

**B.A. (VS) Modern Office Management
Semester VI**

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE (DSE- 6.4)

Historical Perspectives on Environmental Consciousness

Offered by Department of History, College of Vocational Studies

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 | | |
| Historical Perspectives on Environmental Consciousness | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | Pass in class XII | NIL |

Learning objective:

This course is designed for vocational studies students to understand the Indian historical perspectives on Environmental practices from Ancient to Contemporary times. It analyses the close relationship between nature and culture. This paper will acquaint the students with the socio- political policies and practices through history. It would further help in developing better understanding of tourism practices.

Learning Outcomes-

1. Student will understand the significance of environment and environmental thoughts through ancient texts.
2. Will learn the importance of environment in civilization, religion and medieval thoughts and practices.
3. Learners will become aware of colonial land & forest policies and nationalist resistance to it.
4. The pupil will come to know about Independent India's approach to the environment.

UNIT I: An Introduction to History of Environment

(4 Weeks approx.)

Nature and Environment in Ancient Indian Texts- *Vedic* literature, *Dharmashastras* and *Puranic* Traditions. Indian Subcontinental Landscape. Environmental thought and environmentalism.

Unit II: Social Perspectives on Environment: Ancient to Medieval Times

(4 Weeks approx.)

Harappan Civilization: Environment and human relations. Urbanization and decline of Harappan Civilization. Nature: A key component of Jainism and Buddhism. Ecology and Landscapes in medieval Indian thoughts and practices.

Unit III: Colonial policies, Nationalist Sentiments and Environment

(4 Weeks approx.)

Colonial Land and forest policies: Ideologies and Implementations. Resistances to new regimes: Peasants, tribals and Pastoralists (Case studies from any two regions). Gandhi and environment.

Unit IV: Independent India: Environmental Policies and Implications

11 Hours

Environmental policies: Forests, Wildlife- Human Conflict. Development Vs Environment. Major environmental movements (*Chipko Movement, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Save Ganga Movement*): An Alternative Socio-Political Perspective.

Practical Exercises:

1. Interactive sessions through group discussions or group presentations shall be used to enable learning of Environmental history.
2. Supporting audio-visual aids like documentaries and power point presentations, and an appropriate field-visit will be used where necessary.
3. Assess the understanding of theory and practical by objective and subjective assessment (Class test, assignments, MCQs, Fill in the blanks and quiz).

Essential Readings

- Lahiri Nayanjot. ed. The Decline and Fall of the Indus Civilization. Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2002.
- Agarwal, Anil, et al, eds. The First Citizens' Report on the Environment in India. Delhi: Centre for Science and Environment, 1982.
- Agarwal Anil and S. Narain, eds. The Second Citizen's Report on the Environment in India, 1984-85. Delhi: Centre for Science and Environment, 1985
- Divyabhanusinh. The End of a Trail: History of Cheetah in India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Gadgil Madhav& Ramachandra Guha. This Fissured Land: An Ecological History of India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Grove, Richard, Vinita Damodaran and Satpal Sangwan, eds. Nature and the Orient: The Environmental History of South and Southeast Asia. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Guha R. Environmentalism: A Global History. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2001

Suggestive readings-

- McNeill J.R., Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of Twentieth Century World. New York & London: W.W. Morton & Company, 2000.
- Rajan S. Ravi, 'Toward a metaphysic of Environmental Violence: The Case of the Bhopal Gas Disaster' in Violent Environments. Edited by Nancy Lee Peluso and Michael Watts, 380-98. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2001.
- Rangarajan Mahesh, ed. Environmental Issues in India. New Delhi: Pearson, 2007.
- Rangarajan Mahesh and K. Sivaramakrishnan, eds. India's Environmental History. Two Volumes. Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2012.
- Ratnagar Shereen. Understanding Harappa: Civilization in the Greater Indus Valley. New Delhi: Tulika, 2001.
- Shiva Vandana. The Violence of the Green Revolution. London and New Jersey: Zed Books, 1993.
- 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.