

**Department of Geography, The University of Hong Kong**  
**GEOG1016 Nature Conservation for Sustainable Societies (6 credits)**

<b>Course Teacher:</b>	<b>Professor C.Y. Jim</b>
<b>Level:</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Timetable Arrangement:</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Lecture Time:</b>	<b>Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.</b>
<b>Lecture Venue:</b>	<b>Grand Hall, Centennial Campus</b>
<b>Course TA:</b>	<b>[To be announced after the add-drop period]</b>

**Course Objectives**

The course adopts a synoptic and critical survey of human interactions with nature and natural resources, the attendant problems of their misuse and overuse, and the enlightened approaches to nature conservation to contribute towards sustainable societies.

**Course Synopsis**

The consumption of the Earth's resources has reached an alarming level in terms of the intensity and severity of deleterious impacts. This course surveys the major issues related to the tenure of human-nature interactions, their current status as well as the prognosis for the future. A synoptic view on the cultural roots of the exploitative utilization of our planet sets the backdrop for a systematic assessment of the different but interrelated components of the resource system. Various abiotic, biotic and abiotic-cum-biotic segments are discussed in the light of their diversified uses and misuses in different human societies, and the possibility for a more enlightened approach towards a more sustainable future. Adopting a non-technical approach, this course appeals to students with a background in different arts, social sciences or science disciplines.

**Lecture Topics**

- Overview of natural resources
- Water resource and its sustainable management
- Soil degradation and sustainable agriculture
- Sustainable management of marine fisheries
- Sustainable management of tropical forests
- Biodiversity loss and conservation

**Assessment**

Coursework 100% (consists of three written exercises and a multiple-choice quiz).

**Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge:

- Limitations and fragility of the Earth's natural resource base
- Human misuse and mismanagement of natural resources and prognosis of environmental future
- Changes in resource ethics to conserve natural resources to sustain future human needs

Skills:

- Establishment of a comprehensive and holistic perspective of human tenure on Earth
- Realization that the Earth is both a source and a sink in satisfying human needs
- Critical and independent thinking on the stressed relationship between humans and Mother Earth

**Recommended Reading List**

- Chiras, D.D., Reganold, J.P. (2014) *Natural Resource Conservation: Management for a Sustainable Future*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition (Pearson New International Edition). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, 657 pp.
- Wright, R.T. & Boorse, D.F. (2011) *Environmental Science: Towards a Sustainable Future*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition (International Edition). Benjamin Cummings, Boston, 674 pp.