



ECOLOGY AND SOCIETY

PROF. NGAMJAHAO KIPGEN

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
IIT Guwahati

INTENDED AUDIENCE : UG and PG students of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences and Engineering

COURSE OUTLINE :

The course focuses on the ecology of human societies –human-environment relationships, with reference to cultural ecology and issues surrounding sustainable development. The ecology of human societies is about connections between ecological and human social, cultural, and organizational processes. Based on selected works of ecological anthropologists, this course focuses on the dynamic relationships between human cultures and their ecological environments. It uses basic concepts of anthropology, including the concept of culture as a dynamic system of learned behaviours and beliefs, to better understand how human beings adapt to and change their physical and social surroundings.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Ngamjahao Kipgen is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. His areas of research include environmental sociology, political sociology, cultural politics, ethnicity and nationalism in northeast India. He has been contributing research papers to reputed international peer-reviewed journals. He teaches 'The Study of Society', 'Environment and Development', 'Concepts and Ideologies in Social Life', 'Sociology of Religion', 'Sociological Perspectives on Modernity', and 'Research Methods in Sociology' at IIT Guwahati.

COURSE PLAN :

Week 1: Introduction: Ecology and society; Culture and cultural ecology

Week 2: Cultural ecology and human ecology: Concepts and Meanings

Week 3: Human ecology: Theoretical approach; Ecological anthropology perspectives

Week 4: Models of human ecology; Nature and culture debate

Week 5: Conceptions of natures; Contested domains and boundaries of culture

Week 6: Paradigms in human—environmental relations

Week 7: Nature, environment and belief systems

Week 8: Religion in an age of environmental crisis I

Week 9: Religion in an age of environmental crisis II; Environmental ethics I

Week 10: Environmental ethics II

Week 11: Natural Resource Management

Week 12: Debates on shifting cultivation; Course summary