

Course Type	Course Code	Name of Course	L	T	P	Credit
OE	HSO 405	INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES	3	0	0	9

Course Objective

The primary objective of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions and debates in environmental studies. an emerging area of interdisciplinary research that reframes contemporary environmental challenges using approaches from philosophy, literature, language, history, anthropology, cultural studies and the arts. Environmental Humanities places scientific knowledge in dialogue with the key concerns of the humanities: how people think, feel, protest, vote and create.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Read the text and analyse it so as to understand why the Environmental Humanities is critical to environmental problem-solving in this age of global environmental crisis;
- Understand the role of literature, and the mainstream and new media in shaping our perceptions of the climate crisis;
- Importance of creating new, ethical foundations for the Age of the Anthropocene.
- Develop experience in using storytelling to envision new environmental paradigms and ways forward.

Unit No.	Topics to be Covered	Lecture Hours (42)	Learning Outcome
1	Foundations of Environmental Humanities & Key Concepts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Nature? ● Ecology and its two shades: the Shallow and the Deep ● Ecocriticism ● The conceptual development of the concept of “nature” ● Anthropocene vs. biosense ● Nature vs. culture ● Environmental ethics ● Sustainable development ● Environmental justice ● Environmental humanities as an interdisciplinary approach ● Ecosophy; deep ecology; ecocide; ecopoetics; ecofeminism; ecospirituality; ecotheology 	9	Role of art, literature and popular culture in shaping and reflecting beliefs about ‘the environment’; bioregionalism; environmental ethics and values; animals; posthumanism; climate change fiction; and the Anthropocene
2	Environmental Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Romantics ● TS Eliot ● Tennyson ● Robert Frost ● Abbey, "Down the River" to end. ● Dillard, "Spring" through "Stalking" 	9	Role of literature in understanding and addressing complex environmental issues from a problem-oriented, interdisciplinary perspective
3	Theorizing Ecocriticism This module will examine the critiques of ecocriticism, ecocritical theories, indigenous perspectives, Racial standpoints, non-human perspectives, ecofeminism, queer ecology, intersections of gender, work and ecology, and other relevant ecocritical theories	9	Exploring critiques of ecocriticism through literary texts and understanding environmental crisis through literary imagination

4	Women & Nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Atwood. SURFACING. • Greta Gaard, ed. ECOFEMINISM: WOMEN, ANIMALS, NATURE. • Ursula K. LeGuin. BUFFALO GALS AND OTHER ANIMAL PRESENCES. • Judith Plant. HEALING THE WOUNDS: THE PROMISE OF ECOFEMINISM. 	3	Analysing the intricate relationship between women and nature
5	Postcolonial Environments We will read fiction and poetry from Mahasweta Devi, Amitav Ghosh, Pablo Neruda, Chris Abani, Muriel Rukeyser, Indra Sinha and others.	6	As a study of Postcolonial Environments, this module will explore the imbricated chronologies of aesthetics, landscape ideology and historical trauma. We will examine the colonial origins of modern development, or “improvement,” as the material basis of the pastoral, the picturesque, and the sublime paying particular attention to the forced removal of local communities through parliamentary enclosure or corporate mandate.
6	African American Nature Writers Within African American literary contexts, this module will study the intersections of nature and culture in a variety of landscapes—wilderness or the “wild,” pastoral/antipastoral, urban and suburban—while also considering some of the themes and debates in the field of ecocriticism.	3	This module will help students comprehend African American artists (primarily writers with some attention to visual artists) through poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. This will further explore how they have imagined a cultural relationship to nature.
7	Ecocinema This module will examine the cinematic representation of nature FILM: In keeping with learning about animal rights and environmental justice arguments in the context of South Africa, we will read Alan Paton’s <i>Cry, The Beloved Country</i> (1948), a classic writing of environmental justice. We will view, too, a relatively recent film adaptation of the novel. <i>Film Cry, The Beloved Country</i>	3	This module will examine the representation of nature, ecology, and environment in cinematic texts
	Total Lecture Hours	42	

Reference Book

Huggan, Graham and Helen Tiffin. Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals and Environment. New York: Routledge, 2010.

Willoquet-Maricondi, Paula. “Introduction.” Framing the World: Explorations in Ecocriticism and Film. Ed. Paula Willoquet-Maricondi. New York: U of Virginia P, 2010. 1–22.

Macdonald, Scott. “The Ecocinema Experience.” Ecocinema: Theory and Practice. Ed. Stephen Rust, Salma Monani and Sean Cubitt. New York: Routledge, 2013. 17–41.

Soper, Kate. What is Nature? Culture, Politics, and the Non-Human. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 1995.

Buell, Lawrence. The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing and the Formation of American Culture. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995.

Suggested Readings:

- DeLoughrey, Elizabeth and George B. Handley. “Introduction.” Postcolonial Ecologies: Literatures of the Environment. Ed. Elizabeth DeLoughrey and George B. Handley. New York: Oxford UP, 2011. 3–39.
- Gadgil, Madhav and Ramachandra Guha. The Use and Abuse of Nature. New Delhi: Oxford UP, 2013.
- Garrard, Greg. Ecocriticism. New York: Routledge, 2004.

- Macdonald, Scott. "The Ecocinema Experience." *Ecocinema: Theory and Practice*. Ed. Stephen Rust, Salma Monani and Sean Cubitt. New York: Routledge, 2013. 17–41.
- Mukherjee, Upamanyu Pablo. *Postcolonial Environments: Nature, Culture and the Contemporary Indian Novel in English*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
- Nandy, Ashis. *The Savage Freud and Other Essays on Possible and Retrievable Selves*. New Dehi: Oxford UP, 1999.
- Rust, Stephen. "Hollywood and Climate Change." *Ecocinema: Theory and Practice*. Ed. Stephen Rust, Salma Monani and Sean Cubitt. New York: Routledge, 2013. 191–211.
- Saran, Renu. *History of Indian Cinema*. New Delhi: Diamond Books, 2012.
- Soper, Kate. *What is Nature? Culture, Politics, and the Non-Human*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 1995.
- Young, Robert J. C. *Colonial Desire: Hybridity in Theory, Culture and Race*. London: Routledge, 1995.
- Heise, Ursula K. 2010. Lost Dogs, Last Birds, and Listed Species: Cultures of Extinction. *Configurations* 18 (1-2):49-72.
- Nixon, Rob. 2011. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Cambridge, MA. : Harvard University Press.