

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 2nd Semester

CREDITS: 6

COURSE TEACHER(S): Professor Jimmy Li

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 50 %	COURSEWORK 50 %
• 2 hours	• 1 individual term paper

OBJECTIVES:

The course adopts a synoptic and critical survey of human interactions with nature and natural resources, the attendant problems of their misuse and overuse, and the enlightened approaches to nature conservation to contribute towards sustainable societies.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

The consumption of the Earth's resources has reached an alarming level, bringing intensive and pervasive deleterious impacts. This course surveys the major issues related to human-nature interactions, their current status as well as prognosis for the future. A synoptic view on the cultural roots of the exploitative utilization of our planet sets the backdrop for a systematic assessment of the diverse but interrelated components of the resource system. Major natural resources such as water, soil, forest and biodiversity are mainly discussed at the global scale in the light of their uses and misuses in different human societies, and the possibility for a more enlightened approach towards a sustainable future. Adopting a non-technical approach, this course appeals to students with a background in humanities, social sciences or science disciplines.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Introduction
- Basic concepts in natural resources and sustainable development
- Renewable and non-renewable resources
- Water resource, water quality, and water pollution
- Soil and land
- Land pollution and land degradation
- World primary ecosystems

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Withgott, J., & Brennan, S.R. (2007). Essential Environment: The Science Behind the Stories. San Francisco: Pearson Benjamin Cummings.
- Chiras, D.D. & Reganold, J.P. (2014) Natural Resource Conservation: Management for a Sustainable Future, 10th edition. Pearson Education, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.
- Wright, R.T. & Boorse, D.F. (2014) Environmental Science: Toward a Sustainable Future (International Edition). Pearson Education, Boston.

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	assess limitations and fragility of the Earth's natural resource base	✓						Term paper & exam
2	evaluate human misuse and mismanagement of natural resources and prognosis of environmental future		✓					Term paper & exam
3	analyze changes in resource ethics to conserve natural resources to sustain future human needs						✓	Term paper & exam
4	establish a comprehensive and holistic perspective of human tenure on Earth				✓	✓		Term paper & exam
5	realize that the Earth is both a source and a sink in satisfying human needs				✓			Term paper & exam
6	develop critical and independent thinking on the stressed relationship between humans and Mother Earth				✓		✓	Term paper & exam

***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.