

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 1st Semester

CREDITS: 6

COURSE TEACHER(S): Professor Wendy Y CHEN

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 50 %	COURSEWORK 50 %
• 2 hours	• 1 group field trip report • 1 individual essay

OBJECTIVES:

The course will help students to understand the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental auditing. It develops the necessary skills of addressing the role of CSR in environmental welfare, the step-by-step procedures of conducting basic environmental auditing and explores the contribution of CSR and environmental auditing to social sustainability.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

The world’s major environmental problems are closely related to the impacts imposed by various commercial establishments. Recently, the contribution of the business sector to social responsibility and sustainability has been increasingly emphasized. The awareness of the social and environmental implications of business operations, products and services has brought changes in relevant attitudes, behaviours and policies. On the other hand, various stakeholders, such as the public, investors, customers, employees, media and business partners are interested in the social and environmental activities of corporations and their contribution to sustainable development. This course introduces students to the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental auditing. It will focus on the recognition of CSR as a process that integrates social and environmental concerns in business operations, and the application of environmental auditing as a preventative tool to manage social and environmental responsibilities. Adopting an integrated scientific and practical approach, the course appeals to students with science, social science, business or humanity background with interests in corporate social performance, welfare of the environment and quest for sustainable development.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Introduction to corporate social responsibility (CSR)
- Evolution of CSR concepts and practical examples
- Debates over CSR
- CSR and sustainable development
- Implementation of CSR
- Practical procedures of environmental auditing

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Chandler, D. (2015). Corporate Social Responsibility: A Strategic Perspective. Business Expert Press, New York.
- Cahill, L.B., & Kane, R.W., (2011). Environmental Health and Safety Audits. Government Institutes, Rockville, MD. USA.

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	understand CSR and environmental auditing	✓						Field trip report, essay & exam
2	evaluate business social and environmental performance			✓				Field trip report, essay & exam
3	critically think about environmental management and sustainable development				✓			Field trip report, essay & exam
4	assess corporate performance and interpretation of major environmental issues				✓			Field trip report, essay & exam
5	conduct basic environmental auditing					✓		Field trip report, essay & exam
6	prepare of environmental auditing report						✓	Field trip report, essay & 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.