

Environment and Development: Critical Issues and Perspectives (To be offered to MA Sem II and IV under cross listing scheme)

Course Instructor: Dr Archana Prasad

This course will deal with the main contours in the environment and development debates in the contemporary world with particular focus on India and the developing countries. The first part of the course will deal with the diverse theoretical perspectives within the debate and will draw material from worldwide literature. The second unit will concentrate on specific themes of major controversies and debates in contemporary India. In particular it will focus on specific issues in rural and urban ecology such as the question of large dams, climate change, agro-biodiversity, biotechnology, forests and wildlife policies. The thematic focus of the unit will be on the impact of these debates and environmental policies on the life and livelihood security of ordinary people. The last unit will focus on the ideologies of protest and contemporary environmental movements in India and other developing countries.

Method of Evaluation

The course will be evaluated on the basis of internal assessment (25%) and end semester examination (75%).

Internal Assessment

Internal assessment for the course will be based on evaluation of 25 by the instructor. The evaluation will be done on the basis of a term paper and its presentation. Students will choose specific topics from their course and make class presentations of prescribed readings.

End Semester Exams: The end semester exam will be held as per the university schedule and will carry 75 marks.

Attendance

Students are expected to have attendance as per the university rules.

Course Syllabus and Tentative Readings

Unit One: Theoretical Perspectives on Environment and Development

- Background and Key Concepts
- Classical Theories and Marxist Perspectives
- Radical Ecology and Feminist Perspectives

Readings

1. Kanchan Chopra and Gopal Kadekodi, *Operationalising Sustainable Development*, Sage 1999.
2. Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, Cambridge University Press, 1990.
3. Ramprasad Sengupta, *Ecology and Economics*, Oxford University Press, 2001
4. Ramachandra Guha, *Social Ecology*, Oxford University Press, 1998.
5. Paul Burkett, *Marxism and Ecological Economics*, Haymarket Books, 2009.
6. Richard Levins, *Talking About Trees*, Leftword Books, 2008.
7. Carolyn Merchant, *Radical Ecology*, Routledge, 1992.
8. Bina Agarwal, Gender and the Environment Debate *Feminist Studies*, 1992.

Unit Two: Environmental Debates in India

- Paradigms of Modern Development and Environment: Water and Agriculture
- Biodiversity and the Question of Inclusive Development: Forests and Wildlife.
- Technology and Environment: Climate Change, Urban Ecology and Biotechnology.

Readings

1. Archana Prasad, *Environment, Development and Society in Contemporary India: An Introduction*, Macmillan 2008. Most of the sections are covered in this reader by different essays.
2. Ramachandra Guha and Madhav Gadgil, *Ecology and Equity in India*, Oxford University Press, 1999.
3. Other readings to be added.

Unit Three: Contemporary Environmental Movements

- Origins of Environmentalism
- Ideologies and Perspectives in Environmental Movements
- Nature and Forms of Environmental Action

Readings

1. Joan Martinez Alier, *Environmentalism of the Poor*, UNRISD and OUP, 2002.
2. Ramachandra Guha, *Environmentalism a Global History*, Oxford University Press.
3. Archana Prasad *Environmentalism and the Left in India*, Leftword 2004.
4. Pratap Pandey and Sunita Narain, *The Anil Agarwal Reader*, CSE, 2007.
5. Mukul Sharma, *Green and Saffron: Hindu Nationalism and Environmental Politics*, Permanent Black, 2011.