

CORE COURSE II
PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGY

THEORY	(Credits 4)
Unit 1: Introduction to Ecology	6
History of ecology, Autecology and synecology, Levels of organization, Laws of limiting factors, Study of physical factors	
Unit 2: Population	24
Unitary and Modular populations Unique and group attributes of population: Density, natality, mortality, life tables, fecundity tables, survivorship curves, age ratio, sex ratio, dispersal and dispersion Exponential and logistic growth, equation and patterns, r and K strategies Population regulation - density-dependent and independent factors Population interactions, Gause's Principle with laboratory and field examples, Lotka-Volterra equation for competition and Predation, functional and numerical responses	
Unit 3: Community	12
Community characteristics: species richness, dominance, diversity, abundance, vertical stratification, Ecotone and edge effect; Ecological succession with one example Theories pertaining to climax community	
Unit 4: Ecosystem	14
Types of ecosystems with one example in detail, Food chain: Detritus and grazing food chains, Linear and Y-shaped food chains, Food web, Energy flow through the ecosystem, Ecological pyramids and Ecological efficiencies Nutrient and biogeochemical cycle with one example of Nitrogen cycle Human modified ecosystem	
Unit 5: Applied Ecology	4
Ecology in Wildlife Conservation and Management	

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PRACTICALS

(Credits 2)

1. Study of life tables and plotting of survivorship curves of different types from the hypothetical/real data provided
2. Determination of population density in a natural/hypothetical community by quadrat method and calculation of Shannon-Weiner diversity index for the same community
3. Study of an aquatic ecosystem: Phytoplankton and zooplankton, Measurement of area, temperature, turbidity/penetration of light, determination of pH, and Dissolved Oxygen content (Winkler's method), Chemical Oxygen Demand and free CO₂
4. Report on a visit to National Park/Biodiversity Park/Wild life sanctuary

SUGGESTED READINGS

- Colinvaux, P. A. (1993). Ecology. II Edition. Wiley, John and Sons, Inc.
- Krebs, C. J. (2001). Ecology. VI Edition. Benjamin Cummings.
- Odum, E.P., (2008). Fundamentals of Ecology. Indian Edition. Brooks/Cole
- Robert Leo Smith Ecology and field biology Harper and Row publisher
- Ricklefs, R.E., (2000). Ecology. V Edition. Chiron Pres