

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by School of Energy and Environment
with effect from Semester A 2017/18

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Social Perspectives of Environmental Science and Engineering

Course Code: SEE4206

Course Duration: 1 semester

Credit Units: 3 credits

Level: B4

Proposed Area:
(for GE courses only)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts and Humanities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Science and Technology

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) SEE2204 Principles of Sustainability

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

The course aims to provide science and engineering students an introduction to qualitative social science skills that allow issues such as quality of life, social sustainability of environmental projects to be evaluated. How can we evaluate the lived experience of individuals and communities and citizens in response to projects that seek to address environmental problems they face in modern day cities? The course takes a participatory approach to understanding and assessing social sustainability, built on shared knowledge and values. The course enables the students to develop an understanding of social sustainability and the assessment of sustainability projects: critical awareness, varied conceptualisations and a multitude of perspectives. Topics covered include, Quality of life and well-being; Stakeholder and community engagement; Researching the social world: theories and methods; Sustainable lifestyles and sustainable behaviours; Social values of the urban environment, Qualitative Research Methodology.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs [#]	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Provide an insight into different perspectives, methods, tools and techniques to study the human environment.		✓		✓
2.	Develop a knowledge and understanding of the social dimensions of the environmental science and engineering (definitions, principles, underlying concepts and different perspectives).		✓	✓	
3.	Ability to critically examine and evaluate environmental projects in terms of sustainability and social impacts.		✓	✓	
4.	Understand the factors and drivers for change in the human environment, by the use of case studies.			✓	✓
		100%			

* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

[#] Please specify the alignment of CILOs to the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning outcomes (PILOs) in Section A of Annex.

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Lecture	Explain key theories and concepts of Social Perspectives of Environmental Science and Engineering	✓	✓	✓	✓	2 hrs per wk
Tutorial	Learn through case studies the application of theory to real world examples of environmental improvement schemes from a social perspective	✓	✓	✓	✓	1 hr per wk
Analysis	How to apply and subsequently analyse qualitative methodologies to investigate environmental improvement schemes	✓	✓	✓	✓	3 hrs per wk

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: <u>60</u> %						
Assignment	✓	✓	✓	✓	60%	
Examination: <u>40</u> % (duration: 2 hrs, if applicable)						
* The weightings should add up to 100%.					100%	

Examination duration: 2 hrs

Percentage of coursework, examination, etc.: 60% by coursework; 40% by exam

To pass a course, a student must do ALL of the following:

- 1) obtain at least 30% of the total marks allocated towards coursework (combination of assignments, pop quizzes, term paper, lab reports and/or quiz, if applicable);
- 2) obtain at least 30% of the total marks allocated towards final examination (if applicable); and
- 3) meet the criteria listed in the section on Assessment Rubrics.

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Assignment	Capacity to understand the social dimensions of sustainability	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal level
Examination	Capacity to understand the social dimensions of sustainability	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal level

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Sustainability and Social Sustainability; Evaluating Sustainability Projects, Integrating Social Dimensions into Environmental Science; Qualitative Research Methods for Scientists; Field Surveys; Case Research; Interpretative Research; Data Coding and Quantitative Analysis; Research and Professional Ethics.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences. Bruce Lawrence Berg. Allyn & Bacon, 2009
2.	Measuring Sustainability: Learning From Doing. Simon Bell, Stephen Morse. Routledge, 2013
3.	Environmental Social Science: Human - Environment interactions and Sustainability Emilio F. Moran. Wiley Blackwell 2011
4.	THE SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF CITIES Diversity and the Management of Change Edited by Mario Polèse and Richard Stren. UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
5.	Colantonio, A. (2007b) Social Sustainability: An exploratory Analysis of its definition, assessment methods, metrics and tools, Oxford Brooks, UK

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

Nil