



## **ESEI 380 Environmental Perspectives in India**

**Dr. Vijay Paranjape**

**Spring 2009 Course Syllabus**

### **Course Description:**

The course will give the students a broad understanding of the major environmental issues facing the country today. It will expose the students to case studies and experiences related to the innovative experiments being made by a vibrant and active civil society in India. In addition, it will provide the linkages between the traditional Buddhist and Hindu ecological legacies and their application to modern problems of industrialization, pollution, and degradation of biological diversity. Contentious and complex issues such as “large dams vs. de-centralized water systems,” “chemical farming vs. organic farming,” “intelligent urban planning vs. car-dominated megapolises,” etc. will be de-bundled and explained using real-time examples. Students will have the opportunity to be exposed to rural and forest-dwelling communities, and farmers struggling to maintain their independence and pride. The course takes provides a snapshot of the Indian environment through historical times and converging into the sustainable development paradigm of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies:**

The course will prepare the students to appreciate the complexities of environmental issues, analyze and understand them systematically, demystify the socio-economic and scientific aspects, and build up a capacity to arrive at personal positions and judgments about contentious environmental issues.

### **Course Requirements/ Evaluation:**

Students will be expected to be prepared for work in tropical forests and in rustic villages. The desire to explore and understand the diversity in the natural and man-made ecosystems, and policy challenges facing a developing India, will be the key pre-requisite for taking up this course. Each candidate would need to write a course paper not less than 3000 words on one of the themes selected by them. The course will end with group workshops on specific themes culminating with individual presentations.

Students will be evaluated by:

Participation/articulation in group discussions	30%
Rural field work	30%
Research paper	30%
Participation	10%

**Attendance requirements**

Class attendance is mandatory. As this is an intensive program, it is essential that students participate fully in coursework and all required academic activities. Excused absences may only be approved by the Resident Director, and students are expected to make up any missed work. Students may not make up for unexcused absences, and will be given a grade of zero for any missed work.

**Reading Material:**

- Draft National Urban Transport Policy (2005)
- First and Fourth Citizens Report on Environment (CSE)
- Our Common Future – Report by Gro Harlem Bruntland
- Sacred Groves in India – Seminar Volume (Agarkar Institute)
- Monocultures of the Mind (Vandana Shiva)
- Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development (Vandana Shiva)
- The Violence of the Green Revolution (Vandana Shiva)

**Suggested Reading:**

- National Environmental Policy (2006)
- National Water Policy (2002)
- National Forest Policy (1988)
- National Biological Diversity Act (2002)
- AERF Report on Sacred Groves (Archana Godbole)
- Integrated River Basin Management (Gomukh/Bothends)
- Environmental Policy, Law, and Practice in India (Vijay Paranjpye)
- Sanjay Gandhi National Park – Management Plan (Vijay Paranjpye)

Week	Topic	No. of Sessions 2 hrs/session	Tutor(s)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Orientation to the course in terms of different perspectives to environmental issues</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Approaching poverty reduction through the sustainable development paradigm</i></li> </ul>	2	Prof. Vijay Paranjpye Prof. Vijay Paranjpye
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Contemporization of traditional legacies for ecological conservation/ restoration of forests to be followed by the Group discussion</i></li> </ul>	2	Prof. Vijay Paranjpye
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Negotiated approach to integrated water management</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Water scenario in Maharashtra. Different NGO models of watershed management through people's participation</i></li> </ul>	1 1	Prof. Vijay Paranjpye Dr. Mukund Ghare
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Women and environment</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Solid Waste Management in Cities : Women's Participation</i></li> </ul>	1 1	Ms. Dipanwita Sengupta Ms. Laxmi Narayan & Ms. Purnima Chikarmane
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Wildlife Conservation &amp; Related Environmental &amp; Economic Issues and NGO success stories.</i></li> </ul>	2	Dr. Milind Watve
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Issues in Indian agriculture; Organic farming in today's context</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Fast Growing Urbanization &amp; Population Growth</i></li> </ul>	1 1	Mr. Ashwin Paranjpye Dr. Mukund Ghare
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Mitigating the global warming crisis through biotechnology options</i></li> </ul>	2	Prof. Vijay Paranjpye
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Tribal Rehabilitation through Environmental Conservation: BAIF Development Research Foundation's Model in different tribal communities</i></li> </ul>	2	Mr. Girish Sohoni
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Urban Development Planning in India : Evolution, systemic issues &amp; Problems</i></li> </ul>	2	Ms. Aneeta Benninger
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Sustainable Traffic &amp; Transportation Policy : Issues &amp; Problems</i></li> </ul>	2	Mr. Sujit Patwardhan & Mr. Ashok Srinivas
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Panel Discussion : Globalization, Poverty Alleviation &amp; Environment : Issues &amp; Challenges vis-à-vis international politics.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Concluding session</i></li> </ul>	1 1	Kumar Ketkar & Prof. Ram Bapat Moderator : Prof. Vijay Paranjpye Prof. Vijay Paranjpye
<b>Total</b>		<b>22</b>	