UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course (AECC – Environmental Science)

Unit 1 : Introduction to environmental science

- Multidisciplinary nature of environmental science;
- Scope and importance; Concept of sustainability and sustainable development.

(2 lectures)

Unit 2 : Ecosystems

- What is an ecosystem? Structure and function of ecosystem; Energy flow in an ecosystem: food chains, food webs and ecological succession. Case studies of the following ecosystems :
  a) Forest ecosystem
  b) Grassland ecosystem
  c) Desert ecosystem
  d) Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries)

(6 lectures)

Unit 3 : Natural Resources : Renewable and Non---renewable Resources

- Land resources and landuse change; Land degradation, soil erosion and desertification.
- Deforestation: Causes and impacts due to mining, dam building on environment, forests, biodiversity and tribal populations.
- Water : Use and over---exploitation of surface and ground water, floods, droughts, conflicts over water (international & inter---state).
- Energy resources : Renewable and non renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources, growing energy needs, case studies.

(8 lectures)

Unit 4 : Biodiversity and Conservation

- Levels of biological diversity : genetic, species and ecosystem diversity; Biogeographic zones of India; Biodiversity patterns and global biodiversity hot spots
- India as a mega---biodiversity nation; Endangered and endemic species of India
- Threats to biodiversity : Habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man---wildlife conflicts, biological invasions; Conservation of biodiversity : In---situ and Ex---situ conservation of biodiversity.
- Ecosystem and biodiversity services: Ecological, economic, social, ethical, aesthetic and Informational value.

(8 lectures)

Unit 5 : Environmental Pollution

- Environmental pollution : types, causes, effects and controls; Air, water, soil and noise pollution
- Nuclear hazards and human health risks
- Solid waste management : Control measures of urban and industrial waste.
- Pollution case studies.

(8 lectures)

Unit 6 : Environmental Policies & Practices

- Climate change, global warming, ozone layer depletion, acid rain and impacts on human communities and agriculture

- Environment Laws: Environment Protection Act; Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act; Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act; Wildlife Protection Act; Forest Conservation Act. International agreements: Montreal and Kyoto protocols and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Nature reserves, tribal populations and rights, and human wildlife conflicts in Indian context.

(7 lectures)

Unit 7 : Human Communities and the Environment

- Human population growth: Impacts on environment, human health and welfare.
- Resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected persons; case studies.
- Disaster management : floods, earthquake, cyclones and landslides.
- Environmental movements : Chipko, Silent valley, Bishnois of Rajasthan.
- Environmental ethics: Role of Indian and other religions and cultures in environmental conservation.
- Environmental communication and public awareness, case studies (e.g., CNG vehicles in Delhi).

(6 lectures)

Unit 8 : Field work/Report Writing

- Visit to an area to document environmental assets: river/ forest/ flora/fauna, etc.
- Visit to a local polluted site---Urban/Rural/Industrial/Agricultural.
- Study of common plants, insects, birds and basic principles of identification.
- Study of simple ecosystems---pond, river, Delhi Ridge, etc.

(Equal to 5 lectures)

Suggested Readings:

1. Carson, R. 2002. *Silent Spring*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
2. Gadgil, M., & Guha, R.1993. *This Fissured Land: An Ecological History of India*. Univ. of California Press.
3. Gleeson, B. and Low, N. (eds.) 1999.*Global Ethics and Environment*, London, Routledge.
4. Gleick, P. H. 1993. *Water in Crisis*. Pacific Institute for Studies in Dev., Environment & Security. Stockholm Env. Institute, Oxford Univ. Press.
5. Groom, Martha J., Gary K. Meffe, and Carl Ronald Carroll.*Principles of Conservation Biology*. Sunderland: Sinauer Associates, 2006.
6. Grumbine, R. Edward, and Pandit, M.K. 2013. Threats from India's Himalaya dams. *Science,* 339: 36---37.
7. McCully, P. 1996. *Rivers no more: the environmental effects of dams*(pp. 29---64). Zed Books.
8. McNeill, John R. 2000. Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth Century.
9. Odum, E.P., Odum, H.T. & Andrews, J. 1971.*Fundamentals of Ecology*. Philadelphia: Saunders.
10. Pepper, I.L., Gerba, C.P. & Brusseau, M.L. 2011. Environmental and Pollution Science. Academic Press.
11. Rao, M.N. & Datta, A.K. 1987. *Waste Water Treatment*. Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd.
12. Raven, P.H., Hassenzahl, D.M. & Berg, L.R. 2012.*Environment*. 8th edition. John Wiley & Sons.
13. Rosencranz, A., Divan, S., & Noble, M. L. 2001. *Environmental law and policy in India*. *Tripathi 1992*.
14. Sengupta, R. 2003. *Ecology and economics*: An approach to sustainable development. OUP.
15. Singh, J.S., Singh, S.P. and Gupta, S.R. 2014. *Ecology, Environmental Science and Conservation*. S. Chand Publishing, New Delhi.
16. Sodhi, N.S., Gibson, L. & Raven, P.H. (eds). 2013. *Conservation Biology*: *Voices from the Tropics*. John Wiley & Sons.
17. Thapar, V. 1998. *Land of the Tiger*: *A Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent*.
18. Warren, C. E. 1971. *Biology and Water Pollution Control*. WB Saunders.
19. Wilson, E. O. 2006.*The Creation: An appeal to save life on earth*. New York: Norton.
20. World Commission on Environment and Development. 1987.*Our Common Future*. Oxford University Press.