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Assessment 'A'

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REVISED SYLLABUS 2012

Environmental Studies

(Under Graduate Course)

Effective from 2013 for the students of Sixth Semester

NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY
Shillong

ENVIRONMENTAL
Unit 1: Introduction to environmental studies & Natural Resources

- Definition, scope and importance of Environmental Studies
- Multidisciplinary nature of Environmental Studies
- Need for public awareness
- Natural resources and associated problems
- (a) Forest resources: Use and over-exploitation, Causes and effects of deforestation: timber extraction, dams, & mining, case studies from NE region.
- (b) Water resources: Use and over-utilisation of surface and ground water, floods, droughts, conflict over water, dams-benefits and problems, Water conservation, rain water harvesting, watershed management
- (c) Mineral resources: Uses and exploitation, environmental effects of extraction and using mineral resources.
- (d) Food resources: World food problem, changes caused by agriculture and overgrazing, effects of modern agriculture: fertilizer-pesticides problems, water logging, salinity.
- (e) Energy resources: Growing energy needs, renewable and non renewable energy sources.
- (f) Land resources: Land as a resource, land degradation, soil erosion and desertification, Wasteland reclamation
 - Role of individual and traditional institutions in conservation of natural resource
 - Equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyles

(16 lectures)

Unit 2: Ecosystems, Biodiversity and its Conservation

- Concept of an ecosystem
- Structure and function of an ecosystem: Producers, consumers and decomposers, Energy flow in an ecosystem and Nutrient cycling: Carbon and Nitrogen Cycle
- Food chains and food webs
- Ecological succession
- Examples of different types of Ecosystems.
- Introduction to biodiversity: Definition- genetic, species and ecosystem diversity
- Value of Biodiversity: Consumptive value, productive use, social, aesthetic & ecological values.
- Hot-spots of biodiversity, India as a mega-diversity nation.
- Threats to biodiversity
- Man-wildlife conflicts
- Endangered and endemic species of India
- In-situ and ex-situ conservation of biodiversity

(16 lectures)

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Unit 3: Environmental Pollution and Environmental Laws

- Definition, causes, effects and control measures of:
 - (a) Air pollution
 - (b) Water pollution (including marine pollution)
 - (c) Soil pollution
 - (d) Noise pollution
- Climate change (Greenhouse effect & Global warming), Acid rain, Ozone layer depletion.
- Solid waste management: Causes, effects and control measures of urban and industrial wastes
- Role of an individual in prevention of pollution
- Environmental Legislation Environmental Protection Act, 1986; Forest Conservation Act, 1980; Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Issues involved in enforcement of environmental legislations.

(14 lectures)

Unit 4: Social Issues, Human Population and the Environment

- Sustainable development
- Urban problems related to energy
- Resettlement and rehabilitation of people: its problem and concern
- Environmental ethics: Issues and possible solution
- Consumerism and waste products
- Population growth, variation among nations
- Population explosion-Family Welfare Programme
- Environment and human health
- Human rights
- Value education
- Role of Information Technology in Environment and human health
- Disaster management: Floods, earthquakes, cyclone and landslides

(14 lectures)

Suggested Reading

Agarwal, K. C. 2001. Environmental Biology, Nidhi Publication Ltd. Bikaner

Basak, A. 2009. Environmental Studies, Pearson Education India

Bharucha, E. 2004. The Biodiversity of India, Mapin Publishing Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad- 380013, India.