

Environmental Impact and Social Development

Course code: ENV 3005

Total contact hours: 60 hours

Pre-requisite: None

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the study of major environmental problems and social issues confronting modern society.

Students will examine ecosystems, population patterns, dynamics, and use and misuse of resources; population and environmental quality; environmental citizenship, economic incentives, and Costa Rican initiatives in eco-tourism.

The course will introduce students to environmental problems and their socio-economic implications in Latin America, using Costa Rica as an example.

Students will study current and actual cases about conservation and management of biodiversity and wildlife, and visit different scenarios where the relationship between environment and society will be studied.

The course also provides an overview of environmental impact assessment to design, evaluate, and replicate sustainable projects and programs.

The course will help develop the tools to assess natural resource protection, population health improvements, positive social impacts and poverty reduction, and economic appraisal that includes sustainability measures at least cost.

Students will practice assessment methods at a project and strategic level. The integrated assessment using all methods focuses on the agriculture, water, energy, and forestry sectors, applying both project and program analysis.

Students apply knowledge and practical methods that inform prudent decisions and support economic growth, social development, awareness, and environmental sustainability.