

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 1st Semester

CREDITS: 6

COURSE TEACHER(S): Dr. Jinbao LI

ASSESSMENT:

| EXAMINATION 50 % | COURSEWORK 50 % |
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| • 2 hours | • 2 individual essays • 1 individual project |

OBJECTIVES:

This course introduces a number of major global environmental issues and links them to contemporary socio-economic and political considerations while maintaining a geographical perspective.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

Recent decades have been characterized by increasing awareness of environmental issues and the need to come to terms with them. This course will examine, in turn, many of the current major environmental issues related to the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere as well as looking at major threats posed by the environment itself in the form of natural hazards. In addition, the issue of a potential nuclear threat and the ever-increasing demand for energy are explored. Finally, the matter of sustainable development and intelligent management of the planet for present and future generations is addressed.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Climate change: Evidence, causes, and consequences
- Water resources and pollution
- Human impacts on the Earth’s surface and oceans
- Natural hazards
- Other contemporary global environmental issues

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Harris, F. (2012) Global Environmental Issues, 2nd edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Middleton, N. (2018) The Global Casino: An Introduction to Environmental Issues, 6nd edition. London: Rutledge.
- Houghton, J. (2009). Global Warming: The Complete Briefing, 4th edition. Edinburgh: Cambridge.
- Pickering, K. & Owen, L. (1997). An Introduction to Global Environmental Issues, 2nd edition. London and New York: Rutledge.

| Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to: | | Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)* | | | | | | Course Assessment Methods |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| 1 | gain general knowledge about a number of major global environmental issues | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | Essays, project & exam |
| 2 | understand the linkages among the knowledge and to contemporary socio-economic and political considerations | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | Essays, project & exam |
| 3 | achieve a geographical perspective on those issues in CLO 1 & 2 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | Essays, project & exam |
| 4 | acquire reading and writing skills | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | Essays, project & exam |
| 5 | think critically about global environmental issues and their context | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | Essays, project & exam |
| 6 | work independently toward discovering and finalizing a research project | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | Project |

***Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

PLO1 critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;

PLO2 demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;

PLO3 identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;

PLO4 integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;

PLO5 participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and

PLO6 effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.