

Syllabus for

Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course (AECC - Environment Studies)(2 credit) for under graduate

(For All Faculties - Second Year - Semester III)

It is as per UGC guidelines and framing -

Unit 1 : Introduction to environmental studies

- Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies;
- 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)

(8 lectures)

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

- Land resources and land use 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.

(10 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.

(10 lectures)

References :

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.