

GEOG2013 Sustainable Development (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Dr C N Ng

Objectives

The course aims to enhance students' understanding of the links between environmental protection and economic development, and issues relating to sustainable development.

Course Synopsis

This course evaluates the links between environmental protection and economic development. The world must manage its natural and environmental resources to meet the human needs of the present while at the same time preserving these resources for future generations. The course introduces students to different views on how human society can achieve the goal of economic growth without depleting the Earth's capital and jeopardizing the planet's life support system. It aims to enhance students' understanding of the issues relating to sustainable development. Although the course cannot provide complete answers to the issues, it helps develop students' ability of critical thinking and suggest promising directions in which answers may be sought.

Lecture Topics

- Global development and environmental issues
- The concept of Sustainable Development and its evolution
- The challenges: Equity issues, technology development, and free trade
- SD indicators and ecological footprints analysis
- Policy response: Governance and international cooperation
- The sustainability of city and country: Hong Kong & China

Assessment

Examination (two hours) 50%; Coursework 50% (consists of a field trip report and a term paper).

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- The links between social, environment and economic development
- The concept of Sustainable Development and its applications
- Various issues related to Sustainable Development
- Potential solutions to Sustainable Development

Skills:

- Ability to think critically about the relationship between economic development and environmental protection
- Ability to critically evaluate the present state of development, both at local and global levels, based on the Sustainable Development concept

Recommended Reading List

1. Blewitt, J.(2015) Understanding sustainable development. London. 2nd ed., Sterling, VA: Earthscan, 2008.
2. Elliott, J.A. (2012) An Introduction to Sustainable Development. 4th ed., London: Routledge.