

## THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

### Course Outline

#### Part I

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Programme Title       | : Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Geography) (Five-year Full-time) |
| 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:*

- CILO<sub>1</sub>: demonstrate competency in knowledge of a broad range of environmental problems and their impacts.
- CILO<sub>2</sub>: explain the relationships between human activities and environmental degradation.
- CILO<sub>3</sub>: relate the issues of economic, political to environmental policies and planning.
- CILO<sub>4</sub>: evaluate the effectiveness of different measures for tackling environmental problems.

## 3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

| Course Content   | CILOs                 | Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities                                  |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Introduction of the major global environmental issues.  | CILO <sub>1,2</sub>   | Lecturer-led Q&A<br>Textual inquiry<br>Group discussion                   |
| 2. Examination of various environmental problems such as pollution, food problems, waste management etc.   | CILO <sub>1,2,3</sub> | Lecturer-led Q&A<br>Textual inquiry<br>Group discussion<br>Video analysis |
| 3. Exploration of the measures and their effectiveness on tackling environmental problems.   | CILO <sub>1,2,4</sub> | Lecturer-led Q&A<br>Textual inquiry                                       |
| 4. 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 <sub>2,3</sub>   | Lecturer-led Q&A<br>Textual inquiry<br>Group discussion<br>Web-search     |
| 5. Sustainable development and intelligent management of the planet for the present and future generations.  | CILO <sub>3,4</sub>   | Lecturer-led Q&A<br>Textual inquiry<br>Oral presentation                  |

#### 4. Assessment

| Assessment Tasks  | Weighting (%) | CILO                          |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Individual assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1000-word essay examining what each student has learnt during the course</li></ul>  | 30%           | <i>CILO<sub>1, 2,4</sub></i>  |
| Group presentation and participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Presentation of the group project in relation to the governmental policies to global environmental issues</li><li>Participation in discussions and online activities, including individual responses and group discussions</li></ul> | 30%           | <i>CILO<sub>1,2,3,4</sub></i> |
| Final examination <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2-hour written examination</li></ul>  | 40%           | <i>CILO<sub>1,2,3,4</sub></i> |

#### 5. Recommended Readings

Cunningham, William P, & Cunningham, Mary Ann. 2023. Environmental Science: A Global Concern. 16<sup>th</sup> edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education, 640pp.

Falkner, R. and Buzan, B. 2022. Great Powers, Climate Change, and Global Environmental Responsibilities. OUP.

Goudie, A 2018. Human Impact on the Natural Environment: Past, Present and Future. 8th edition. Oxford: Blackwell Pub.

Houghton, J. 2015. Global Warming: The Complete Briefing. 5th edition. Edinburgh: Cambridge University Press.

Kemp, D. 2017. Global Environmental Issues: A Climatological Approach. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London & New York; Routledge.

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

Nicholson, S. and Wapner, P. 2014. Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet. Routledge, London and New York.

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-environmentoutlook-5>

Wright, R., & Boorse, D. 2016. Environmental science: Toward a sustainable future. 13<sup>th</sup> edition. Hoboken, NJ : Pearson Higher Education.

## 6. 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%28en%2CUS%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28SN%2C%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%28en%2CUS%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28SN%2C%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%28en%2CUS%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28SN%2C%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](http://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>

## 7. 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*

## 8. 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/000000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

## 9. Others

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

*Updated December 2024*