

NON-Business Elective Courses

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NBE 398 Creative (**Critical**) Thinking and Problem Solving (Elective Course)

Course Objectives

The main objectives of the course are to prepare students to be able to:

- identify flaws in arguments
- analyze the reasoning in newspaper articles, books and speeches
- assess the credibility and evidence and authorities
- make sound decisions and solve dilemmas
- approach any topic with the ability to reason and think critically.

Course Description

This is a course in critical thinking and problem solving for students who need reasoning skills for life and work. It focuses on the process of reasoning in a clear-headed and critical way, with the aims of developing an awareness of the importance of reasoning and of improving skill in analyzing and evaluating arguments.

Course Contents

The following themes or topics are included:

- introduction to reasoning
- analyzing reasoning
- evaluating reasoning
- recognizing implications
- evaluating evidence and authorities
- skills in the use of language
- exercising the skills of reasoning
- constructing reasoning

Teaching Methods

The teaching method should be such that it guides students through the processes of critical reasoning in a clear and engaging way. Attention needs to be given to evaluating the credibility of evidence and constructing reasoning, and in doing all the exercises.

Basic Text

Thomson, A. *Critical Reasoning: A Practical Introduction*. New York: Routledge.

References

1. Fisher, A. E. *Critical Thinking: An Introduction*. Cambridge: CUP.
2. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. Eighth Edition. Oxford: OUP.
3. Leech, G. N., & Jan Svartvik. *A Communicative Grammar of English*. London: Longman.

NBE 391 Society and Politics (Elective Course)

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the Nepalese political and social institutions and government system and analyze the challenges and implications of Nepal's political, social, and economic development. This course is therefore characterized by an exploration of different ideas regarding the most appropriate means and ends of human participation in civic, social and political life. The course aims to enhance the student's capacity to engage in active citizenship, informed by the insights and skills of social and political sciences. Being an active citizen implies that students are aware and responsible members of a community. They can belong to a community in which there are many communities – sometimes with divergent values and identities – but all sharing some common sense of responsibility and shared civic space.

Course Description

This course will present an overview of the political and social developments in contemporary Nepal. The first part of the course consists of a chronological analysis of Nepalese politics and international relations. In the second part the focus will be on various facets of contemporary Nepalese society, which may include education, women and gender issues, nationalism, religion, the environment, the aging and shrinking population, popular culture, and ethnic and social minorities.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand the social systems within which people act, locally, nationally and more widely;
- Know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to Nepalese society, government and politics;
- Understand the importance of human rights and responsibilities for human dignity and for democratic modes of governance;
- Develop interest and capacity for active participation in the social and development activities;
- Discuss the gender, equality and empowerment issues;
- Explain the concept and practices of public affairs management and policy formulation process;
- Develop a sense of care for others and a respect for and a valuing of diversity in all areas of human life within the parameters of human rights principles.

Course Contents

The following themes or topics are included:

- An overview of Nepalese political and social systems
- Political parties, interest groups, and mass media
- Institutions of Government of Nepal
- The organizational structure of government(s) in Nepal, including local, district, regional and national levels
- Public affairs management and policy formulation process
- Human rights and civil liberties

- Rural society and inclusiveness issues
- NGOs and development
- Citizenship practices, civil society, and the state
- Diversity, social partnership and participation in development
- Governance issues
- Gender, equality, empowerment issues
- Nepal in the world arena
- Contemporary political and social issues in Nepal

References

1. Lewis, D. *The Management of Non-Governmental Development Organizations: An Introduction*, London: Lynne Rienner.
2. Howell, J. & Pearce, J. *Civil Society and Development: A Critical Exploration*. London: Lynne Rienner.
3. Drake, M. S. *Political Sociology for a Globalizing World*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
4. Nash, K. *Contemporary Political Sociology: Globalization, Politics, and Power*, Oxford and Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers, Inc.
5. Abraham M. F. *Modern Sociological Theory*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

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NBE 395 Energy and Sustainable Development (Elective Course)

Course Objectives

This course attempts to highlight the basic issues on the relation between material/energy resources, the environment and sustainable development. Technological changes on greater efficiency of energy utilization, exploitation of renewable energy, adoption of cleaner environmental practices, and waste reduction that can lead to sustainable development will be explored. Specifically, management of energy and environment towards sustainability will be introduced.

Course Description

Principles, concepts and practices of energy and sustainable development will be introduced to students. It will examine the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of SD by focusing on growth and needs of human population, changing patterns of consumption, production, and distribution of resources and the associated environmental impact over time. Consideration will be given to the driving forces that influence SD with special reference to the impact on water resources, energy sources and uses, and waste management.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the basic concepts related to energy and sustainable development
- Perform basic analysis of energy systems
- Explain problems with current energy and environment assessment practices
- Discuss the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development
- Describe possible solutions to current energy problems
- Explain the concept, policies and practices regarding renewable energy

Course Contents

The following themes or topics are included:

- Energy's role in social, economic, and sustainable development.
- Conventional energy technologies and resources.
- Renewable energy technologies for buildings (including heating/cooling), power generation, transport, and agriculture.
- Environmental comparisons and climate change impacts.
- Environmental impacts and comparisons across a range of energy supply technologies.
- Environmental assessment chains.
- Economic analysis and comparisons - life cycle analysis, financial analysis, cost of conserved energy, and externalities.
- Cost assessment of supply technologies vs. energy-efficiency.
- Subsidy justifications, other tax and incentive policies
- Renewable energy policies, including feed-in tariffs, portfolio standards, targets, tax incentives, and bio-fuels mandates.
- Energy markets and governance
- Energy and climate change
- Sustainable energy futures.

References

1. Boyle, G. *Renewable Energy: Power for a Sustainable Future*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
2. Everett, B., Boyle, G., Peake, S., & Ramage, J. *Energy System and Sustainability*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

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NBE 397 Population Dynamics and Development Challenges (Elective Course)

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to review major trends in Nepalese population changes and how these changes can be addressed (policy, strategy and practice) including issues and challenges to implementation, effectiveness and impact, and implications for key stakeholders. Particular emphasis is placed on population changes and needs related to youth, aging, health and disability.

Course description

This course examines the key relationships between population, natural resources and development in Nepal. The justification is that, Nepal is not only the poorest country with little development but also has the higher rate of population growth which militate against development efforts. This course attempts to discuss problems related to population and development in Nepal, and what Nepal should do to achieve sustainable development.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Understand the concept of population
- Describe major trends in Nepal's population changes;
- Identify important factors of population dynamics - fertility, mortality and migration and their general impact on social development.
- Discuss various policies related to population dynamics and natural resource management for sustainable development;
- Discuss the linkage between population dynamics and development challenges;
- Explain the social, economic and environmental implications of population changes and implications for people-centered and sustainable development;

Course Contents

The following themes or topics are included:

- Population dynamics - population size, density and growth, population changes, population ageing, current status, problems, and prospects in Nepal;
- Challenges of changing population and age distributions;
- Linkage between population dynamics and development challenges;
- Migration, urbanization and development;
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Demographic effects of changing women's roles (such as on the labor force participation);
- The effect of demographic characteristics on poverty and development activities in Nepal – capital swallowing, age dependent effects, investment diversion effects, and environmental concerns;
- Concern on population growth versus food, energy and resources;
- Population pressure on natural resources and possible solutions;
- Possible effects of demographic changes on businesses, marketing and socio-economic development;
- Achieving sustainable development and ensuring environmental sustainability
- Social security system in Nepal;

- Effects of legal and illegal out migration to foreign countries;
- Population related policies and programs in Nepal.

References

1. Birdsall, N., Kelley, A. C., & Sinding, S. W. *Population Matters: Demographic Change, Economic Growth, and Poverty in the Developing World*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
2. Weeks, J. *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*. Singapore: Wordsworth Learning.
3. Bhasin, K. *Understanding Gender*. New Delhi: Kali for Women Publishers.
4. Kawadia, G. & Ahuja, K. *Environmental Issues of Development*. Ambala: Associated Publishers.
5. United Nations. *Population Challenges and Development Goals*. UNO.
6. KC, B. K. *Population and Development in Nepal*. Central Department of Population Studies, TU.
7. CBS. *Population Census of Nepal and Other Related Publications*.

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NBE 393 Social Ecology and Environment (Elective Course)

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with insights into the dynamics of human-environment interactions in Nepal. The ecology of human societies is about connections between ecological and human social, cultural, and organizational processes. It is a very broad and general subject that crosses numerous scientific disciplines. It therefore has to be approached in a broad and general way, with an emphasis on theoretical ideas.

Course Description

The core theme of social ecology and environment course is to understand the concept and quality of people–environment relationships. The course is designed around the main themes like environment, poverty and development; risk and adaptation to natural hazards and climate change; conservation, deforestation and biodiversity; and issues related to environmental policies and programs.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Explain the concept and core principles of social ecology and environment;
- Discuss current environmental issues with an understanding of the basic social ecological concepts involved.
- Identify and describe major approaches that help to integrate social and ecological, or human-natural systems, dynamics, or understandings;
- Describe the multidimensional structure of human environment;
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches, including how they may help navigate environmental change;
- Analyze and express what purposeful socio-ecological change and awareness might entail, and understand how such changes might be engineered or fostered through policy, management, or other interventions;
- Explain how ecological culture works as a means of harmonizing interactions between society and nature.

Course Contents

The following themes or topics are included:

- Concept of social ecology
- Core principles of social ecology
- Human-environment system and transactions
- Multidimensional structure of human environment
- Concept of ecosystem; various ecosystems and their features
- Social hierarchy and domination over resources
- Social culture and economic relationship
- Present day socio-ecological crisis
- Environment and public policy
- Global environmental change
- Social Impact Assessment
- Ecological awareness
- Sustainability of social ecological system

- Ecological culture as a means of harmonizing interactions between society and nature.

References

1. Kogent, *Energy, Environment, Ecology and Society*. New Delhi: Wiley India.
2. Harper, C. L. *Environment & Society*. New Delhi: Pearson/Prentice Hall.
3. Sutton, M. Q. and Anderson, E. N. *Introduction to Cultural Ecology*. Altamira Press.
4. Rajagopalan, R. *Environmental Studies: From Crisis to Cure*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
5. Sankar, A. *Environmental Management*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
6. DeSimone, L. D. & Popoff, F. *Eco-efficiency: The Business Link to Sustainable Development*. MIT Press.

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NBE 396 Management of Technology (Elective Course)

Course Objectives

The course focuses on different matters of importance and issues related to management of technology in the organizational context. It builds on students' knowledge about the role of technology in today's business world. They will understand how to better select technological opportunities and understand organizational challenges that prevent these technologies from being successful.

Course Description

This course is concerned with the management issues surrounding the technology being used in organizations. The focus will be on the theoretical and practical aspects of management of technology in organizations. This course is also concerned with human and organizational issues as well as strategic and operational issues related to technology introduction and use. It provides frameworks and management principles that managers can employ to cope with the challenges inherent in the implementation of rapidly advancing technology.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Explain the key concepts and the dynamics of technology as used in business;
- Discuss the management issues related to technology acquisition, application, protection and maintenance;
- Analyze and formulate technology policies and strategies for business organizations;
- Know how to implement technology policies and strategies;
- Understand how to manage ideas and knowledge in a technology-based organization;
- Facilitate organizational change and sustainable improvements at the enterprise level through competitive work systems.

Course Contents

The following themes or topics are included:

- Introduction and key concepts of technology management
- Sources and types of technology
- Changing context of technological environment
- Critical factors in managing technology
- Strategic implications of technology
- Needs assessment of technology
- Industrial analysis and technology planning
- Technology choice and life cycle
- Technology acquisition and utilization
- Technological forecasting
- Organizational implications of technology
- Financial aspects in technology management
- Social issues in technology management
- Technological change and industrial relations
- Technology assessment and environmental impact analysis
- Human aspects in technology management
- Technology transfer, licensing, joint venture, technology alliance

- Technology management scenario in Nepal

References

1. Khalil, T. *Management of Technology: The Key to Competitiveness and Wealth Creation*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill.
2. Rastogi, P. N. *Management of Technology and Innovation: Competing through Technological Excellence*. Delhi: Sage Publications.
3. Schilling, M. *Strategic Management of Technological Innovation*. New Delhi: McGraw-Hill.
4. Burgelman, R. A., Christensen, C. M., & Wheelwright, S. C. *Strategic Management of Technology and Innovation*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

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NBE 394 Media and Public Relations (Elective Course)

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad understanding of the media and public relations industry and its role in shaping the opinion of the society. The learning focus will be on gaining a conceptual and practical understanding of the field. Special emphasis is on the advent of the Internet, the rise of citizen journalism, and the impact of blogs and other social media.

Course Description

This course analyzes the state of contemporary media – online and offline – and its impact on public relations examining key factors influencing reportorial and editorial coverage of entertainment, business, government and not-for-profit interests. The course includes information about how the press works, how to pitch a story idea and to whom. Students will learn about dealing with the media, public communication and issues management. This will include learning how to prepare and manage a media relations campaign and how to write materials for the media. Students will also examine ethical and professional issues relevant to media relations.

Course Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the concept and emerging trends in media and public relations;
- Write a press release and a letter to the editor/opinion piece;
- Produce communications suitable for media and public relations;
- Organize a media conference;
- Develop and implement a media relations campaign working in a group;
- Ethical and professional issues relevant to media relations;
- Write media materials for a media relations campaign plan;
- Understand the theoretical frameworks relevant to media and public relations.

Course Contents

The following themes or topics are included:

- Concept of media relations and public relations
- Role and importance of media and public relations in the context of business
- Writing a media release
- Opinion writing
- Media plan: Research, strategy and planning
- Evaluation of media relations plans
- Ethics and professional issues relevant to media relations
- Media conference: Practicum
- Social media management
- Public relations, media and marketing
- Contemporary issues in media and public relations

Basic Texts

1. Gordon, A. E. *Public Relations*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
2. Stanton, R. *Media Relations*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

References

1. Johnston, J & Zawawi, C. *Public Relations Theory and Practice*: Allen & Unwin.
2. Raman, U. *Writing for the Media*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
3. Sachdeva, I. *Public Relations*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
4. Wilcox, D. *Public Relations Writing and Media Techniques*. New Delhi: Pearson Education.

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NBE 392 Basic Econometrics (Elective Course)

Course Objectives

This course aims at providing knowledge and skills on the application of the basic econometric tools for estimating, testing and forecasting economic relationships with the use of computer software packages like SPSS and Excel. In particular, the course aims to give students an awareness of the empirical approach to economics and the value this can add to decision making for consumers, firms and governments.

Course Description

The course covers elementary econometrics and makes extensive use of econometric software packages for quantitative and statistical analysis. Students will learn how to analyze empirical data, draw conclusions from it and discuss the limitations of the analysis. The main topics include linear and non-linear, simple and multiple regression models, assumptions of fitting regression, its remedial measures, various functional forms and their implications and the use of instrumental variables.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the nature and use of economic data.
- Describe and apply the classical linear regression model and its implications to cross sectional and time series data.
- Describe and detect violations of assumptions and their remedial measures.
- Make use of econometric software packages as tools of quantitative and statistical analysis to compute empirical results.
- Understand specification bias and use of instrumental variables.
- Enable students to apply these methods in their own research;

Course Contents

- Introduction to Econometrics
- Introduction to Statistical and Econometric Software: Excel, SPSS, E-views, R, Stata
- Statistical Inference
- Simple and multiple regression analysis
- Multicollinearity
- Heteroscedasticity
- Autocorrelation
- Econometric Modelling: model specification and Diagnostic Testing
- Nonlinear regression model
- Qualitative Response Regression Models
- Panel Data Regression Model
- Dynamic Econometric Models: Autoregressive and Distributed Lag Models
- Simultaneous Equation Models
- Identification Problem
- Indirect Least Square
- Two stage least square methods
- Time series Econometrics

- Forecasting
- Simulation
- Unit root test
- Co-integration

Basic Texts

1. Gujarati, D. N., Porter, D. C., & Gunasekar, S. *Basic Econometrics*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw.
2. Wooldridge, J. M. *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*. South-Western.

References

1. Kousoyiannis, A. *Theory of Econometrics*. London: Macmillan Press Ltd.
2. Dougherty, C. *Introduction to Econometrics*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
3. Stock, J. H. & Watson, M. W. *Introduction to Econometrics*. New Delhi: Pearson Education.
4. Gujarati, D. *Econometrics by Example*. Macmillan: Palgrave.

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