

# **GEOG1003 Contemporary Global Environmental Issues (6 credits)**

**Course Teacher: Dr J B Li**

## **Objectives**

This course introduces a number of major global environmental issues and links them to contemporary socio-economic and political considerations while maintaining a geographical perspective.

## **Course Synopsis**

Recent decades have been characterized by increasing awareness of environmental issues and the need to come to terms with them. The course will examine, in turn, many of the current major environmental issues related to the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, the lithosphere, and the biosphere as well as looking at major threats posed by the environment itself in the form of natural hazards. In addition, the issue of the nuclear threat and the ever-increasing demand for energy are explored. Finally, the matter of sustained development and intelligent management of the planet for this and future generations is addressed.

## **Lecture Topics**

- Climate change: Evidence, causes, and consequences
- Water resources and pollution
- Human impact on the Earth's surface and oceans
- Natural hazards
- Other contemporary global environmental issues

## **Assessment**

Examination (two hours) 50%; Coursework 50% (consists of bi-weekly short essays and one project).

## **Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge:

- General knowledge about a number of important global environmental issues
- An understanding of the linkages among them and to contemporary socio-economic and political considerations
- A geographical perspective on these issues

Skills:

- Critical reading and writing skills
- Ability to think critically about global environmental issues and their context

## **Recommended Reading List**

1. Harris, F. (2012) *Global Environmental Issues*, 2nd edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
2. Pickering, K. & L. Owen (1997) *An Introduction to Global Environmental Issues*, 2nd edition. London and New York: Routledge.
3. Houghton, J. (2009) *Global Warming: The Complete Briefing*, 4th edition. Edinburgh: Cambridge.