

**Department of Religious Studies**  
**Central University of Kashmir**  
**Curriculum Transactional Strategy (CTS)**  
**OGE-110-RE: Religion and Ecology**

S. No.	Course Code	Title of the Course	Type of the Course	Credits	Max. Marks CIA	Max. Marks ESE
	OGE-110-RE	Religion and Ecology	OGE	4	40	60

Unit	Topic	Methodology	No. of class needed
<b>Unit -I</b>  Introduction to Environment and Ecology	Definition and concept of environment and ecology.	Lecture Discussion/PPT	4
	Theories of Environment, Gai theory, Eco-feminism, Deep ecology and Shallow ecology.	Lecture Discussion	3
	Historical development of the discipline of ecology	Lecture Discussion	3
	Approach of Religion to Ecology	Lecture Discussion	2

### Learning Outcomes

After going through this unit, the student will be able to:

- know the concept of environment: air, water, land, living organism and materials surrounding us and their interaction.
- define ecology and ecosystem.
- explain the scope of environment and its global and local importance.
- discuss some of the main theories of environment and its relevance.
- explain historical development of the discipline of ecology.
- know the need for studying environmental issues.

### Activities

- Preparation of Assignment
- Preparation of PPT for presentation in the class

### Points for Discussion

- How would environmental awareness help to protect our environment?
- What are the functions of an ecosystem?
- How the principle of ecological balance is ingrained in each religion?

- What is Lynn White's debate in the growth of the field of Religion and Ecology?
- What is ecology? What is religious about ecology?
- Trace the historical development of ecology as a distinct discipline.
- What is the approach of religion to ecology?

Unit	Topic	Methodology	No. of class needed
Unit -II Ecological values in Indic Religion	Ecological theme in religious texts	Lecture Discussion	5
	Eco-friendly ritual practices in Indic religious traditions	Lecture Discussion/PPT	4
	Ecological images, cosmology and metaphors in Indic Religion	Lecture Discussion	3
	Commonalities of ecological contents in Indic Religions	Lecture Discussion	3

### Learning Outcomes

After going through this unit, the student will be able to:

- understand the implicit ecology in canonical texts of Indic religious traditions.
- know human-nature relationship in the context of modernity.
- differentiate the intrinsic value from the instrumental value of the environment.
- explain environmental values commonly found in religious traditions.
- state Eco-friendly ritual practices in Indic religious traditions.
- describe Ecological images, cosmology and metaphors in Indic Religion.
- explain the sacred geography of respective tradition in Indic Religion.

### Activities

- Preparation of Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA)
- Preparation of PPT for the presentation in the class

### Points for Discussion

- Discuss the ecological implication of the concept of Dependent Origination (*Pratityasamutpada.*)
- What are images and metaphors of nature in Hindu Scriptures and their bearing on ecological insights?
- Discuss how mount Meru is sacred mount in trio Indic religions.
- Explain how *Parasparopagraho Jivnam* (Interdependence) of Jainism is in-tune with the ecosystem?

- What do you understand by the term “engaged religion” in the context of Religion and Ecology?
- Critically examine the belief that nature is the dwelling place of gods.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>No. of class needed</b>
<b>Unit -III</b> Ecology in Semitic Religions	Man-nature relationship in Judaism	Lecture Discussion	5
	Principle of stewardship in Christianity	Lecture Discussion	2
	Man as <i>Khalifa</i> of nature in Islam	Lecture Discussion/PPT	4
	Eco-theosophy of Semitic religions	Lecture Discussion	3

### **Learning Outcomes**

After going through this unit, the student will be able to:

- describe and analyze the narratives that exists within Islamic tradition (*ahadith*) with respect to ecology.
- know how Old Testament looks at nature as a whole.
- state the Prophet Muhammad’s attitude toward the flora and fauna.
- discuss what is the place of human beings among other beings in Christianity?
- evaluate the theosophic Sufism to reconstruct ecological message from esoteric tradition of Islam.
- reconstruct the ecological message from esoteric tradition of Judaism and Christianity.

### **Activities**

- Preparation of Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA)
- Preparation of PPT for the presentation in the class
- Film Screening

### **Points for Discussion**

- To what extent Islamic ecological precepts are being applied by Muslim individuals, organizations, and governments.
- Critically examine the anthropocentric verse of the Qu’ran.
- “Christianity bears a huge burden of guilt” for ecological crisis. What is your response to this allegation?

- Identify and evaluate the distinctive ecological attitudes, values embedded in Islamic teachings.
- What is your suggestion to bridge a gap that exists between the precepts and the practice?
- Discuss the major changes which have been brought in the Jewish tradition by eco-theologians.

Unit	Topic	Methodology	No. of class needed
<b>Unit -IV</b> Ecological Challenges and Religion	Over population, Urbanization, Industrialization and Waste Management	Lecture/	4
	Pollution, Deforestation, Desertification	Discussion/PPT	4
	Global warming, Ozone Layer Depletion and Bio-Magnification	Lecture/PPT	3
	Religious institution for protection of environment.	Lecture	3

### Learning Outcomes

After going through this unit, the student will be able to:

- understand the environment related urban problems and pollution.
- discuss the characteristics and patterns of Urban population.
- discuss the thinning of Ozone Layer and factors responsible for Ozone layer depletion.
- describe impact of enhanced greenhouse effects climatic and natural process.
- discuss the characteristic and pattern of urban population.
- State the method of waste management in order to minimize the adverse effect of solid waste.
- analyse the agents responsible for ozone layer depletion.

### Activities

- Preparation of Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA).
- Preparation of PPT for the presentation in the class.
- Documentary Screening

### Points for Discussion

- Define pollution. Name various atmospheric pollutants.
- What are the natural and man-made pollutants that cause air pollution?
- Give an account of noise generated during diwali. What would you suggest to reduce this menace?

- Enumerate with examples the major sources of surface water pollution and ground water pollution.
- What are the sources of urban and industrial wastes?
- What are greenhouse gases and greenhouse effect? Discuss the potential and contribution of these gases to global warming phenomenon.
- What is meant by acid rain? How does it form?
- What is meant by 'population explosion'? Discuss the Indian scenario.
- What is the role of religion in conservation of environment?
- Debate on noise pollution, with reference to religious rituals.

### **Suggested Readings**

1. Fritjof Capra, 1997. *The Web of Life: A New Scientific Understanding of Living Systems*, Allhabad: Flamingo.
2. Walting, Tony. 2009, *Ecological Imagination in the world Religions: An Ethnographic Analysis* New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.
3. Barnhill, David Landis Roger, and S. Gottlieb (eds.), 2001, *Deep Ecology and World Religions: New Essay on Sacred Ground*, New York: State University Press.
4. Chapple, Christopher Key and Mary Evelyn Tucker (eds.), 2000. *Hinduism and Ecology: The intersection of Earth, Sky and water*, New York: Harvard University Press.
5. Kapila Vatsyayan, 1997. (ed.), *Prakrti: The Integral Vision*, New Delhi: Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.
6. Chapple, Christopher Key., (ed.), 2009, *Yoga and Ecology: Dharma for the Earth*. Hampton: Deepak Heritage Press.
7. Dwivedi, O. P. and B. N. Tiwari, 1987, *Environmental Crisis and Hindu Religion*, Delhi: Gitanjali Publishing House.
8. Chapple, Christopher Key., (ed.) 2004, *Jainism and Ecology: Nonviolence in the Web of life*, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
9. Bikku, J. Kashyap, 1982. *The Abhiddhmma Philosophy*, Delhi: Bharthiya Vidya Prakashan.
10. Hessel, Dieter T. and Rosemary Radford Reuther, (eds.), 2000, *Christianity and Ecology*, USA: Harvard University Press.