

**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)*](mailto: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:**

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| **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:**

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| **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**