

Syllabus template

Semester: VII				
Programme : Sociology				
Course : Environment & Society				
Paper code: C4SO230711T			Credits: 6	
Hours/week : 4 hours/week				
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core				
Theory / Practical / Composite : Theory				
No of Modules : 2				
<p>Course Overview: This course introduces students to the study of environment and its relation to society. It provides a detailed knowledge of the history and emergence of a variety of sociological approaches to study the environment through ideas like ecological modernisation, and risk society and political and apolitical ecology to name a few. The course dwells on conflicts around environment and development as reflected in social movements, thus emphasising that there are no easy solutions to such conflicts in the context of the Anthropocene. It seeks to inculcate an appreciation for the environmental concerns, among the students by making them aware of the changing trends within sociology.</p>				
Course Outcome:				
1. Define key concepts related to the study of environment by sociologists like ecological dialogue, environmental justice, ecological modernisation etc.				
2. Explain the development of the discipline and the various shifts within environmental sociology.				
3. Apply sociological theories and perspectives to understand real-world environmental problems.				
4. Analyse the intersections and differences between different theories.				
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of policies, practices, and theories in addressing issues of social inequality and environment.				
6. Construct an informed understanding of environmental movements in India.				
Prerequisites: Basic knowledge about any prior course				
SYLLABUS				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	<p>Module A</p> <p>1. Introducing Environmental Sociology</p> <p>2. Approaches to Environmental Sociology:</p> <p>a) Treadmill of Production</p> <p>b) Ecological Modernisation</p> <p>c) Risk Society Thesis</p>	2 hours/week	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6
II.	<p>Module B</p> <p>3. Theories of Environment</p> <p>a) Political Ecology</p>	2 hours/week	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4	K1 K2 K3 K4

	b) Eco feminism c) Feminist Environmentalism 4.Environmental Movements in India- a) Water-based Movement b) Land-based Movement c) Seed Movement		CO5 CO6	K5 K6
Text Books:				
1. Bell, MM. (2008). An Invitation to Environmental Sociology. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage 3rd ed. Ch1.(pp. 1-7).				
2. Hannigan John. 1995 . Environmental Sociology Second Edition. Routledge : London and New York.				
3. Agarwal, Bina, (2007). The Gender and Environment Debate: Lessons from India. In Mahesh Rangarajan.(ed.) 2007. <i>Environmental Issues in I n d i a : A Reader</i> . New Delhi: Pearson, Longman, Ch19.(pp. 316-324, 342-352).				
Suggested readings:				
1. Gould, K. A., Pellow, D. N., & Schnaiberg, A. (2004). Interrogating the Treadmill of Production: Everything You Wanted to Know about the Treadmill but Were Afraid to Ask. <i>Organization & Environment</i> , 17(3), 296-316.				
2. Wright, E. O. (2004). Interrogating the Treadmill of Production: Some Questions I Still Want to Know about and Am Not Afraid to Ask. <i>Organization & Environment</i> , 17(3), 317-322.				
3. Mol, A. P. (2002). Ecological modernization and the global economy. <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> , 2(2), 92-115.				
4. Beck, U. (2006). Living in the world risk society: A Hobhouse Memorial Public Lecture given on Wednesday 15 February 2006 at the London School of Economics. <i>Economy and Society</i> , 35(3), 329- 345.				
5. Shiva, V. (1988). Women in Nature. In <i>Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development</i> . Zed Books.Ch 3.(pp.38-54).				
6. Khagram, S., Riker, J. V., & Sikkink, K. (2002). Restructuring the global politics of development: The Case of India's Narmada Valley Dams. <i>Restructuring World Politics, Transnational Social Movements, Networks, and Norms</i> , University of Minnesota Press. 14: 206-30.				
7. Robbins, P. (2011). <i>Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction</i> (Vol. 16). Wiley and Sons Ltd. East Sussex, U.K. Ch 1 (pp.10-25).				
8. Evanoff, R. J. (2005). Reconciling realism and constructivism in environmental ethics. <i>Environmental Values</i> , 61-81.				
9. O'Connor, J. (1994). <i>Is sustainable capitalism possible. Is capitalism sustainable? Political Economy and the Politics of Ecology</i> . The Guilford Press. Ch. (pp.152-175).				
10. Keller, J.C, Michael M. Bell et al (2020) 'Conclusion: Envisioning Futures with Environmental Sociology' In: <i>The Cambridge Handbook of Environmental Sociology</i> , (ch. 30 pp. 515-522).				
Web Resources				
1. Environmental Sociology; Swayam. URL https://onlinecourses.swyam2.ac.in/e-learning/preview/ugc19_hs30				

2. Ecology and Society https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/Home/ViewSubject?catid=sP9KhysDemvbqPHPOAmaYw==
3. 'Traditional seeds are very precious and need to be conserved in as many varieties as possible' Down To Earth. August 21, 2025 https://www.downtoearth.org.in/agriculture/traditional-seeds-are-very-precious-and-need-to-be-conserved-in-as-many-varieties-as-possible
4. Chhattisgarh: Agitators and police clash during anti-mining protests in Raigarh. Scroll India. December 28, 2025 https://scroll.in/latest/1089615/chhattisgarh-agitators-and-police-clash-during-anti-mining-protests-in-raigarh
5. Eco India: How rampant mining of the Aravalli is causing sandstorms in Delhi. Scroll India. July 23, 2023 https://scroll.in/video/1053063/eco-india-how-rampant-mining-of-the-aravalli-is-causing-sandstorms-in-delhi
6. Local communities continue fight to protect the Aravallis from mining destruction. Scroll India. April 18, 2026 https://scroll.in/article/1091993/local-communities-continue-fight-to-protect-the-aravallis-from-mining-destruction
Evaluation Theory CIA: 30 Semester Exam: 70
Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module : Modules -2 (35 marks each) Module A 1 long question out of 2:1X15=15 2 short questions out of 4: 2X10=20 Module B 1 long question out of 2: 1X15=15 2 short questions out of 4: 2X10=20

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Define key concepts related to the study of environment by sociologists like ecological dialogue, environmental justice, ecological modernisation etc.	K1
CO2	Explain the development of the discipline and the various shifts within environmental sociology.	K2
CO3	Apply sociological theories and perspectives to understand real-world environmental problems.	K3
CO4	Analyse the intersections and differences between different theories.	K4
CO5	Evaluate the effectiveness of policies, practices, and theories in addressing issues of social inequality and environment.	K5
CO6	Construct an informed understanding of environmental movements in India.	K6