

College of Engineering, Pune
Science of Living Systems (EVS 101)
Third Year B. Tech. Program

Teaching: 1 lecture/week

Evaluation: (audit course)no exam

Unit 1 : Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies (2 lectures)

Definition, scope and importance

Need for public awareness.

Unit 2 : Natural Resources (8 lectures)

Renewable and non-renewable resources:

Natural resources and associated problems.

a) Forest resources : Use and over-exploitation, deforestation, case studies.

Timber extraction, mining, dams and their effects on forest and tribal people.

b) Water resources : Use and over-utilization of surface and ground water, floods, drought, conflicts over water, dams-benefits and problems.

c) Mineral resources : Use and exploitation, environmental effects of extracting and using mineral resources, case studies.

d) Food resources : World food problems, changes caused by agriculture and overgrazing, effects of modern agriculture, fertilizer-pesticide problems, water logging, salinity, case studies.

e) Energy resources : Growing energy needs, renewable and non renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources. Case studies.

f) Land resources : Land as a resource, land degradation, man induced landslides, soil erosion and desertification.

- Role of an individual in conservation of natural resources.
- Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles.

Unit 3 : Ecosystems

(6 lectures)

- Concept of an ecosystem.
- Structure and function of an ecosystem.
- Producers, consumers and decomposers.
- Energy flow in the ecosystem.
- Ecological succession.
- Food chains, food webs and ecological pyramids.
- Introduction, types, characteristic features, structure and function of the following ecosystem :-
 - a. Forest ecosystem
 - b. Grassland ecosystem
 - c. Desert ecosystem
 - d. Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries)

Unit 4 : Biodiversity and its conservation

(8 lectures)

- Introduction – Definition : genetic, species and ecosystem diversity.
- Biogeographical classification of India
- Value of biodiversity : consumptive use, productive use, social, ethical, aesthetic and option values
- Biodiversity at global, National and local levels.
- India as a mega-diversity nation
- Hot-spots of biodiversity.
- Threats to biodiversity : habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man-wildlife conflicts.
- Endangered and endemic species of India
- Conservation of biodiversity : In-situ and Ex-situ conservation of biodiversity.

Unit 5 : Environmental Pollution

(8 lectures)

Definition

- Cause, effects and control measures of :-
 - a. Air pollution
 - b. Water pollution
 - c. Soil pollution
 - d. Marine pollution
 - e. Noise pollution
 - f. Thermal pollution
 - g. Nuclear hazards
- Solid waste Management : Causes, effects and control measures of urban and industrial wastes.
- Role of an individual in prevention of pollution.
- Pollution case studies.
- Disaster management : floods, earthquake, cyclone and landslides.

Unit 6: Social Issues and the Environment

(7 lectures)

- From Unsustainable to Sustainable development
- Urban problems related to energy
- Water conservation, rain water harvesting, watershed management
- Resettlement and rehabilitation of people; its problems and concerns. Case Studies
- Environmental ethics : Issues and possible solutions.
- Climate change, global warming, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, nuclear accidents and holocaust. Case Studies.
- Wasteland reclamation.
- Consumerism and waste products.
- Environment Protection Act.
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.
- Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act
- Wildlife Protection Act
- Forest Conservation Act

- Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislation.
- Public awareness.

Unit 7: Human Population and the Environment

(6 lectures)

- Population growth, variation among nations.
- Population explosion – Family Welfare Programme.
- Environment and human health.
- Human Rights.
- Value Education.
- HIV/AIDS.
- Women and Child Welfare.
- Role of Information Technology in Environment and human health.
- Case Studies.

Unit 8 : Field work

- Visit to a local area to document environmental assets river/
forest/grassland/hill/mountain
- Visit to a local polluted site-Urban/Rural/Industrial/Agricultural
- Study of common plants, insects, birds.
- Study of simple ecosystems-pond, river, hill slopes, etc. (Field work Equal to 5
lecture hours)

REFERENCES

- a) Agarwal, K.C. 2001 Environmental Biology, Nidi Publ. Ltd. Bikaner.
- b) Bharucha Erach, The Biodiversity of India, Mapin Publishing Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad – 380 013, India, Email:mapin@icenet.net (R)
- c) Brunner R.C., 1989, Hazardous Waste Incineration, McGraw Hill Inc. 480p
- d) Clark R.S., Marine Pollution, Clanderson Press Oxford (TB)
- e) Cunningham, W.P. Cooper, T.H. Gorhani, E & Hepworth, M.T. 2001, Environmental Encyclopedia, Jaico Publ. House, Mumabai, 1196p
- f) De A.K., Environmental Chemistry, Wiley Eastern Ltd.
- g) Down to Earth, Centre for Science and Environment (R)
- h) Gleick, H.P. 1993. Water in crisis, Pacific Institute for Studies in Dev., Environment & Security. Stockholm Env. Institute Oxford Univ. Press. 473p
- i) Hawkins R.E., Encyclopedia of Indian Natural History, Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay (R)
- j) Heywood, V.H & Waston, R.T. 1995. Global Biodiversity Assessment. Cambridge Univ. Press 1140p.
- k) Jadhav, H & Bhosale, V.M. 1995. Environmental Protection and Laws. Himalaya Pub. House, Delhi 284 p.
- l) Mckinney, M.L. & School, R.M. 1996. Environmental Science systems & Solutions, Web enhanced edition. 639p.
- m) Mhaskar A.K., Matter Hazardous, Techno-Science Publication (TB)
- n) Miller T.G. Jr. Environmental Science, Wadsworth Publishing Co. (TB)
- o) Odum, E.P. 1971. Fundamentals of Ecology. W.B. Saunders Co. USA, 574p

- p) Rao M N. & Datta, A.K. 1987. Waste Water treatment. Oxford & IBH Publ. Co. Pvt. Ltd. 345p.
- q) Sharma B.K., 2001. Environmental Chemistry. Geol Publ. House, Meerut
- r) Survey of the Environment, The Hindu (M)
- s) Townsend C., Harper J, and Michael Begon, Essentials of Ecology, Blackwell Science (TB)