## Teaching Plan for Academic Year 2021-22

**PAPER: Politics of Nature**

**SEMESTER: III**

**SESSION: 2021-22**

**TEACHER'S NAME: Mr. Rakesh Kumar**

**Syllabus:**

**Unit 1: ‘Spaceship called earth’ – competition for bounded resources and livelihoods**

**Unit 2: Energy in Human History: –**

a. Before the era of coal, gas and oil

b. Era of fossil energy

**Unit 3: Ecological Imperialism**

a. Flora-fauna transfer

b. Diseases and Migration

**Unit 4: Unequal access and Industrial Production,**

a. Industrial Agriculture

b. Gendered access to natural resources

c. Cities and inequalities

**Unit 5: Anthropocene**

a. Climate change and writing ecological histories

b. Debating the Anthropocene / Capitalocene

**Course Description**

This introductory course familiarizes students with the major themes in the history of human organization of nature -- for food, energy and raw materials. It studies the long-term transformations in the organization of Nature by the state and to manage energy production, plant and animal transfers, circulation of commodities and people, urbanization and industrialization of production. This will help students understand the ecological articulation of social inequalities including class, gender, ethnicity, caste, and nationality. By focusing on the planetary scale of ecological interconnectedness students will learn how to situate the politics of Nature that integrates extremes: poverty in the fertile plains, the development of cities and related environmental degradation elsewhere, scarcity of energy where dams and mines exists, and inequalities produced by carbon-energy regimes. Unit 5 will introduce the students to the issues and debates related to the ecological predicaments of the twenty-first century in a historical perspective.

## TEACHING TIME (No. Of Weeks)

## 14 weeks approximately (70 classes+ 42 Tutorials)

## CLASSES

The course is organized around daily lectures as per the timetable. Students will be given reading assignments each week to help them follow the course content. These readings will be discussed in class in detail. The presentation shall focus either on important themes covered in the class lectures, or on specific readings. Interactive sessions through group discussions or group presentations. shall be used to enable un-learning of prevailing misconceptions about historical developments and time periods, as well as to facilitate revision of issues outlined in the lectures. Supporting audio-visual aids like documentaries and power point presentations, and an appropriate field-visit will be used where necessary.

* **ASSESSMENT**

**Internal Assessment: 25 Marks**

Students will be regularly assessed for their grasp on debates and discussions covered in class. Two written submissions; one of which could be a short project, will be used for final grading of the students. Students will be assessed on their ability to explain important historical trends and thereby engage with the historical approach. Students in this course will primarily have three modes of assessment:

1) Written assignment

2) Presentation

3) Class Test

Two assignments of 5 marks each. Students will have to write one essay-based assignment inclusive of bibliographies, and for the second assignment, they will have to prepare a presentation. There will be a Class Test of 10 marks. It will take place tentatively after the mid-semester break.

Additionally, there are 5 marks for Attendance

**Essential Readings:**

* Bhattacharya, Neeladri. (1995). “Pastoralists in a Colonial World”, in David Arnold & Ramachandra Guha, eds., Nature, Culture, Imperialism: Essays on the Environmental History of South Asia. Delhi: Oxford University Press. pp. 49-85. (Available in Hindi also)
* Swaminathan, M S. (2008), ‘Agriculture on Spaceship Earth’, in Mahesh Rangarajan, ed., Environmental Issues in India. Delhi: Pearson. pp.161-183. (Available in Hindi also)
* Burke III, Edmund. (2009), “The Big Story: Human History, Energy Regime and the Environment” in Edmund Burke III and Kenneth Pomeranz, eds., The Environment and World History. Berkeley: University of California Press. pp. 33-53.
* Bulliet, Richard. (2005). Hunters, Herders and Hamburgers: The Past and Future of Human-Animal Relationships. New York: Colombia University Press.
* Urry, John. (2013). ‘The Century of Oil’, in Societies Beyond Oil: Oil Dregs and Social Futures. London: Zed Books. pp. 36-52.
* Crosby, Alfred W. (2006). Children of the Sun: A History of Humanity’s Unappeasable Appetite for Energy. New York: W. W. Norton. pp. 159-166 & pp. 117-158.
* Crosby, Alfred W. (1988), “Ecological Imperialism: The Overseas Migration of Western Europeans as a Biological Phenomenon” in Donald Worster, ed., The Ends of the Earth. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp. 104-105.
* Cronon, William. (1983). Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England. New York: Hill and Wang, pp.3-18.
* Crosby, Alfred W. (1967). “Conquistadory Pestilencia: The First New World Pandemic and the Fall of the Great Indian Empires”. The Hispanic American Historical Review, Vol.47(No. 3), pp.321-337.
* Kroese, Ron. (2002). “Machine Logic: Industrializing Nature and Agriculture”, in Andrew Kimbrell, ed., The Fatal Harvest Reader: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture. London: Island Press. pp. 87-91
* McKittrick, Meredith. (2012). “Industrial Agriculture”, in J. R. McNeill & E. S. Maudlin, eds., Companion to Global Environmental History. Oxford: Blackwell. pp. 411-432.
* Agarwal, Bina. (1992). “The Gender and Environment Debate: Lessons from India”. Feminist Studies, Vol. 18(No. 1), pp. 119-158.
* Merchant, Carolyn. (2017). ‘Gender and Environmental History’, in J. R. McNeill and Alan Roe, eds., Global Environmental History. London: Routledge. pp. 82-87.
* Bauer, Jordan and Melosi, Martin V. (2012). “Cities and the Environment” in J. R. McNeill and E. S. Maudlin, eds., Companion to Environmental History. Oxford: Blackwell. pp. 360-376.
* Heynen, Nik, Kaika, Maria and Swyngedouw, Erik. (2006). ‘Urban Political Ecology: Politicizing the production of Urban nature” in Nik Heynen et al. eds., In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political Ecology and Politics of Urban Metabolism. London: Routledge. pp. 1-19.
* White, Sam. (2012). ‘Climate Change in Global Environmental History’ in J. R. McNeill and E. S. Maudlin, eds., Companion to Environmental History. Oxford: Blackwell. pp. 394-410.
* Lewis, Simon L. and Maslin, Mark A. (2015). “Defining the Anthropocene”, Nature, Vol. 519, pp. 171-80.
* Steffen, Will, Crutzen, Paul J. and McNeill, J. R. (2008). “The Anthropocene: Are Humans Now Overwhelming the Great Forces of Nature”. Ambio, Vol. 36(No,8), pp. 614-621
* Moore Jason W. (ed.,) (2016) Anthropocene or Capitalocene? Nature, History and the Crisis of Capitalism. Oakland: PM Press.
* Morrison, Kathleen D. (2015). “Provincializing the Anthropocene”. Seminar, Vol.673 (Sept), pp. 75-80.