



COURSE OUTLINE

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

The course provides students with an opportunity to examine a range of issues of environmental importance. Our continuing reliance on fossil fuels, for example, is leading to a rise in greenhouse gases causing climate change. We look at the problems that this will generate, such as rising sea levels. The decline in food production, destruction of fish stocks and the rise in population numbers have already created the spectre of widespread food shortages. We will examine possible solutions. The consequences of degradation of habitats like the rain forests, and the acceleration in the loss of plant and animal species will also be considered, as will the necessity for waste reduction and re-use of valuable resources.

Course Content

Man's effect on the environment. Overpopulation and the consequent decline in food and water availability. Pollution due to poor waste management and modern farming methods. Habitat destruction, deforestation and loss of species. Use of fossil fuels and its effect on CO₂ levels in the atmosphere. Climate Change. Peak oil.

Course Aims

To get students to consider and assess the ecological problems which are currently facing the world and threatening the survival humanity.

Course Outcomes

Students should end the course better informed about the problems which will impact on their lives, and have some grasp of the ways in which they can be tackled on both a personal and a national level.

Recommended Reading

The books recommended below cover a very wide area of knowledge, but this is only a sample of possible sources. Other books may be recommended for further study of particular topics.

Rachel Carson	<i>Silent Spring</i>	ISBN 978-0141184944
George Monbiot	<i>Heat: How We Can Stop The Planet Burning</i>	ISBN 978-0141026626
Deborah Cadbury	<i>The Feminization of Nature</i>	ISBN 978-0241137468

If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk>

or

www.amazon.co.uk