

Course Title:	Culture and Ecology
Course Code:	CLE9029
No. of Credits/Term:	3
Mode of Tuition:	Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours:	3 hours per week
Category in Core Curriculum:	Cluster Course Categories “Value, Culture & Societies “ None
Prerequisite (s):	None
Co-requisite (s):	None
Exclusion (s) :	This course explores the dynamic relationships between human cultures and their ecological environments. It involves learning to identify systems of culture and political economy in terms of institutionalized relationships to nature. It focuses on cultural dimensions of consumption and production, visual and artistic representation of ecology in our everyday life, cultural perception of environment and economy, and literally and cultural studies perspectives on ecological problems. The main objective is to help students develop skills in dialogue across different disciplines and representations, cultural and ideological traditions, and negotiate interests of business, politics and social movements.
Brief Course Description:	
Aim	The aim of the course is to enable students to evaluate critically the cultural dimensions of ecological conflicts, and alternative solutions to the problems.
Learning Outcomes:	Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understand how culture, ideology and social experience shape our understanding of the world 2. analyze major issues in environmental conflicts from a literally and cultural perspectives 3. critically reevaluate our relations with the environment differently 4. articulate an attitude of commitment to cultural diversity, equality and justice related to ecological issues 5. not only analyze the major environmental issues/conflicts, but also to find <i>alternatives</i> (in both thinking and practices) to the problems.

Indicative Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to cultural ecology and its critiques 2. Connecting Literature with Ecology : Eco-criticism and cultural studies 3. Exploring the Spiritual Ecology: Human connection with the earth 4. Explain the origin of our ideological domination against environment: Christianity and individualism 5. Reflection on our ideological domination: postmaterialism and ecological modernization 6. Culture of Mass Consumption: Hierarchy of needs, positional goods, treadmill of consumption 7. Culture of Mass Production: treadmill of production, environment cost and technology 8. Rethinking Food politics: Cultural and Biodiversity in organic movement 9. Environment Justice: representation of environmental disaster and the survival of marginal communities 10. Cultural politics of Energy: Crises and alternatives 11. Critique of Sustainable Development: its mainstream representations and alternative imaginaries.
Teaching Method	Lecture, student’s class presentation and tutorial discussion
Measurement of Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final group project on topic related to this course (3, 4, 5) 2. Video review on documentary film or short-essay based on fieldtrip focus on contemporary environment issues (1, 2, 3, 4) 3. Tutorial class presentation, discussion and participation (1, 3, 4)
Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final group project: 40% 2. Two video reviews and/or short essays: 30% 3. Class presentation 20% 4. Class participation: 10%
Suggested Readings	<p><i>Suggested core texts:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Haenn, Nora and Richard Wilk, eds. <i>The Environment in Anthropology: A Reader in Ecology, Culture and Sustainable</i>

Living, New York: NYU Press, 2008

2. Shiva, Vandana, *Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace*. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books. 2015
3. Bell, Michael Mayerfeld *An invitation to Environmental Sociology*, 5th edition, Los Angeles: Sage publication, 2015.
4. Bollier, David, *Think like a Commoner: A short introduction to the life of the commons*. Gabriola Island, BC, Canada: New Society Publishers, 2014.

Supplementary texts:

5. Buell, Lawrence, *The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination* 1st edition, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2005.
6. Choy, Timothy, *Ecologies of Comparison: An Ethnography of Endangerment in Hong Kong (Experimental futures: Technological Scientific arts and anthropological voices)*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2011.
7. Clark, Timothy, *The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and the Environment*, Cambridge, UK : Cambridge University Press, 2011.
8. Glotfelty, Cheryll, *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Harold Fromm: University of Georgia Press. 1996.
9. Greer, John Michael, *Mystery Teachings from the Living Earth: An Introduction to Spiritual Ecology*. San Francisco, CA : Weiser Books, 2012.
10. Haenn, Nora and Richard Wilk, eds. *The Environment in Anthropology: A Reader in Ecology, Culture and Sustainable Living*, New York: NYU Press, 2008
11. Latour, Bruno, *Politics of Nature: How to Bring the Sciences into Democracy*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2004.
12. Marshall, Gene, *The Road from Empire to Eco-Democracy*,

Bloomington, IN: iUniverse, 2012.

13. Menzies, Heather. *Reclaiming the Commons for the Common Good*, Gabriola Island, BC, Canada: New Society Publishers. 2014.
14. Netting, Robert M. *Cultural Ecology* 2nd edition, Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Pr. Inc, 1986.
15. Perkins, John H. *Geopolitics and the Green Revolution: Wheats, Genes and the Cold War*. New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1997.
16. Pollan, Michael *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation*. New York: The Penguin Press, 2013.
17. Reed, Matthew, *Rebels for the Soil: The Rise of the Global Organic Food and Farming Movement*, London: Earthscan, 2010.
18. Roussopoulos, Dimitrios, *Political Ecology: Beyond Environmentalism*. Porsgrunn, Norway: New Compass Press. 2015.
19. Shrader-Frechette, Kristin, *Environmental Justice: Creating Equality, Reclaiming Democracy*. New York: Oxford University press, 2005.
20. Sutton, Mark Q. and E. N. Anderson. *Introduction to Cultural Ecology*, 3rd edition Plymouth, UK: AltaMira Press, 2013.
21. Townsend, Patricia K. *Environmental Anthropology*. 2nd edition. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Pr. Inc., 2008.
22. Vaughan-Lee, Llewellyn eds, *Spiritual Ecology: The Cry of the Earth*, Point Reyes, CA: The Golden Sufi Center, 2013
23. Wall, Derek. *The Commons in History: Culture, Conflict, and Ecology (History of Sustainable Future)*. 1st edition, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. 2014.
24. Walker, Gordon *Environmental Justice: Concepts, Evidence and Politics*, New York: Routledge, 2012

25. Westling, Louise, *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Environment*. Cambridge, UK :Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Important Notes:

1. Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 2 hours of class contact and 7 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
2. Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
3. Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
4. To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.