Mahesh Portfolio on Environment and Sustainability

{My Pic or Artwork}

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**Overview**

[1-page limit. This will be filled in towards the end of the class. It will be an overview of your experience of the course and how it changed your broader perspective on sustainability. Any persisting questions can also be included here. How will you work towards bringing into your life, what you learned in the class.]

**Course Topics**

**Introduction**

***Topic Summary***

***It is true environment is at stake. Environment is a deep crisis. The reality is that we are indeed facing Earth-threatening anthropogenic environmental issues that are bigger and uglier than we imagine. Big changes are coming!. We caused the problems and chaos so we are also responsible for repairing it. Several treaties signed are mentioned. Case studies about polynesians and Easter Islands were given a brief overview. Major factors contributing to this environment crisis were listed and some solutions were listed.***

***Reflections***

***I personally feel all that treaties signed are of no use as long as they aren’t enforced. Half of the treaties(in fact most of them) are just a statement on the paper. Environmentalist need enforce the treaties properly. It shouldn’t be a procession which they do for 1 day in front of the media to get coverage and next day they forget it. I feel Gaia theory is baseless, especially under the current circumstances(over-consumption resources)***

***Outstanding questions***

***Why is everybody just talking and not working?***

***What is the use of this subject to kept in the syllabus if the do so just to obey Supreme Court order?***

**Principles of Environment**

***Topic Summary***

***We are introduced to different segments of the environment(lithosphere,hydrosphere,***

***biosphere,atmosphere). We understand the different zones of the atmosphere and climatic and environment changes as one goes from one layer to another. Light is thrown on Gaia theory and different biogeochemical cycles. We also learn about CLAW and ANTI-CLAW hypothesis.***

***Reflections***

***The earth has survived millions of years and about five mass extinctions. Earth has continuously evolved and has adapted to changes. Nature has its own way of renewing resources and replenishing them. It is our greed and over-usage that has caused it. I felt this chapter/topic more relatable and understandable rather than first one.***

***Outstanding questions***

***-NIL-***

**Biodiversity**

***Topic Summary***

***Difference between environment and ecology is introduced. The different types of ecosystem and biodiversity is introduced. the biodiversity is measured in terms of Species diversity, Genetic diversity and variety of ecosystems. Some insights about hotspot of biodiversity in India is got. We get an overview of different endemic species in India. We are thrown into different kinds of animal violations happening and some conserative measures to prevent illegal and inhumane activities like poaching. Last we learn how Amrita has contributed to this noble cause.***

***Reflections***

***I feel that those flora and fauna are being misused and overused. We don’t cut trees for our need but rather for our greed. Our greed has grown so much that our greed has become our need.***

***Outstanding questions***

***Why hasn’t government allow this kind of inhumane act for money. WHy do they make such a petty bartender (environment for a temporary status in the society by gaining money ).***

**Climate change**

***Topic Summary***

***We understand the following topics :***

1. ***Historical Climate change***
2. ***Global Temperature models***
3. ***GreenHouse effect***
4. ***Initiatives towards protection of environment.***

***Reflections***

***The global temperature is rising on a daily basis. There is no doubt about it. The historical changes are so rapid and they could cause a mass extinction. Albedo model helps understand the importance of clouds in this environment. The different pacts are great. The problem is they are not enforced properly. The government should enforce strict norms. Media is an accused by projecting only one sided view on this topic. In fact many news daily don’t give proper importance to this topic. Either it isn’t there or if present it is in some corner where people tend not to pay much attention.***

***Outstanding questions***

***-NIL-***

**Ozone depletion**

***Topic Summary***

***We are given an overview of the ozone layer depletion and root causes behind this. We analyse the effect of CFC, CO2  and other greenhouse gases. We understand the Montreal protocol contribution in depletion of ozone layer depletion.***

***Reflections***

***I feel we have removed or reduced the usage of CFC. Regarding CO2 we can save earth only if we move away from non-renewable resources to renewable resources. This topic has been the topic of discussion since my childhood days. Everybody is ready to speak but none or very few are working in this regard .To be precise it has been the same topic which my parents studied when they were in high school, now I am reading. It will continue to the next generation also ( nobody is ready to work, but all are ready to speak)***

***Outstanding questions***

**Pollution of air, water, land and noise**

***Topic Summary***

***We look into several types of pollution, desertification and methods to reduce these drastic effects.***

***Reflections***

***I feel this topic also id just a topic meant for textbooks. We read about this textbook for exams and then give no shit about it. As long as these topics are just spoken and not put forth into any action it is waste of time discussing this topic. But yeah this topic is very relevant to today’s world.***

***Outstanding questions***

**Cyclical vs. Linear Resource Management**

***Topic Summary Reflections Outstanding questions***

**Water**

***Topic Summary Reflections Outstanding questions***

**Energy**

***Topic Summary***

**Land and Forests**

***Topic Summary Reflections Outstanding questions***

**Food**

***Topic Summary Reflections Outstanding questions***

**Waste**

***Topic Summary***

**Society and Environment**

***Topic Summary Reflections Outstanding questions***

**Public, Common Goods and Cost Benefits Analysis**

***Topic Summary Reflections Outstanding questions***

**EIA & EMP**

***Topic Summary***

**Green Business, Ecolabelling**

***Topic Summary Reflections Outstanding questions***

**Living Spaces, Sustainable Habitats**

***Topic Summary Reflections Outstanding questions***

**Sustainability Philosophy and Ethics**

***Topic Summary***

**Assignments**

**ecology 100:**

[**https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wqPpKql1x-IBuvUFnTbQmtLt7hRqyWe9ixXaI3aMvDE/edit?usp=sharing**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wqPpKql1x-IBuvUFnTbQmtLt7hRqyWe9ixXaI3aMvDE/edit?usp=sharing)

**ecology 50:**

[**https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HcGkdugPWkMWZt0Lg1vaFHrNDG8qMh5ZUVSJntMTPmw/edit?usp=sharing**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HcGkdugPWkMWZt0Lg1vaFHrNDG8qMh5ZUVSJntMTPmw/edit?usp=sharing)

**Activities**

**Development and Well-Being**

Discuss in the group and record their response to the question "What according to you is the ideal relation between development and human wellbeing and how well is development presently aligned with wellbeing?"

***Guidelines***

Define development and wellbeing. Is there a correlation between human well-being and development? Is there a causal relationship? Is human well-being the goal of development? Or does wellbeing lead to development? If there is a causal relation between the two, does one necessarily lead to the other? What other factors might be involved? How do you assess the present state of wellbeing of humanity? How well is the process of development aligned to wellbeing today?

***Output***

[Type here. A 200-word writeup in the individual EVS Portfolio.]