IV Semester

Course 10: Plant Ecology, Biodiversity and Phytogeography

Credits -3

I. Learning Objectives: By the end of this course the learner has:

1. To figure-out the components of ecosystem and energy flow among different trophic levels.
2. To apprise the characteristics of autecology and synecology.
3. To understand the climatic change and associated impacts on biotic components.
4. To discern the value of biodiversity, threats and conservation strategies.
5. To know the distribution of various plant groups in different geographical areas.

II. Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain the interactions among the biotic and abiotic components in an ecosystem.
2. Summarize the characteristics of a population and a community.
3. Anticipate the environmental problems arising due to climate change.
4. Assess the value of biodiversity and choose appropriate conservation strategy.
5. Make a survey on the distribution of various plant groups in a specified geographical area.

III. Syllabus of Theory:

Unit-1: Basic concepts in ecology **10 Hrs.**

1. Ecology: definition, branches and significance; relation with other sciences.
2. Structure and functions of ecosystems- abiotic and biotic components; flow of energy.
3. Cycling of materials: water, carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus; trophic pyramids, food chains and food webs.
4. Plants and environment: Climatic (light and temperature) and edaphic.
5. Interactions among plants; interactions between plants and animals.

Unit-2: Population and community ecology **10Hrs.**

1. Population ecology: definition, characteristics -natality, mortality, growth curves, ecotypes, ecads.
2. Community ecology: characteristics -frequency, density, cover, life forms, competition, biological spectrum.

3. Ecological succession: Hydrosere and Xerosere.

4. Concepts of productivity: GPP, NPP and Community Respiration

5. Secondary production, P/R ratio and Ecosystems.

Unit-3: Climate change-impacts 8Hrs.

1. Soil degradation – causes, consequences and management strategies.

2. Deforestation, forest fires – causes, consequences and management strategies.

3. Global warming, ozone layer depletion, acid rains, ocean acidification – causes and effects.

4. Carbon foot prints and carbon credits; The Montreal and the Kyoto protocol.

5. Plant indicators and their role in environmental monitoring.

Unit-4: Concepts of Biodiversity 10Hrs

1.Biodiversity: Basic concepts, Convention on Biodiversity - Earth Summit.

2. Value of Biodiversity; types and levels of biodiversity and Threats to biodiversity

3. Biodiversity Hot spots in India: North Eastern Himalayas and Western Ghats.

4. Principles of conservation: IUCN threat-categories, RED data book

5. Role of NBPGR and NBA in the conservation of Biodiversity.

Unit-5: Phytogeography 7 Hrs.

1. Principles of Phytogeography, Distribution (wides, endemic, discontinuous species)

2. Endemism – types and causes.

3. Phytogeographic regions of World.

4. Phytogeographic regions of India.

5. Vegetation types in Andhra Pradesh.

IV. Text Books:

1. Pandey, B.P. (2013) College Botany, Volumes- II & III, S. Chand Publishing, New Delhi
2. Bhattacharya, K., G. Hait & Ghosh, A. K., (2011) A Text Book of Botany, VolumeII, New Central Book Agency Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata
3. N.S.Subrahmanyam& A.V.S.S. Sambamurty (2008) Ecology Narosa Publishing House, New Delhi
4. Sharma, P.D. (2012) Ecology and Environment. Rastogi Publications, Meerut, India.
5. U. Kumar (2007) Biodiversity: Principles & Conservation, Agrobios (India), Jodhpur
6. Mani, M.S (1974) Ecology & Biogeography of India Dr. W. Junk Publishers, The Hague

V. Reference Books:

1. Kormondy, Edward J. (1996) Concepts of Ecology,Prentice-Hall of India Private Limited, New Delhi
2. Begon, M., J.L. Harper & C.R. Townsend (2003) Ecology, Blackwell Science Ltd., U.S.A.
3. Eugene P. Odum (1996) Fundamentals of Ecology, Natraj Publishers, Dehradun
4. Kumar, H.D. (1992) Modern Concepts of Ecology (7th Edn.,)Vikas Publishing Co.,New Delhi.
5. Newman, E.I. (2000): Applied Ecology Blackwell Scientific Publisher, U.K.
6. Chapman, J.L&M.J. Reiss (1992): Ecology - Principles & Applications. Cambridge University Press, U.K.
7. Kumar H.D. (2000) Biodiversity & Sustainable Conservation Oxford & IBH Publishing Co Ltd. New Delhi.
8. Cain, S.A . (1944) Foundations of Plant Geography Harper & Brothers, N.Y.
9. Good, R. (1997) The Geography of flowering Plants (2nd Edn.) Longmans, Green & Co., Inc., London & Allied Science Publishers, New Delhi

VI. Suggested activities and evaluation methods:

Unit-1: Activity: Field visit to local ecosystems and making a report on biotic and abiotic components and their interactions.

Evaluation method: Valuation of record of attendance and report submission with conclusions

Unit- 2: Activity: Case studies on population and community ecologies and making a comprehensive report

Evaluation method: Assessing the report and awarding grade

Unit -3: Activity: Case studies on global and local climatic changes and their impacts, preparing a comprehensive report.

Evaluation method: Assessing the report and awarding grade.

Unit- 4: Activity: Making a survey in their locality to identify endangered and threatening species.

Evaluation method: Assessing the survey report and assigning a grade based on a rubric.

Unit-5: Activity: Collection of data on flora of their locality and preparing a project report.

Evaluation method: Assessing the project report and awarding a grade.

IV Semester

Course 10: Plant Ecology, Biodiversity and Phytogeography

Credits -1 (**Practical)**

I. Course Outcomes: On successful completion of this practical course, student shall be able to:

1. Handle instruments used in ecological studies.
2. Perform experiments and collect data on autecology and synecology.
3. Identify various plant groups based on their morphological and anatomical adaptations.
4. Collect data on biodiversity and phytogeography.

II. Laboratory/field exercises:

1. Study of instruments used to measure microclimatic variables;
    a. Soil thermometer,
    b. Maximum and minimum thermometer,
    c. Anemometer,
    d. Rain gauze
    e. Lux meter.
2. Visit to the nearest/local meteorology station where the data is being collected regularly and record the field visit summary for the submission in the practical.
3. Study of morphological and anatomical adaptations of any two hydrophytes.
4. Study of morphological and anatomical adaptations of any two xerophytes.
5. Quantitative analysis of herbaceous vegetation in the college campus for frequency, density and abundance
6. Identification of vegetation/various plants in college campus and comparison with Raunkiaer's frequency distribution law.
7. Find out the alpha-diversity of plants in an area
8. Mapping of biodiversity hotspots of the world and India.
9. Mapping of phytogeographical regions of the globe and India.