



Introduction to Human Ecology

Course Objectives

Human Ecology covers all aspects of human activity on a personal, local, national, and global level. This course addresses the challenges facing humankind, including economics, technological development, sustainable use of resources, poverty management, disease epidemiology, social management, etc.. Hence, this course is ideal for those involved in areas of consultancy ranging from marketing and social planning, to sustainable resource management and food production.

Course Syllabus

- Introduction to the system of life, what it is, and why it exists.
- Principles of Ecology, habitat and niche, energy and resources, ecological balances.
- Principles of Evolution, Earth's changing environment, genetic blueprint, nurture versus nature.
- Human origins, fossils, palaeontology, mitochondrial DNA.
- Development of human ecology, hunter-gatherers, agriculture, cities, nations.
- The human evolutionary experiment, knowledge, self-awareness, reproduction, technology.
- Human population growth, success, resource shortages, pollution, urban living.
- Economics – managing our resources, sharing versus ownership, wealth and poverty, balancing our economy, globalisation, economic diversity.
- Politics – social behaviour, leadership, political compromise, war and conflict, future politics.
- Technology's impact on human ecology, agriculture, health care and medicine, environmental degradation and climate change, the information revolution, knowledge and our genetic evolution.
- Our mental, emotional, and social needs.