Programme: M. A. (History)

Course Code: HSO-166

Title of the Course: Environmental History of India

Number of Credits: 4

Effective from AY: 2018-19

Prerequisites for the	It is required that the student be interested in the subject of	
<u>course:</u>	History, and be ready to put in sincere efforts to acquire knowledge in this area.	
Objective:	Environmental History of India is a course on a recently emerged topic of great significance in the subject of History. This course has the following objectives:	
	To cover in a systematic, comprehensive and critical way the nature, issues, problems and movements related to environmental history in India.	
	To discuss various problems, issues and debates relating to pollution of environment, changes in resource use, developmental needs and impact on environment from the beginning till the contemporary period.	
	To enable the students to comprehend the urgent need for environmental conservation, and appreciate the policy of sustainable development.	
	To encourage an interdisciplinary approach to environmental history.	
	To inculcate the spirit of environmental ethics.	
<u>Content:</u>	I. Introduction: Definition of Environmental History – Historiography - Sources. II. Habitats in Human History: Modes of Production and Modes of Resource Use – Gathering Stage to Industrial Stage.	4
	III. Man and Nature in Pre-Modern India: Hunter-Gatherer Societies to Agricultural Societies – the Eclectic Belief Systems and Cultural Ecology – Sacred Groves - Conservation from Above – Conservation from Below.	7
	IV. Environmental Change and Conflict in Modern India:	

	Colonial Interests on Forests, Forest Acts (1865, 1878 and 1927) and Policies – Systematic Conservation vs. Exploitation Debate – Issue of Shifting Cultivation - Settled Cultivators and the State – Decline of Artisanal Industry – Deforestation – Protests Against the British Forest Acts and Policies.	11
	V. Independent India: Policies towards Forestry - Forest Policy Resolutions and Acts (1952, 1980 and 1988) - Policies towards Environment - Role of NGOs - Environmental Movements: Chipko Movement - Appiko Movement - Scientific Conservation of Environment - Environmental Ethics - Major International Environmental Conventions and Protocols.	11
	VI. Economic Development and its Impact on Environment: Agriculture - Industry - Urbanisation and problem of Environmental Degradation – Issue of Sustainable Development - Rational use of Natural Resources – Other Alternatives - Conflict Between Socio-Economic Developments and Sustainable Development - Environmental Pollution and Methods of Control - Wild Life Conservation: Animals vs. Humans.	11
	<b>Note</b> : Field work/Study tour and presentations related to environmental issues and problems in Goa/Western Ghats shall be a part of this paper.	
Pedagogy:	Lectures/ tutorials/assignments/self-study/seminars/field work based write up.	
<u>References/Readings</u>	<ol> <li>Allchin, B. and F. R. Allchin, <i>The Birth of Indian Civilisation</i>, Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1968.</li> <li>Alvares, Claude (Ed.), <i>Fish Curry and Rice, A sourcebook on Goa, its ecology and life-style</i>, Goa, The Goa Foundation, Revised 4th edition, 2002.</li> <li>Arnold, David, and Ramachandra Guha (Eds.), <i>Nature, Culture, Imperialism, Essays on the Environmental History of South Asia</i>, Delhi, OUP, 1996.</li> <li>Bellamy, Patrick, <i>Dictionary of Environment</i>, New Delhi, Academic (India) Publishers, 3rd edition, 2007.</li> <li>Chakrabarti, Ranjan (Ed.), <i>Situating Environmental History</i>, New Delhi, Manohar, 2007.</li> <li>Dasgupta, P., <i>The Control of Resources</i>, Delhi, OUP, 1982.</li> <li>Desai, A.R. (Ed.), <i>Agrarian Struggles in India</i>, Delhi, OUP, 1979.</li> <li>Dhavalikar, M.K., <i>The First Farmers of the Deccan</i>, Pune, Deccan College, 1988.</li> </ol>	
	9. Fernandes, W. and G. Menon, Tribal Women and Forest	

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Economy : Deforestation, Exploitation and Status Change,
New Delhi, Indian Social Institute, 1987.
10. Gadgil, Madhav and Ramachandra Guha, The Use and Abuse of Nature (incorporating This Fissured Land An
Ecological History of India and Ecology and Equity),
(Omnibus edition), New Delhi, OUP, Fifth Impression, 2008.
11. Gill, Manmohan Singh, and Jasleen Kewlani (Eds.),
<i>Environmental Conscience Socio- Legal and Judicial Paradigm</i> , New Delhi, Concept Publishing Co., 2009.
12. Guha, Ranajit, (Ed.), <i>Subaltern Studies</i> , Vol. I, Delhi,
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13. Grove, Richard, and Vinita Damodaran. "Imperialism,
Intellectual Networks, and Environmental Change: Origins
and Evolution of Global Environmental History, 1676-2000: Part I." <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> , vol. 41, no. 41, 2006,
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India: A Historical Analysis". <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> ,
Vol.18, No.44 (Oct.29,1983), pp.1882-1896, and Vol.18,
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16. Guha, Ramachandra, The Unquiet Woods: Ecological
Change and Peasant Resistance in the Himalaya, Delhi, OUP, Berkeley : University of California Press, 1989.
17. Guha, Sumit, Environment & Ethnicity in India 1200-
1991, Cambridge, CUP, 1999.
18. Gupta, Sanjukta Das. "Accessing Nature: Agrarian
Change, Forest Laws and Their Impact on an Adivasi Economy in Colonial India." <i>Conservation and Society</i> , vol. 7,
no. 4, 2009, pp. 227–238. <i>JSTOR</i> , JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/26392982.
19. Harris, M., <i>Culture, People and Nature : An Introduction</i>
to General Anthropology, New York, Harper and Row, 1980.
20. Joseph, Benny, Environmental Studies, New Delhi, Tata
McGraw-Hill Pubg. Co., Second edition, 2009.
21. Krishna, K.V.S.G. Murali, and M.V.Venkata Rao, Our
<i>Environment</i> , Kakinada, Environmental Protection Society, First edition, 1998.
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of Economic Development, New Delhi, Serials Publications, 2008.
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<i>environmment, and sustainable local development</i> , New Delhi, TERI, 2002.
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	<ul> <li>25. Pouchepadass, Jacques. "Colonialism and Environment in India: Comparative Perspective". Economic and Political Weekly, Vol.30, No.33 (Aug.19, 1995), pp.2059-2067.</li> <li>26. Raju, A.J. Solomon, A Textbook of Ecotourism Ecorestoration and Sustainable Development, Kolkata, New Central Book Agency, 2007.</li> <li>27. Satya, Laxman D., Medicine, Disease and Ecology in Colonial India The Deccan Plateau in the 19th Century, New Delhi, Manohar, 2009.</li> <li>28. Sen, G. (Ed.), Indigenous Vision : People of India. Attitudes to the Environment, Delhi, Sage Publications and Delhi : India International Centre, New Delhi, 1992.</li> <li>29. Singh, K.S. (Ed.), Tribal Movements in India, Vo. II, New Delhi, Manohar, 1983.</li> <li>30. Smith, Frederick M. "A Brief History of Indian Religious Ritual and Resource Consumption: Was There an Environmental Ethic?" Asian Ethnology, vol. 70, no. 2, 2011, pp. 163–179. JSTOR, JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/41407269.</li> <li>31. Vayda, A.P., (Ed.), Environment and Cultural Behaviour, New York, Academic Press, 1969.</li> <li>32. Worster, D., The Ends of the Earth : Perspectives on Modern Environmental History, Cambridge, CUP, 1988.</li> </ul>	
Learning Outcomes	<ul> <li>Understand the environmental history of India through the ages, from the ancient to the modern.</li> <li>Comprehend the policy of restraint in ancient and medieval India and profligacy in Colonial and Independent India.</li> <li>Appreciate Cultural Ecology and its significance.</li> <li>Comprehend Environmental Ethics.</li> <li>Understand sustainable development, rational use of natural resources, renewable sources of energy, and methods of controlling pollution.</li> </ul>	