ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES: An Introduction

A core course

The Environment course instead of following a text book model will be constructed around keywords and controversies. The student will be expected to be aware of the CSE reports on the Environment as a horizon for understanding. This is literally a statutory course for the UGC.

1) Nature
2) Waste
3) Energy and Entropy
4) Sustainability
5) Diversity
6) Vulnerability
7) Risk
8) Environmental Ethics

Each unit word will be built around key texts and case studies. Students will be expected to critique policy reports, construct pros and cons of a controversy. At the end of the course students should have a basic familiarity with ideas about the commons, debates on dams, climate change, the debates on water, man-nature conflicts, the relation of subsistence to sustainability, the crisis of agriculture, biotechnology and the ecological understanding of science.

Attendance is optional but presence fundamental. Evaluation will be based on regular class quizzes and a research paper. Students will have to be a part of a team that also constructs a report of an ecological system.