

FACULTY OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY & CONTEMPORARY POLICIES

Unit- 1

Ancient History

A concise history, from ancient to modern times, of the interactions between human societies in relationship to ecosystems. Present day environmental dilemmas, conflicts and choices that have their roots in the past.

Unit-2

Environmental History-I

Introduction to the ideology of environmentalism and environmental history, Modern environmental movements. The Gaia theory.

History of the development of environmental history as a discipline and its relationship with social and economic history. Methods and Sources of Environmental History: Distributions from other types of history.

Unit-3

Environmental History-II

Environmental History as Natural History: In the developed and developing nations. Ideas of wilderness and conservation. Environmental History as a History of Industrialization and Anti-Industrialization: debates on the nature of modernization and industrialization in developed and developing countries. Issues of its links with history of science and technology.

Unit-4

Contemporary Ideas

The Rise of European power and its consequences not only for peoples, but also for plants and pathogens, animals and landscapes.

Nature and Empire: Debate on 'colonialism as a watershed'. Colonialism and the unleashing of destructive forces and the threat of general environmental decline.

Books Recommended:

1. Arnold, David & Guha, Ramachandra (Ed.), 1995, *Nature, Culture, Imperialism: Essays on the Environmental History of South Asia*, Oxford University Press, Delhi.
 2. Baviskar Amita, 2003, 'Tribal Discourse and Indian environmentalism in Greenough, Paul and Anna.
 3. Lowenhaupt Tsing (Ed.), *Nature in the Global South: Environmental Projects in South and Southern Asia*, Durham and, London: Duke University Press/Orient Longman.
 4. Balee William, 1998, *Advances in Historical Ecology*, Columbia University Press, New York.
 5. Beinart William and Coates Peter, 1995, *Environment and History*, London: Routledge.
- Carson, Rachel, 1962, *Silent spring*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.