

Approval: 16th Senate Meeting

Course Number	: HS526
Course Name	: Human Geography: A Western Himalayan Perspective
Credits	: 3-0-0-3
Prerequisites	: None
Intended for	: Post graduate students, 3 rd and 4 th Year B.Tech. students
Distribution	: Core course for M.A. in Development Studies, Elective for others
Semester	: Even/Odd

1. Preamble:

This course has been designed to familiarize students with the dynamic interaction between geography and the natural environment on the one hand, and the human experience (history, economy and society and culture) on the other. By studying human activities at the global and regional (such as Himachal Pradesh or Western Himalayan) scales, students will learn to observe and analyse patterns in human geography. This course will include a survey of human engagement with natural resources, animals, agriculture, economic activity, urbanization as well as natural disaster, with special reference to areas in present-day Himachal Pradesh/ Western Himalaya. This course will also include an investigation of the impact of these engagements on human social and cultural formations.

2. Course Modules:

Module 1: Why does Human Geography Matter? (4 hours)

- Defining ‘Human Geography’: Themes and relevance
- Introduction to a spatial perspective: ‘regional’ and ‘global’
- What are the basic geographic questions?
- ‘Environmental Determinism’: debates

Module 2: Economic Geography (8 hours)

- Geography of the world economy: Measurement and problems
- Trends in agriculture (India/Himachal Pradesh/Western Himalaya)
- Food production and food security (Himachal Pradesh/ Western Himalaya)
- Worlds of consumption: Global and local geographies of consumption

Module 3: Population Geography (8 hours)

- Geography of health
- Population dynamics
- Migration: push and pull factors
- India’s demographic profile and National Population Policy

Module 4: Geography across Global and Regional History: Urbanization (5 hours)

- Urbanization: A global survey of trends and patterns
- Case Study: Imperial and Post-Colonial Shimla

Module 5: Humans and Nature (6 hours)

- Natural Disasters and Human Intervention (19th-20th century India)
- Human-Animal Conflict and Cooperation in India (Ancient to Contemporary India)

Module 6: Cultural Geography: Space and Society (5 hours)

- Language: Linguistic Nationalism in India
- Religion and the cultural landscape in Himachal Pradesh/ Western Himalaya

Module 7: Case Study (6 hours)

1. Change and Continuity in Himachal Pradesh/ Western Himalaya (19th-20th centuries) from the perspective of Human Geography

3. Textbooks:

1. Fouberg, Erin H. et al. *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture*. 11th ed. Hoboken: Wiley, 2015.
2. Cloke, Paul et al. *Introducing Human Geographies*. 3rd ed. Oxon: Routledge, 2014.

4. References:

1. Alam, Aniket. *Becoming India: Western Himalaya under British Rule*. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press. 2008.
2. Coe, Neil et al. *Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction*. Hoboken: Wiley, 2013.
3. Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies*. 20th anniversary ed. New York City: WW Norton, 2017.
4. Elmore, Mark. *Becoming Religious in a Secular Age*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2016.
5. Guha, Ramachandra, *Environmentalism: A Global History*. New Delhi: Penguin Random House India, 2016.
6. Roy, Tirthankar. *Natural Disasters and Indian History*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012.
7. Singh, Chetan. *Natural Premises: Ecology and Peasant Life in the Western Himalaya, 1800-1950*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.

5. Similarity Content Declaration with Existing Courses: None

S.N.	Course Code	Similarity Content	Approx. % of Content
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6. Justification for new course proposal if cumulative similarity content is > 30%:N/A