

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sociology and Community Studies and Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Geography); all undergraduate programmes
Programme QF Level	: 5
Course Title	: Global Environmental Issues
Course Code	: GGP3022
Department	: Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: English
Course Level	: 3

Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. Course Synopsis

This course introduces different global environmental issues and their relationships with contemporary socio-economic and political systems. Major environmental issues related to the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, the lithosphere, and the biosphere are covered by this course. The course covers issues, problems, actors, measures, policies and planning to handle the global environmental challenges. Management of these environmental issues in the context of sustainability will also be examined.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CILO₁: demonstrate competency in knowledge of a broad range of environmental problems and their impacts;

CILO₂: explain the relationships between human activities and environmental degradation;

CILO₃: relate the issues of economic, political to environmental policies and planning;

CILO₄: evaluate the effectiveness of different measures for tackling environmental problems.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
(a) Introduction of the major global environmental issues.	CILO _{1,2}	Lecturer-led Q&A Textual inquiry Group discussion
(b) Examination of various environmental problems such as pollution, food problems, waste management etc.	CILO _{1,2,3}	Lecturer-led Q&A Textual inquiry Group discussion Video analysis
(c) Exploration of the measures and their effectiveness on tackling environmental problems.	CILO _{1,2,4}	Lecturer-led Q&A Textual inquiry
(d) Introduction of key actors in global environmental politics and public policy, including global environmental regimes, environmental regulations, economic policies and social policies for environmental protection.	CILO _{2,3}	Lecturer-led Q&A Textual inquiry Group discussion Web-search
(e) Sustainable development and intelligent management of the planet for the present and future generations.	CILO _{3,4}	Lecturer-led Q&A Textual inquiry Oral presentation

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
E-portfolio <ul style="list-style-type: none">1,500-word reflection of each lesson using Microsoft Sway	40%	<i>CILO_{1, 2, 4}</i>
Group presentation and participation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presentation of the group project in relation to the global environmental issuesQuizzes, participation in class discussions and online activities	50%	<i>CILO_{1, 2, 3, 4}</i>
Field trip report <ul style="list-style-type: none">Write an individual field trip report in 500 words	10%	<i>CILO_{1, 2, 3, 4}</i>

5. Use of Generative AI in Course Assessments

Please select one option only that applies to this course:

- ☐ **Not Permitted:** In this course, the use of generative AI tools is not allowed for any assessment tasks.
- ☒ **Permitted:** In this course, generative AI tools may be used in some or all assessment tasks. Instructors will provide specific instructions, including any restrictions or additional requirements (e.g., proper acknowledgment, reflective reports), during the first lesson and in relevant assessment briefs.

6. Required Text(s)

Cunningham, William P, Cunningham, William P., & Cunningham, Mary Ann. (2014). *Environmental Science : A Global Concern* (Thirteenth ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.

United Nations Environmental Programme (2012) *Global Environmental Outlook 5: Environment for the future we want*.

URL: <http://web.unep.org/geo/assessments/global-assessments/global-environment-outlook-5>

Wright, R., & Boorse, D. (2015). *Environmental science: Toward a sustainable future* (Thirteenth ed.). Hoboken, NJ : Pearson Higher Education.

7. Recommended Readings

Pickering, K. & L. Owen (1997) *An Introduction to Global Environmental Issues*, 2nd edition. London and New York: Rutledge.

Kemp, D. (1994) *Global Environmental Issues: A Climatological Approach*. London & New York; Routledge.

Goudie, A (2007) *The Human Impact on the Natural Environmental: Past, Present and*

Future, 6th edition. Oxford: Blackwell Pub.

Houghton, J. (2009) *Global Warming: the Complete Briefing*, 4th edition. Edinburgh: Cambridge.

Mackenzie, F.T. (2011) *Our Changing Planet: An Introduction to Earth System Science and Global Environmental Change*. New Jersey: Pearson Education.

8. Related Web Resources

Greener: Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources

[http://0-](http://0-find.galegroup.com.edlis.ied.edu.hk/grnr/infomark.do?selectedTab=ALL&userGroupName=hkioel&prodId=GRNR&searchType=AdvancedSearchForm&queryId=Locale%2En%2CUS%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28SN%2C9%291046-8021%24&type=search&version=1.0&source=null)

[find.galegroup.com.edlis.ied.edu.hk/grnr/infomark.do?selectedTab=ALL&userGroupName=hkioel&prodId=GRNR&searchType=AdvancedSearchForm&queryId=Locale%2En%2CUS%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28SN%2C9%291046-8021%24&type=search&version=1.0&source=null](http://0-find.galegroup.com.edlis.ied.edu.hk/grnr/infomark.do?selectedTab=ALL&userGroupName=hkioel&prodId=GRNR&searchType=AdvancedSearchForm&queryId=Locale%2En%2CUS%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28SN%2C9%291046-8021%24&type=search&version=1.0&source=null)

350.org: international campaign to promote just and science-based solutions to climate crisis

www.350.org

GreenFILE information on human impacts on the environment

<http://library.ied.edu.hk/record=b1762886~S5>

The International Research Center for Climate and Society

<http://portal.iri.columbia.edu/portal/server.pt>

9. Related Journals

International Journal of Global Environmental Issues

Environmental Studies and Policy. Earth Action Network, Inc.

Development and Change

Environment and Behaviour

Environment and Planning D: Society & Space

Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture

GAIA: Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society

Global Environmental Change

International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management

Journal of Environmental Psychology

Organization and Environment

10. Academic Honesty

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/00000000016336798924548BbN5>).

Students should familiarise themselves with the Policy.

11. Others

Newspaper articles, magazines and other on-line videos on relevant current issues will be used wherever and whenever necessary and feasible.

Updated July 2025