

Course title: Perspectives in Sustainability				
Course code: PPS 131		No. of credits: 2	L-T-P: 16-12-0	Learning hours: 28
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None				
Faculty: Faculty of Policy and Planning			Department: Department of Policy Studies	
Course coordinator: Shri Prakash			Course instructor: Shri Prakash	
Contact details: shri.prakash@teri.res.in				
Course type: Compulsory			Course offered in: Semester 2	
Course description: This course explores environmental sustainability in some of its ecological, social, economic and political dimensions. The concept has become important for policy-making. The aim of the course is to review some of the key concepts and debates on sustainability, with special reference to the Indian context. By the end of the course, students should command comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter of the course and a critical understanding of the theory of sustainable development.				
Course objectives: To equip the students with knowledge of ecological, social and economic sustainability and need for resource efficiency, particularly in Indian context. To create awareness of global scenario, sustainable development goals, climate change and the steps taken by other countries.				
Course contents				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1	Module 1: Introduction a. What is sustainability? b. Sustainability of what, for whom, for how long? c. Historical background and contemporary context: d. How did we get there? A short history of (un)sustainability e. Is the Indian economy sustainable?	2		
2	Module 2: Ecological aspects of sustainability a. The economy as an open system with limited resources b. Biodiversity losses c. Weak vs. strong sustainability d. New directions: industrial ecology and agro ecology	2	2	
3	Module 3: Social aspects of sustainability a. Differentiating social groups and the relationship to “sustainability”: b. Social groups and their impacts (“too poor to be green”?) c. Science vs. informal knowledge (traditional, local, activist): what implications for sustainability? d. Institutions and governance e. Environmental governance (decentralization, role of judiciary) f. State property, commons or private property? The example of forests in India	2	2	
4	Module 4: Economic aspects of sustainability a. Elements of environmental and resource economics b. Sustainable consumption c. Climate change d. INDCs, COP 21 and after	3	2	
5	Module 5: Political aspects of sustainability a. The political economy of the environment: b. Power, conflicts, and the uneven distribution of socio environmental costs and benefits c. The example of India: cities, water, plantations and forests and mining	3	2	
6	Module 6: Global perspective a. Global sustainability policies b. Sustainable development goals	2	2	

7	Module 7: Integration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Towards a sustainable India: b. Sustainability goals and economic development c. Role of Governments and civil society organizations as potential forces for sustainability d. Win-win solutions rarely exist: the need for innovations and courageous initiatives 	2	2	
	Total	16	12	0
Evaluation criteria: Weightage (%) Presentation of one article : 30% Assignment : 30% Final Examination : 40%				
Learning outcomes: By the end of the course students should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ command comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter of the course, and ▪ a critical understanding of the relevant theory and practice of sustainable development. 				
Pedagogical approach: The course will be delivered through a mix of classroom lectures and case studies discussions				
Materials: Suggested Readings: Lélé, S. (1991) Sustainable development: A critical review. <i>World Development</i> 19(6): 607-621 Haberl, H. M. Fischer-Kowalski, F. Krausmann, J. Martínez-Alier & V. Winiwarter (2011) A sociometabolic transition towards sustainability? Challenges for another Great Transformation. <i>Sustainable Development</i> 19: 1-14. [The “big picture”, as provided by a cutting-edge team at the Institute of Social Ecology, Austria] Martínez-Alier, J. (2002) Ecological economics: ‘Taking Nature into account’ (chap. 2). In: <i>The environmentalism of the poor: A study of ecological conflicts and valuation</i> , pp. 16-38. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. Gadgil, M. & R. Guha (1994) Ecological conflicts and the environmental movement in India. <i>Development and Change</i> 25: 101-136. Gerber, J.-F. (2011) Conflicts over industrial tree plantations in the South: Who, how and why? <i>Global Environmental Change</i> 21(1): 165-176. Jain, L.C. (2012) Poverty, environment, development: A view from Gandhi’s window. In: R. D’Souza (ed.) <i>Environment, Technology and Development</i> . New Delhi: Orient Black Swan. Kothari, A. (2013). <i>India 2100: Towards radical ecological democracy</i> . <i>Future</i> 56: 62-72.				
Additional information (if any): NA				

Course Reviewers:

Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, TERI, New Delhi.

Dr. Mala Narang Reddy, DMI, Patna.