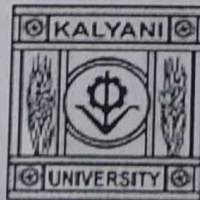


Syllabus
for
Under Graduate Compulsory Course
in
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
(Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course)
(AECC)
2018-2019

Under
Choice Based Credit System (CBCS)



UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI
WEST BENGAL

ABILITY ENHANCEMENT COMPULSORY COURSE (AECC 2) ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Unit 1: Introduction to Environmental studies

Multidisciplinary nature of environmental studies; Scope and importance; Concept of sustainability and sustainable development.

Unit 2: Ecosystems

What is an ecosystem? Structure and function of ecosystem; Energy flow in an ecosystem: food chains, food webs and ecological succession. Case studies of the following ecosystems:

- Forest ecosystem
- Grassland ecosystem
- Desert ecosystem
- Aquatic ecosystems (ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, oceans, estuaries)

Unit 3: Natural Resources : Renewable and Non-renewable Resources

- Land resources and land use change; Land degradation, soil erosion and desertification.
- Deforestation: Causes and impacts due to mining, dam building on environment, forests, biodiversity and tribal populations.
- Water: Use and over-exploitation of surface and ground water, floods, droughts, conflicts over water (international & inter-state).
- Energy resources: Renewable and non renewable energy sources, use of alternate energy sources, growing energy needs, case studies.

Unit 4: Biodiversity and Conservation

- Levels of biological diversity: genetic, species and ecosystem diversity; Biogeographic zones of India; Biodiversity patterns and global biodiversity hot spots.
- India as a mega-biodiversity nation; Endangered and endemic species of India.
- Threats to biodiversity: Habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man---wildlife conflicts, biological invasions; Conservation of biodiversity : In-situ and Ex-situ conservation of biodiversity.
- Ecosystem and biodiversity services: Ecological, economic, social, ethical, aesthetic and Informational value.

Unit 5: Environmental Pollution

- Environmental pollution: types, causes, effects and controls; Air, water, soil and noise pollution.
- Nuclear hazards and human health risks.
- Solid waste management: Control measures of urban and industrial waste.
- Pollution case studies.

Unit 6: Environmental Policies & Practices

- Climate change, global warming, ozone layer depletion, acid rain and impacts on human communities and agriculture.
- Environment Laws: Environment Protection Act; Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act; Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act; Wildlife Protection Act; Forest Conservation Act. International agreements: Montreal and Kyoto protocols and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Nature reserves, tribal populations and rights, and human wildlife conflicts in Indian context.

Unit 7: Human Communities and the Environment

- Human population growth: Impacts on environment, human health and welfare.
- Resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected persons; case studies.
- Disaster management: floods, earthquake, cyclones and landslides.
- Environmental movements: Chipko, Silent valley, Bishnois of Rajasthan.
- Environmental ethics: Role of Indian and other religions and cultures in environmental conservation.
- Environmental communication and public awareness, case studies (e.g., CNG vehicles in Delhi).