

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE –DSE-16

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Ecotourism, Nature and Wildlife Photography (BS-DSE-16)	4	2		2	NIL	NA

Learning Objectives:

Students will learn how the emerging concept of ecotourism and outdoor recreation fits into natural resource management. Also in this digital age Photography can be used as a way of documenting and admiring nature. Specifically, this paper will take an approach that natural resource managers are in control of recreation and can actively plan and manage for the individual, social, economic, and environmental benefits associated with recreation and ecotourism. The paper will introduce students to identification of a potential site for ecotourism, future conditions like projected footfall and sustainability and Identifying management strategies and tactics that can transform a natural area into the desired condition. With digital photography becoming more affordable and taken up as a hobby by increasing number of people topics on nature photography have been introduced as it now forms an important part of ecotourism with everyone trying to capture their surrounding in their lenses. The paper will introduce students to what and how of digital nature photography and ethics associated with it. The paper focuses on developing the skills of student so that they may become inclined towards taking up ecotourism as a profession or pursue nature photography in future after doing advanced courses.

2.1 Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will learn about the origins and development of ecotourism as a new concept.
2. Students will learn about market strategies for ecotourism
3. Students will learn about basic equipment
4. Students will understand importance of aesthetic value of nature and how it can be used to generate finances
5. Students will learn about basic nature photography
6. Photographs or videos taken by students will form the basis of mini-research projects on the chosen subjects to greatly expand their knowledge beyond what they could observe in a brief moment in time.
7. Students will be going outdoors and work towards making their own nature photo albums

2.2 Course Contents

Theory

Credits: 2

Total Hours: 30

Unit 1: Ecotourism: Planning and management

No of hours: 12

Ecotourism: Definition, history, concept. Types of Ecotourism. Nature, Principles and guidelines of ecotourism, Characteristics and functions of ecotourism, Site selection, destination marketing, and managing the impacts of ecotourism on the environment and local communities. Carrying capacity, responsible tourism practices, and community participation. Ecotourism activities, such as wildlife watching, bird watching, and nature-based recreation, assessment of their potential impacts on the environment, Community Participation and Benefit Sharing

Unit 2: Photography

No of hours: 6

Film versus Digital photography (Pros and cons), The Camera: Point and Shoot, DSLR, Mirrorless, Videography, Phone. Basics of Spotting and photography. Different types of photography

Unit 3: Themes in Nature Photography

No of hours: 6

Renowned Indian and international wildlife photographers and documentary makers and their work; Subjects: Plants, Landscape, climate, Vertebrates and invertebrates, flowers, Pollution, native people; Drone photography basics, rules and etiquettes, Importance of Scaling in outdoor and aerial photography. Wildlife Sanctuaries and National parks of India and animals found there.

Unit 4: Wildlife Identification and Photography

No of hours: 6

Definition of Wildlife, identification of birds, mammals and other wildlife; Variable conditions in outdoor photography and composition of shots; Landscape, closeup, macro and micro photography. Assessment of right locations and seasons for photographing specific animals.

2.3 Practical

Credits: 2

Total Hours: 60

1. Understanding Ecotourism: Market and Market Trends, Ethics and Management using case study.
2. Key Principles and Characteristics of Ecotourism: Nature Area Focus & Interpretation, Environmental Sustainability Practice.
3. Demonstration of Basic Equipment: Use, Care and Maintenance (Binoculars, Spotting scope, Various types of Cameras and lenses).
4. Fundamentals of Camera Lenses and Accessories.
5. Basic Principles of Digital Photography (Using Masks and Make Digital Composites, Downloading, Scanning, Printing, Editing).
6. Saving, Storing and archiving your pictures
7. Identification of Wildlife through Various Identification apps.
8. Outdoor Photography: Insect photography, Bird photography, Animal photography, Nature photography.

9. Techniques for Capturing Shots (Using lenses effectively, Macro- vs Microphotography, wide-angles to Close-ups via Macros or Telephotos, Day/Night shooting aspects).
10. Scaling from Photographs.
11. Visit to Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park and making Wildlife Photo Album.

2.3 Essential reading

1. Jaime Seba (2011). Ecotourism and sustainable tourism : new perspectives and studies. Apple Academic Press
2. Ramirez F, Santana J (2019), Environmental Education and Ecotourism, Springer International Publishing
3. Sean T. McHugh (2018) Understanding Photography: Master Your Digital Camera and Capture That Perfect Photo, No Starch Press
4. Tom Ang (2018) Digital Photography: An Introduction, Dorling Kindersley
5. Jeffrey Rich (2018) The Complete Guide to Bird Photography: Field Techniques for Birders and Nature Photographers, Amherst media
6. Laman T , Melford M (2016) , The National Geographic Guide to Landscape and Wildlife Photography

Suggested readings:

1. Ballantyne R and Packer J (2013), International Handbook on Ecotourism, Edward Elgar Pub
2. Hansen Chris J (2014) Secrets of Backyard Bird Photography , Rocky Nook
3. Laurie Excell (2012) , Wildlife Photography: From Snapshots to Great Shots, Peachpit Press
4. Noraman Arlott (2015) Collins Field Guide Birds of India Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, HarperCollins Publishers Limited
5. Thompson R, (2007) Close-up and Macro: A Photographer's Guide . David and Charles

3. Teaching Learning Process and Assessment Methods

Facilitating the Achievement of Course Learning Outcomes**

Unit	Course Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Activity	Assessment Tasks
1 and 2	The case study approach with real-life examples from the field will give a better understanding of the subject and its applications. Basics of Planning and Management in Ecotourism	The traditional chalk and talk method will be supplemented with LCD projection system and use of visualizer for classes. Discussions and quizzes will be conducted to keep the students up-to-date with the information they have received and to gauge their conceptual understanding.	Internal assessment tests. Students will be given questions that are application based and require analytical skills They will have to submit a formulated questionnaire for assessment and defend it.
3	The next set of practical mainly deals with basics of	Students will be given hands on training with cameras , and available apps on the internet	Internal assessment tests. Students will be given questions that

	spotting and photographic instruments. Students will be introduced to Camera basics		are application based and require analytical skills Case studies discussions in relevant public health areas.
4 and 5	Importance of themes in Photography. Students will learn to identify common birds and wildlife of India. Field based research projects will develop interest in the subject, enhance their mental and physical health and motivate students to peruse research as a career in future.	Projection of videos or short movies available on the subject will enhance the understanding of the subject. Digital collection of pictures of Animals, Birds, bird's nests, wild fauna and flora will facilitate observation of their characteristic features with ease.	Internal assessment tests. Group discussions, book reviews, paper presentations, videos, animations, are some methods that can be employed for effective teaching. Project based reports, assignments and E-posters can also form an important part of learning regime.
6	Learn Scaling from photographs and Identify birds and other animals	Students will be given photographs from which they may have to find actual size of objects or area. Students will visit a bird sanctuary or wildlife sanctuary to test their identification and photography skills. Field based research projects will develop interest in the subject and motivate students to peruse research as a career in future. Laboratory visits to renowned institutions like WII, Dehradun and Field visits to various conservation sites like Jim Corbett National Park, Aravali Biodiversity Park and National Zoological Park, Sultanpur and Bharatpur Bird sanctuaries will provide students a practical or hands on knowledge of the subject. Students should participate in citizen science initiatives related to wildlife such as bird counts and uploading of the data on E-bird.org.	Assignment and class test. Students will prepare an Album of photographs and a field report
➤ Summative assessment: Semester-end written and practical examinations will be an indicator of student's learning throughout the semester and analyses			

comprehensive knowledge gained by the students.

(**Assessment tasks enlisted here are indicative in nature)

4. **Keywords**

Wildlife Photography, Ecotourism, National Park, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Camera, Lenses