DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE– 1 (DSE-1): Global Environmental History

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Global Environmental History	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**12 th Pass**	**NIL**

Learning Objectives

The objective of this course is to introduce the students to the emerging field of global environmental history. It will explore the transformations in the relationship between society and nature in various places and various time periods around the world. Drawing on environmental, political ecology, and historical geography studies perspectives, the course will introduce the concepts, methods and ideas of global history. Moving beyond regional and national scales of analysing historical processes, the following units elaborate the global interconnectedness of socio-environmental histories. The course adopts a chronological approach to address issues such as human interactions with other living species, modes of resource use, technologies of energy harnessing, migration, modes of transportation, nature protection, pollution, use of fossil fuel and carbon emission, and global warming, among others. Each unit focuses on a general period in history, based on major patterns and large-scale changes in the relationship between societies and the natural world. The role of human agency and unequal power relations in organizing, exploiting, and transforming the natural world will be the central focus of the course. This will enable students to critically assess how historical experiences provide insights in understanding what is happening to human-nature interactions today and to explore ways to achieve socially inclusive ways of addressing climate crisis.

Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of this course the student shall be able to:

- Understand the interconnected histories of the relationship between social formations and environmental transformations around the globe from prehistory to the present.
- Critique an understanding of environmental concerns based on a narrow scientific/technological perspective
- Discuss environmental issues within a socio-political framework.

- Identify the historical roots of current climate crisis.
- Apply interdisciplinary methods of Humanities and Social Sciences to understand the past.
- Examine the role of social inequality, i.e., unequal distribution of and unequal access to environmental resources. This is critical in gaining an understanding of the environmental crisis of the world - from the global to the local
- Locate solutions to environmental problems within a framework of greater democratisation of resource use.
- Problematise the notion of a pristine past and of perfect balance between human societies and nature in pre-modern times.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-3

Unit I: Thinking Globally in the Era of Climate Crisis

1. What is Global Environmental History
2. Interdisciplinary Approaches: Archaeology, Anthropology, Historical-Geography, Political Ecology

Unit II: Ecologies of Subsistence in the Early Societies

1. Human-animal interactions
2. Pre-Industrial Prime Movers and Fuels

Unit III: Into the Early Modern Condition

1. Emergence of the European Empires as Ecological Process; The Columbian Exchange
2. Early Colonialism and Environmental Transformations of the small islands-St. Helena and Mauritius
3. Global Cooling and General Crisis in the Seventeenth Century.

Unit IV: Fossil Fuel, Capitalism, and Planetary Environmental Changes

1. Industrial Agriculture
2. Steam Ships and Hydraulic Engineering
3. Cities and Environment

Unit V: The Great Acceleration and the Anthropocene

1. Carbon Politics; the Middle East Crisis
2. Anthropogenic Natural Disasters; Fukushima
3. The Anthropocene Debate

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit I: This unit will introduce the important themes and perspectives within the emerging field of global environmental history. The readings and discussion will help

the students to understand the interdisciplinary methodologies developed by environmental historians to examine source materials. **(Teaching time: 9 hrs. approx.)**

- McNeil, J. R. and Mauldin, E. S. (2012), A Companion to Global Environmental History. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, Introduction pp. xvi-xxiv.
- Conrad, Sebastian (2016), What is Global History. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 1-17, ["Introduction"].
- Corona, Gabriella (2008), "What is Global Environmental History?" Global Environment,
- No. 2, pp. 228-249.
- Bayly, C. A, et al., "AHR Conversation: On Transnational History," The American Historical Review, Vol. 111, No. 5, pp. 1440-64.
- Hughes, Donald J. (2001), An Environmental History of the World: Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life. London: Routledge, pp. 242-248 ["Bibliographical Essay: Writing on Global Environmental History"]

Unit II: This unit provides an overview on the nature and dynamics of human interactions with the environment in the pre-modern world. By focusing on the changing technologies and modes of energy harnessing, the themes discussed in this unit expects the students to explore how the relationship of humans with the animals, plants, landforms and water bodies in turn shaped social relationships, ideas and beliefs. **(Teaching time: 9 hrs. approx.)**

- Radkau, Joachim (2008), Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 45-54 [Chapter 2.2; "Humans and Animals: Hunting and Domestication"].
- Smil, Vaclav (1994), Energy in World History. Colorado: Westview, 1994 [Chapter 2 "Energy in Prehistory", pp. 15-27; Chapter 3 "Traditional Agriculture," pp. 28-91; Chapter 4 "Pre-Industrial Prime Movers and Fuel, 92-156].
- Bulliet, Richard (2005), Hunters, Herders and Hamburgers: The Past and Future of Human-Animal Relationships. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 205 -224.
- Edmund Burke III. "The Big Story: Human History, Energy Regime and the Environment" in Edmund Burke III and Kenneth Pomeranz, eds., the Environment and World History. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009. pp. 33-53.

Unit III: The first rubric of this unit explores how Empires of the New World transferred flora and fauna across continents, affected the demography of local societies and completely transformed landscapes. The second rubric explores how the colonial plantations resulted in rapid socio- environmental changes on oceanic islands, with special focus on the small islands-St. Helena and Mauritius. The third rubric explores the social and cultural impacts of the "Little Ice Age", or the global cooling that continued from the thirteenth through the eighteenth century, with special focus on interlinking climate change and the intensification of famines, and spread of epidemics in the seventeenth century. **(Teaching time: 9 hrs. approx.)**

- Crosby, Alfred W. (1986). Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900. New York. Cambridge University Press, pp.294-308.

- McNeill, J.R. (2012). “Biological Exchange in Global Environmental History”, in J. R. McNeill & E. S. Maudlin, eds., Companion to Global Environmental History. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 433-452.
- Grove, Richard H. (1995), Green Imperialism: Colonial Expansion, Tropical Island Edens and the Origins of Environmentalism, 1600-1860. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 16-72 [“Edens, Islands and Early Empires”].
- Brooke, John L. (2014), Climate Change and the Course of Global History: A Rough Journey. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 370-383 [“The Little Ice Age and the Black Death].
- Parker, Geoffrey (2013), Global Crisis: War, Climate Change and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. xxi-xxix [“Introduction: The ‘Little Ice Age’ and the ‘General Crisis’].

Unit IV: This unit studies the new energy regimes of the modern world, with a special focus on industrialization and a major shift towards fossil fuel. It offers a historical perspective on the increasing inequality of access to natural resources, especially in the context of industrialisation of agricultural production, hydraulic engineering, urbanization of natural resources, and industrial pollution. **(Teaching time: 9 hrs. approx.)**

- McKittrick, Meredith (2012), “Industrial Agriculture”, In J. R.McNeill & E. S. Maudlin , eds., Companion to Global Environmental History. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 411-432.
- Carse, Ashley (2014), Beyond the Big Ditch: Politics, Ecology, and Infrastructure at the Panama Canal. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, [Chapter 3: Making the Panama Canal Watershed, pp. 37-58; Chapter 6: “Canal Construction and the Politics of Water, 93-120; Chapter 13: “A Demanding Environment, 129-222].
- Bauer Jordan and Melosi, Martin V. (2012). “Cities and the Environment” in J. R. McNeill and E. S. Maudlin, eds., Companion to Environmental History. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 360-376.
- Culver, Lawrence. (2014). “Confluence of Nature and Culture: Cities in Environmental History”, in A. C. Isenberg (ed.), The Oxford Handbook of Environmental History. New York: OUP, pp. 553-572.
- McNeill, John R. (2000), Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World, New York, pp. 50-83 [Chapter 3: “The Atmosphere: Urban History”].

Unit V: This unit provides a critical historical perspective on contemporary environmental issues including the global-imperial competition to control oil resources, environmental issues created by nuclear plants, and issues related to carbon emission and global warming. This unit also introduces the concept of Anthropocene to discuss emergent concerns regarding the influence of humans on the planet’s history. **(Teaching time: 9 hrs. approx.)**

- Jones, Toby C. (2012), “America, Oil, and the War in the Middle East,” Journal of American History, Vol. 99, No. 1, pp. 208-218.
- Mitchell, Timothy. (2011). Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil. Lon-don: Verso, “Conclusion: No More Counting on Oil,” pp. 231-254.
- Smil, Vaclav (2005), “The Next 50 years: Unfolding Trends,” Population and Develop-ment Review, Vol 31, No. 4, pp. 605-643.

- Pritchard, Sara B. (2013), "An Envirotechnical Disaster: Negotiating Nature, Technolo-gy, and Politics at Fukushima," In Ian Jared Miller, et al. eds., Japan at Nature's Edge: The Envi-ronmental Context of a Global Power. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2013, pp. 255-279.
- Steffen, Will, Crutzen, Paul J and McNeill J. R. (2008). "The Anthropocene: Are Hu-mans Now Overwhelming the Great Forces of Nature", Ambio, Vol. 36, No.8, pp. 614-621.

Suggested Readings:

- Beinart William and Hughes Lotte. eds. (2007). Environment and Empire. Oxford: OUP, pp. 200-214 [Imperial Scientists, Ecology and Conservation]
- Beinart William and Middleton, Karen. (2004), "Plant Transfers in Historical Perspective: A Review Article". Environment and History, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 3-29.
- Bulliet, Richard. (2005). Hunters, Herders and Hamburgers: The Past and Future of Human-Animal Relationships. New York: Colombia University Press. pp. 205 -224.
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh (2021), The Climate of History in a Planetary Age. Chicago: The Univeristy of Chicago Press.
- Crist, Eileen. And Helen Kopina (2014), "Unsettling Anthropocentrism", Dialectical Anthropology, Vol. 38, No 4, pp. 387-396.
- Crosby, Alfred W. (2006). Children of the Sun: A History of Humanity's Unappeasable Appetite for Energy. New York: W. W. Norton. pp. 159-166 & pp. 117-158
- Dickinson, William. (2013). "Changing Times: The Holocene Legacy" in J. R. McNeil and Alan Roe, eds., Global Environmental History: An Introductory Reader. London: Routledge, pp 3-23.
- Fitzgerald, Amy J. (2015). Animals as Food Reconnecting Production, Processing and Impacts. Michigan: Michigan State University Press, pp 9-34.
- Freese, Barbara (2003), Coal: A Human History. Cambridge: Perseus Publishing, Chapter 8: "A Sort of Black Stone", pp. 199-232.
- Guha, Ramachandra. (2000). Environmentalism: A Global History. New York: Longman.
- Kalof, Linda. (2007). Looking at Animals in Human History. London: Reaktion Books. pp. 1-71
- Lewis, Simon L. and Maslin, Mark A. (2015). "Defining the Anthropocene", Nature,
- Vol.519(12March), 171-80.
- Malm, Andreas. (2016). The Rise of Steam Power and the Roots of Global Warming.
- London: Verso. pp.389-394
- McAfee, Kathleen. (2016). "The Politics of Nature in the Anthropocene" in "Whose Anthropocene? Revisiting Dipesh Chakrabarty's 'Four Theses,'" Robert Emmett and Thomas Lekan (eds.), RCC Perspectives: Transformations in Environment and Society No. 2, pp.65–72.
- McKenney Jason. (2002). Artificial Fertility: "The Environmental Costs of Industrial Age Fertilisers" In Andrew Kimbrell (ed.), The Fatal Harvest Reader: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture. London: Island Press, pp.121-129

- Moore, Jason W. (ed.) (2016) Anthropocene or Capitalocene?: Nature, History and the Crisis of Capitalism. Oakland: PM Press. pp. 173-195.
- Moore, Jason W. (2015), Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital. London: Verso, pp. 241-290 ["The Long Green Revolution: The Life and Times of Cheap Food in the Long Twentieth Century"]
- Morrison, Kathleen D. (2015). "Provincializing the Anthropocene", Seminar, No. 673, 75- 80.
- Nunn, Nathan and Qian, Nancy (2010) "The Columbian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 24, No.2, pp. 163–188.
- Radkau, Joachim (2008), Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment.
- Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sayre, Nathan F. (2012). "The Politics of the Anthropogenic", Annual Review of Anthropology, Vol. 41, pp. 57-70.
- Urry, John. (2013) Societies Beyond Oil: Oil Dregs and Social Futures. London: Zed Books, pp. 202 -240.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE– 2 (DSE-2): History of South East Asia – I

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course	Eligibility criteria	