

Jamia Millia Islamia
Department of Economics
Four Years Under-Graduate (FYUG) programme
(w.e.f. 2024-25)

Title: Introduction to Environmental Thought	
Type of course: Value Added Course (VAC)	Code: 24-ECO-V-105
Semester: I	Credits: 2

I. Introduction to the course: Most people express concerns these days over deterioration of the natural environment, be it just around them (plastic waste), or the city they live in (air pollution) or even at the global level (ozone layer depletion). But expression of thoughts by many individuals for conservation of environment—for its social value—started many decades ago, across continents. Over time, the individual thoughts were shared by others—the common ‘agenda’ gave rise to environmentalism. The economic, social, political, religious (and other) positioning of different ‘groups’ resulted in varieties of environmentalism. Some of them could influence the framing of environmental policies in many countries, including India. Of course, some environmental policies have come about due to commitments made in international platforms. This course covers these elements, at an introductory level. No prior knowledge of any discipline is necessary.

II. Course Objectives:

1. To *understand* the origin and evolution of environmental thought
2. To *identify* and *contrast* the attributes of the varieties of environmentalism
3. To *connect* environmentalism with environmental policies in India
4. To *analyse* select environmental policies in India

III. Learning Outcomes: At the end of the course, students are expected,

1. To *identify* the changing contours of environmental thought over time and space
2. To *distinguish* between different types of environmentalism
3. To *appraise* the influence of environmentalism on policies and regulations in India
4. To *recognize* the broad features of the policy framework related to environment in India

IV. Course Contents:

Unit I: Evolution of Environmental Thought and Environmentalism

Introduction to environmental thought

Origin of modern environmental thought

Introduction to environmentalism and its varieties

Contrasting environmentalism in the industrial/ developed with non-industrial/ developing countries (environmentalism of the poor)

Environmentalism through international treaties

Unit-II: Environmentalism in India

Varieties of environmentalism in India

Contributions of judiciary in India on environmental matters

Indian environmental movements

Impact of environmentalism on policies in India

Unit III: Environmental Policies in India (selected)

Environment in the Indian Constitution (Fundamental Duties, other Articles and case law)

National Forest Policy (1988)

National Environmental Policy (2006)

National Water Policy (2012)

V. Reading List (with text books marked):

David Pepper (1993) *Eco-Socialism: from Deep Ecology to Social Justice*, Routledge. (Selected chapters)

Joan Martinez-Alier (2003) *The Environmentalism of the Poor: A Study of Ecological Conflicts and Valuation*, Edward Elgar. (Selected chapters)

Kanchan Chopra (2017) *Development and Environmental Policy in India: The Last Few Decades*, Springer. (Selected chapters)

Madhav Gadgil and Ramachandra Guha (1992) *This Fissured Land: An Ecological History of India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. (Selected chapters)

Madhav Gadgil and Ramachandra Guha (1995) *Ecology and Equity: The Uses and Abuses of Nature in Contemporary India*, UNRISD and OUP. (Selected chapters)

Mahesh Rangarajan (1996) 'The Politics of Ecology: The Debate on Wildlife and People in India, 1970-95', *Economic and Political Weekly*, September, Special Number, pp. 2391-2409

Mahesh Rangarajan (2006) *Environmental Issues in India: A Reader*, Pearson. (Selected chapters)

P Leelakrishnan (2022) *Environmental Law Case Book*, Sixth Edition, Lexis-Nexis Butterworths, New Delhi. (Selected chapters)

Ramachandra Guha (2006) *How Much Should a Person Consume: thinking through the environment*, Permanent Black. (Selected chapters)

Ramachandra Guha (2014) *Environmentalism: A Global History*, India Allen Lane. (Selected chapters)

Ramachandra Guha and Joan Martínez Alier (1997) *Varieties of Environmentalism: Essays North and South*, Routledge. (Selected chapters)

Vasant Saberwal and Mahesh Rangarajan (eds.) (2003) *Battles over Nature: Science and the politics of conservation*, Permanent Black. (Selected chapters)

Relevant policies from website of the concerned ministries

VI. Evaluation:

Internal tests Assignment (25 marks)

University examination Written unseen test in the usual pattern (one 20 mark question from each unit and 15 mark from all units, 75 marks in total)