

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 1st Semester

CREDITS: 6

COURSE TEACHER(S): Professor Wendy Y CHEN

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 40 %	COURSEWORK 60 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 group field trip report • 1 individual essay

OBJECTIVES:

This course aims to provide students with the fundamental understanding of nature’s ecosystem services and their importance for the development of a sustainable society.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

This course aims to provide students with the fundamental understanding of nature’s ecosystem services and their importance for the development of a sustainable society. Creating a sustainable society is one of the most crucial challenges in the 21st century. Human society is dependent on both technological and ecological life support systems. To build a sustainable society, it is necessary to understand natural ecosystems and the delivery of ecosystem services which are essential to the survival of human society. Attention should be given to the sustainability of ecosystem services lest they may fail through ever increasing pressure of population and associated environmental degradation. This course starts with an introduction of the concept of ecosystem services. Major issues discussed include: (1) conceptualization and classification of ecosystem services; (2) urban ecosystem services and land-use planning; (3) human impacts on ecosystem services; (4) ecosystem services economics; and (5) ecosystem services mapping.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Ecosystems and ecosystem services
- Providing services
- Regulating services
- Supporting services
- Cultural services
- Ecosystem services economics

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Bouma, J.A., & van Beukering, P.J.H., (2015). Ecosystem Services: From Concept to Practice. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.
- Working Group of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, (2005). Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing: Current State and Trends. Washington, DC: Island Press.

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	develop an understanding of natural ecosystems and ecosystem services	✓						Essay, field trip report & exam
2	be aware of various approaches to evaluating ecosystem services				✓			Essay, field trip report & exam
3	understand the basic theoretical framework for assessing the role of ecosystem services in sustainable society		✓					Essay, field trip report & exam
4	obtain basic skills in reading, thinking, and writing						✓	Essay, field trip report & exam
5	acquire basic quantitative approaches for measuring and analysing ecosystem services			✓				Essay, field trip report & exam
6	develop a critical thinking on the development of sustainable society				✓			Essay, field trip report & 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.