



SECOND SEMESTER 2023-2024

Course Handout Part II

Date: 09-01-2024

In addition to part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : HSS F322
Course Title : Social and Political Ecology
Instructor-in-charge : Lavanya Suresh (lavanya@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in)

Scope

Environmental History and Social construction of nature; Theoretical perspectives on Natural Resource use; Ecological Development; Natural Resource Governance; Ecological Identity and Social Movement-Gender-based dimensions; Degradation and Marginalization; Conservation and Control; Ecotourism; Urban Ecology; Regional case studies.

Objective of the Course

Social and Political ecology examines the politics of the environment and the social responses to the politics. The course would provide students awareness of contemporary debates on the issue of environment through case studies, movements and policies. This would enable students to have a broader understanding of issues related to policies and governance of natural resources.

Textbook(TB):

1. Paul Robbins, 2012. Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Reference books

1. Arnold, David and R Guha, 1995. Nature, Culture and Imperialism: Essays on Environmental History of South Asia, Delhi: OUP.
2. Baviskar, Amita, 2008. 'Contested Grounds: Essays on Nature, Culture and Power'. New Delhi: OUP.
3. Cederlof, Gunnel and K. Sivaramakrishnan, 2012. 'Ecological Nationalisms: Nature, Livelihoods and Identities in South Asia'. New Delhi: Permanent Black.
4. Cernea, Michael. M and Hari Mohan Mathur, 2008. Can Compensation prevent Impoverishment? Reforming Resettlement through investments and benefit-sharing. New Delhi: OUP.
5. Endres, Alfred, 2012. 'Economics for environmental studies', Heidelberg: Springer
6. Gadgil, M and R. Guha. 1995. 'This fissured land: An ecological history of India'. Delhi: OUP.
7. Guha, R. 2009. The Ramachandra Guha Omnibus, Delhi: OUP.
8. Moran, E. F. 2010. Environmental Social Sciences: Human-Environmental Interactions and Sustainability, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell
9. Omvedt, G. 1984. Ecology and Social Movements, Economic and Political Weekly, XIX (44) 1865-67.



10. Bina Agarwal. 1992. The Gender and Environment Debate: Lessons from India. Feminist Studies, 18 (1), pp. 119-158
11. Documentaries

Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
9	To understand political ecology	Political Ecology vs. Apolitical Ecology, Emergence of Political Ecology	TB Chapter 1 to 4
3	To outline the basic theoretical perspectives on Natural Resource use	Natural Resources Governance, Theories of Collective Action	Ref.
4	To identify the way for the study of the foundations and roots of Environmental History and development Nature studies	Environmental History and social Construction of Nature	TB Chapter 6
8	To analyze how various activities carried out by people, industries and government result in degradation and marginalization of Environment	Ecological Degradation and Marginalization, case study	TB Chapter 8
3	To explain the concepts on conservation and control in using natural resources	Conservation and Control, case study	TB Chapter 9
3	To evaluate the role of environment conflicts	Environmental Conflict; case study	TB Chapter 10
6	To discuss the meaning of Identity formation and trace the origin and development of social movements with particular reference to ecological events	Ecological Identity; Social Movements, case study	TB Chapter 11 And Ref.
3	To elaborate on the role of gender in understanding the environment	Gender based Dimensions, Theoretical strands	Ref.
3	To apply the theory of Political Ecology to the urban setting	Urban Political Ecology, Case Studies	Ref.

Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Mid-semester Test	90 min	35	11/03 - 4.00 - 5.30PM	Closed Book
Assignment		20	TBA	Open Book
Comprehensive Examination	3 hrs	45	07/05 AN	Open Book



Chamber Consultation Hour: Tuesday from 11:00 am to 12 noon.

Notices: Notices will be displayed on CMS only

Make-up: The make-up for an evaluation component will be given only in genuine cases.

Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy: Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE

