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:
*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.