

HSS: Environment and Human Behavior

Programme: B. Tech. (ALL)

Year: 2021-22

Semester: VI

Course: Open Elective

Credits: 3

Hours: 40

Course Context and Overview (100 words):

One of the course objectives is for students to understand the applications of psychological principles concepts to build a sustainable environment. In addition, it also aims to address the complex relationship between human behavior and the environment. The course encourages students to use critical thinking to evaluate human behavior, develop environment-friendly designs, and encourage pro-environment behavior.

Prerequisites Courses (If any): None

Course outcomes (COs):

On completion of this course, the students will have the ability to:
CO1- Students will develop an objective understanding of the environmental psychology
CO2 - Students will be able to understand the influence of environmental factors on human well-being and behavior
CO3 - Students will be able to understand the complex relationship between human behavior and the environment
CO4 - Students will be able to adopt and promote pro-environmental behavior

Course Topics:

Topics	Lecture Hours
UNIT 1 Environmental Psychology: Introduction	6
Historical background, scope, and methods	
Environmental: Perception, Cognition, Attitudes, Appraisals, Assessments, and Personality	

UNIT 2 – Influence of Environment on behavior and well-being	12
<p>Personal Space, Territoriality, Crowding and Privacy</p> <p>Environmental Risk Perception, Climate Change as a Unique Environmental Problem, Environmental Stress, Health Benefits of Nature, Restorative Environments, and Appraising and Designing Built Environments that Promote Well-Being and Healthy Behavior, Environment, and Quality of Life, and Place Attachment</p>	
UNIT 3 – Factors Influencing Environmental Behavior	12
<p>Values and Pro-Environmental Behavior, Social Norms and Pro-Environmental Behavior, Emotions and Pro-Environmental Behavior, Symbolic Aspects of Environmental Behavior,</p> <p>Social Dilemmas: Motivational, Individual, and Structural Aspects Influencing Cooperation</p> <p>Theories to Explain Environmental Behavior, The Role of Group Processes in Environmental Issues, Attitudes, and Behaviors, Automaticity on Environmental Behavior</p>	
UNIT 4 – Encouraging Pro-environmental behavior	10
<p>Informational Strategies to Promote Pro-Environmental Behavior: Changing Knowledge, Awareness, and Attitudes, Encouraging Pro-Environmental Behavior with Rewards and Penalties, Persuasive Technology to Promote Pro-Environmental Behavior, Acceptability of Environmental Policies, Processes of Change, Simulating Social Environmental System, Environmental Issues in Low- and Middle-Income Countries</p>	

Text Book:

- Gifford, R. (2007). *Environmental psychology: Principles and practice* (p. 372). Colville, WA: Optimal Books.
- Paul A. Bell, Thomas C. Greene, Jeffrey D. Fisher, Andrew S. Baum *Environmental Psychology*. Rutledge Taylor and Francis Group.
- Steg, L., van den Berg, A. E., & de Groot, J. I. M. (Eds.). (2013). *Environmental psychology: An introduction*. BPS Blackwell.

Reference Books:

- Bechtel, R.B. & A. CHURCHMAN, (2002) *Handbook of Environmental Psychology*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York

Additional Resources:

- Relevant Video Lectures will be announced in the class.
- Web Resources and research articles will be provided through google group/ Google Classroom.

Evaluation Methods:

<i>Items</i>	<i>Weightage</i>
Mid-term	25%
Final Examination	35%
Quiz	10%
Group Discussion	10%
Term Paper and Presentation	20%
Total	100

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