

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

**Environmental Studies  
(One-Semester Compulsory Core Module for Undergraduate Programmes)**

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**Unit 1 : Introduction to environmental studies**

- Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies;
- Scope and importance; Need for public awareness.

(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 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.

(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**

- Sustainability and sustainable development.
- 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.
- 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

- 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 Bharucha, E. 2003, Textbook for Environmental Studies, University Grants Commission, New Delhi and Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environmental Education and Research, Pune. 361.
- 2 Carson, Rachel. 1962. Silent Spring (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1962), Mariner Books, 2002
- 3 Economy, Elizabeth. 2010. The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future.
- 4 Gadgil, M. & Ramachandra, G. 1993. *This fissured land: an ecological history of India*. Univ of California Press.
- 5 Gleeson, B. and Low, N. (eds.) 1999. Global Ethics and Environment, London, Routledge.
- 6 Grumbine, R. Edward, and Pandit, M.K. Threats from India's Himalaya dams. *Science* 339.6115 (2013): 36-37.
- 7 Heywood V.H. & Watson, R.T. 1995. Global Biodiversity Assessment. Cambridge University Press.
- 8 McCully, P. 1996. *Silenced rivers: the ecology and politics of large dams*. Zed Books.
- 9 McNeill, John R. 2000. *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth Century*.
- 10 Odum, E.P., Odum, H.T. & Andrews, J. 1971. *Fundamentals of Ecology*. Philadelphia: Saunders.

- 11 Pepper, I.L., Gerba, C.P. & Brusseau, M.L. 2011. *Environmental and Pollution Science*.  
Academic press, 2011.
- 12 Rao MN and Datta AK, 1987. *Waste Water Treatment*. Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Pvt.  
Ltd.
- 13 Raven, P.H., Hassenzahl, D.M. & Berg, L.R. 2012. *Environment*. 8<sup>th</sup> edition. John Wiley &  
Sons.
- 14 Ricklefs, R. E., & Miller, G.L. 2000. *Ecology*. W. H. Freeman, New York.
- 15 Robbins, P. 2012. *Political ecology: A critical introduction*. John Wiley & Sons.
- 16 Rosencranz, A., Divan, S. & Noble, M.L.. *Environmental law and policy in India*. 2001.  
Tripathi 1992.
- 17 Sengupta, R. 2003. *Ecology and economics (OUP): An approach to sustainable  
development.* OUP Catalogue.
- 18 Singh, J.S., Singh, S.P. and Gupta, S.R. 2006. *Ecology, Environment and Resource Ecology,  
Environment and Resource Conservation*. Anamaya Publishers.
- 19 Sodhi, N.S., Gibson, L. & Raven, P.H.G. (eds). 2013. *Conservation biology: voices from the  
Tropics*. John Wiley & Sons.
- 20 Van Leeuwen, C. J., & Vermeire, T. G. 2007. *Risk assessment of chemicals*.
- 21 World Commission on Environment and Development. 1987. *Our Common Future*. Oxford:  
Oxford University Press.