

Urban Ecology: Integrating Society and Nature in the Study of Urban Environments

Overview

Over half the global population now lives in cities, and urban land use is expected to triple in area by 2030. As a result of the increasing dominance of cities, ecologists have increasingly focused their attention on urban environments in order to understand the important processes affecting urban ecosystems. Perhaps more than any other ecosystem, however, an understanding of urban habitats requires an analysis of the social as well as ecological factors affecting ecosystems. In this course, we will examine the new urban ecology, and combine ecological analyses with historical, anthropological, and sociological studies of urban nature. How are urban ecosystems similar to or different from other habitats? What are the characteristic features of urban ecosystems? How are cities connected to the ecology of distant ecosystems? What distinctive ecosystems are created in urban areas? How do we construct nature in urban ecosystems?

As a human-dominated ecosystem, cities require both scientific and social-scientific analysis in order to evaluate the ecological footprint of cities, assess their ecological sustainability, examine growth management, unravel the connections between ecology and public health, or work to protect plants and animals from encroaching urbanization.

Course participants will learn these topics through lectures and collaborative groupwork.

Modules	1. Urban Ecological Concepts : Nov 15 - Nov 17, 2016 2. Urban Metabolism and Planning : Nov 18- Nov 21, 2016 Number of participants for the course will be limited to forty.
You Should Attend If...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ You are a graduate or advanced undergraduate student with an interest in urban environmental and ecological concerns▪ You are a faculty member with interest in ecology, environmental studies, urban studies, and environmental history▪ You are practitioner in the field of landscape architecture, restoration ecology and ecosystem management
Fees	The participation fees for taking the course is as follows: Participants from abroad : US \$300 Industry/ Research Organizations: Rs.10,000 Academic Institutions; students: Rs.2760, non-students: 5000 The above fee include all instructional materials, computer use for tutorials and assignments, laboratory equipment usage charges.

The Faculty



Prof. Daniel Schneider is a Professor and award-winning ecologist and environmental historian in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His work integrates biological ecology and social science

approaches to understanding urban ecosystems, including the ecology of bed bugs, sewage, ecosystems services, and water quality.

Course Co-ordinators

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