

Course title: Basic Concepts of Sustainable Development				
Course code:	No. of credits: 2	L-T-P: 15-15-0	Learning hours: 30	
L: Lectures; T: Tutorials; P: Practicals				
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None				
Department: Natural and Applied Sciences				
Course coordinator:		Course instructor:		
Contact details:				
Course type: VAC		Course offered in: Semester 1		
Course description				
<p>The course seeks to develop a basic understanding of sustainable development while building a holistic view of the associated concerns and challenges. This course familiarizes students with complex relationships between social, economic and environmental processes for sustainable development.</p> <p>The course topics will be grounded in a practical, multi-disciplinary approach that will essentially focus on the inter-relationship of agriculture and food security, economics, environment and climate science, management, policy, anthropology and social studies, public health and nutrition, technology and engineering; thereby exposing students to current debates, inter-disciplinary perspectives in analysing constraints and opportunities as well as various approaches and responses to key developmental challenges.</p>				
Course objectives				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build an inter-disciplinary perspective on understanding sustainable development concerns. • To empower students to critically analyse different, often competing, definitions of sustainability driven by the perspectives and interests of societal stakeholders. • To provide students with a general introduction to approaches and responses towards mitigating the challenges associated with sustainability. 				
Course content				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1	Sustainable Development – Evolution, Approaches, Interpretations			
	<p>This is an introductory module in developing a basic understanding of the meaning, history, and efforts towards achieving sustainable development. The module also introduces the linkage between economic growth and human development while detailing all international and national efforts towards achieving sustainability. The focus areas covered under this module are:</p> <p>Industrial revolution, economic growth and development, environmental movement, our common future, weak vs strong sustainability, Earth summit and outcomes, human development, Millennium development goals: status (global and Indian), sustainable development goals: status (global and Indian), measuring sustainability</p>	5	5	
2	Challenges to Sustainable Development			
	<p>The purpose of this module is to gain familiarity with various challenges in the path to sustainable development. It discusses these challenges to deliver a clear understanding of how each of these domain-specific challenges need to be addressed differently. The specific domains covered under this module are:</p>	6	6	

	Extreme poverty and inequalities, agriculture, population & food security, public health and nutrition, education, natural resources (forests, biodiversity, energy, water), climate change, disaster – vulnerability and risks			
3	Responses to Sustainable Development Challenges			
	After gaining familiarity with the basic concepts and various challenges in the path to sustainable development, this module discusses the various approaches and specific responses that have been adopted to address and mitigate the sustainable development challenges. The strategies to be discussed under this module include: Participatory approaches, decentralized approaches, gender and human rights, technology and engineering, policy coherence, inclusive growth, role of business - Corporate Social Responsibility, in the circular economy and ESG reporting	4	4	
	Total	15	15	
Evaluation criteria				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assignments -- 20% – Minor Test 1: Written test [at the end of teaching of module 1] -- 15% – Minor Test 2: Written test [at the end of teaching of module 2] -- 15% – Major Test: Written test [at the end of the semester, full syllabus] -- 50% 				
Learning outcomes				
<p>Upon successful completion of the course, the students would be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – understand and internalize the concept of sustainability and become familiar with sustainable development goals, targets, and approaches. [Module 1; Minor Test 1] – become familiar with current debates and perspectives in analyzing constraints and opportunities for sustainable development. [Module 1 and 2; Minor Test 2] – develop a practitioner’s perspective towards environmental management. [Module 3; Major Test] 				
Pedagogical approach				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course will be delivered through lectures and tutorials that focus on developing a clear foundation of the core concepts of sustainable development and associated international and national efforts. • The course will also focus on classroom discussions and assignments to discuss current approaches and to develop student’s perspective towards addressing the domain-specific challenges. 				
Reading resources				
<p>Atkinson, G., Dietz, S., Neumayer, E. (2007). <i>Handbook of sustainable development</i>. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, UK.</p> <p>Blewitt, J. (2008). <i>Understanding sustainable development</i>. Earthscan Publications Ltd, The UK.</p> <p>Dresner, S. (2002). <i>The principles of sustainability</i>. Earthscan, London.</p> <p>Elliott, J.A. (2006). <i>An introduction to sustainable development</i>. Routledge, UK.</p> <p>Mulligan, M. (2010). <i>An introduction to sustainability, environmental, social, and personal perspectives</i>. Routledge.</p>				

Robertson, M. (2017). *Sustainability principles and practice*. Routledge, London & NY.

Sachs, J. (2006). *The end of poverty: economic possibilities for our time*. Penguin.

Sachs, J. (2015). *The age of sustainable development*. Columbia University Press.

World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987) Our common future. Oxford, OUP.

Student responsibilities

The students are required to come prepared with readings that are suggested during the class and ensure timely submission of assignments. They are also expected to participate and further strengthen their understanding of concepts through classroom discussions.

Course Reviewers

1. Dr. Swati Sharma (Kwatra), Assistant Professor, Department of Development Communication and Extension, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi, New Delhi
2. Dr. Manisha Choudhary, National Coordinator, Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) India, UN Environment Programme India Office, New Delhi