowed to take up Major Project course, failing which under no circumstance's student would be allowed to carry out Major Project. It can only be allowed in exceptional circumstances duly approved by the competent authority, where the student must have secured SGPA of 6 in the third semester.
3. The students who need to repeat the major project due to exceptional circumstances with due approval by the competent authority, would be allowed to carry out the major project only in the semester meant for the major project dissertation/thesis. Student should ascertain that the work carried out during repeating the major project should either be an extension of the research done in the previous major project or should be entirely a different topic of research.

Supervisor

A faculty member from TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS) or TERI will supervise the project. Students should develop a plan of work under the guidance of the faculty guide and carry out work on the project at his/ her own place of work. The student should identify the supervisor from TERI School of Advanced Studies and discuss the proposed work with him. The name of the supervisor should be communicated to the Programme Coordinator. The preference for a supervisor should be purely based on area of the work during major project. The identification of the supervisor should be done well before the finalization of the exact topic and the synopsis submission to the

Programme.

Student responsibilities:

- Following the issued instructions and guidelines of the minor project in entirety.
- Regular updating the progress of work to the mentor/supervisor.
- Timely submission of all required documents through portal.

Prepared by

Dr L N Venkataraman

Course Reviewers:

NA