

CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY
MONSOON SEMESTER 2021

M.PHIL. OPTIONAL COURSE: PO 636

COURSE TITLE: **POLITICS AND ECOLOGY: ENVIRONMENTALISM AND POLITICAL THEORY**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. V. BIJUKUMAR

Credits 4

Scheme of Evaluation: One Term Paper, One Book Review and End term examination.

The relationship between human beings and their natural environment occupies a centre stage in the political thinking of many philosophers from the ancient to the contemporary. The interface between the natural environment and human being produced many concepts and theories in political theory. It also brought certain political, philosophical, moral scientific, economic and cultural questions. In the contemporary world, environmental issues are increasingly emerging as the central issues in political debates. The courses offer a critical understanding of concepts and theories related to ecology and politics. The aim of the course is to introduce students to the current debates and controversies on environment in the realm of political theory. It also intended to compare and contrast green normative theory to existing political ideologies such as Socialism, Liberalism, Feminism and Gandhism.

Structure of the Course

Unit I: Ecological Thinking in Political Theory

- a. Human-Nature Relationship
- b. Ecological concerns in Political Theory
- c. Environmental Ethics
- d. Ecocentrism
- e. Anthropocentrism
- f. Deep Ecology

Unit II: Environmentalism and Political Ideologies

- a. Ecofeminism
- b. Ecosocialism
- c. Marxism and Ecology
- d. Gandhian approach to Ecology

Unit III: Ecology and Democracy

- a. Ecological Modernization
- b. Environmental Justice
- c. Ecological Citizenship
- d. Ecological Democracy

UNIT IV: Environment and Development

- a. Industrialism, economic growth and the environment.
- b. The concept of Sustainable Development
- c. Ecology, Poverty and Globalisation
- d. Environmental Political Action: Degrowth Movement

Essential Readings:

Agarwal, Bina (1992), *“Gender and the Environment Debate”*, Feminist Studies.

Barry, John (1999), “Marxism and Ecology”, in Andrew Gamble, David Marsh and Tony Tants (eds.), *Marxism and Social Science*, London: Macmillan Press Limited, pp. 259-279.

Barry, John (1999), *Environment and Social Theory*, London and New York: Routledge.

Barry, John (1999), *Rethinking Green Politics: Nature, Virtue and Progress*, London: Sage Publications.

Benton, T. (1989) ‘Marxism and natural limits: an ecological critique and reconstruction’, *New Left Review*, 178, 51-87.

Carter, Alan (1993), “Towards A Green Political Theory”, in Andrew Dobson and Paul Lucardie (eds.), *The Politics of Nature: Explorations in Green Political Theory*, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 39-62.

Carter, Neil (2007), *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Christine E., Gudorf and James E. Huchingson (2010), *Boundaries: A Casebook in Environmental Ethics*, Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press, pp. 3- 28.

Christoff, Peter (1996), “Ecological Citizens and Ecologically Guided Democracy”, in Brian Doherty and Marius de Geus (eds.), *Democracy and Green Political Thought: Sustainability, Rights and Citizenship*, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 150-166.

Dobson, Andrew and Robyn Eckersley (eds.), (2006), *Political Theory and the Ecological Challenge*, Cambridge: Oxford University Press.

Dryzek, John S. and David Schlosberg (2005), *Debating The Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Eckersley, Robyn (1992), *Environmentalism and Political Theory: Toward an Ecocentric Approach*, London: UCL Press.

Ensensburger, Hans-Magnus (1974), 'A Critique of Political Ecology', *New Left Review* 84, pp.3-32.

Hardin, Garrett (1998), "The Tragedy of the Commons", *Science, New Series*, Vol. 280, No. 5364, 1 May, pp. 682-683.

Harribey, Jean-Marie (2008), "Ecological Marxism or Marxian Political Ecology?", in Jacques Bidet and Stathis Kouvelakis (eds.), *Critical Companion to Contemporary Marxism*, Boston: Brill, pp. 189-207.

Harris, Frances (2004), "Sustianable Development", in Frances Harris (ed.), *Global Environmental Issues*, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons Inc, pp. 265-276.

Hugh P. McDonald (2004), *John Dewey and Environmental Philosophy*, New York: State University of New York Press, Chapter1: "Environmental Ethics and Intrinsic Value", pp. 1- 56

Jackson, Cecile (1994), "Gender Analysis and Environmentalisms", in Michael Redcliff and Ted Benton (eds.), *Social Theory and the Global Environment*, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 113-149.

Jayal, Niraja Gopal (2001), "Balancing Political and Ecological Values", *Environmental Politics*, Vol. 10, No.1, 65-88.

Merchant, Carolyn (2005), *Radical Ecology: The Search for a Livable World*, New York and London: Routledge, Chapter 4: "Deep Ecology", pp. 91-115.

Naess, A. (1988) 'Deep Ecology and Ultimate Premises.' *The Ecologist*, Vol. 18, No. 4-5, pp.128-31.

Pepper, David (1996), *Modern Environmentalism: An Introduction*, London and New York: Routledge.

Plumwood, Val (1996), "Androcentrism and Anthrocentrism: Parallels and Politics", *Ethics and the Environment*, Vol. 1, No.2, Fall, pp. 119-152.

" Please note that the course content is intended for a regular one semester course (four months). If there are changes in the duration of the semester, corresponding modifications will be applied with reference to the topics, class lectures and readings"