GEOG-201

Introduction to Human Geography

Course Brief:

This course introduces Human Geography. The major thrust is on the study of human societies in their relation to the habitat or environment. Dealing with the spatial distribution of societies, human geography covers a very wide field, or its scope is enormous. It embraces the study of human races; the growth, distribution and density of populations of the various parts of the world, their demographic attributes and migration patterns; and physical and cultural differences between human groups and economic activities.

Course Learning Objective:

This course covers the relationship between man and his natural environment, and the way in which his activities are distributed. Human geography also considers the mosaic of culture, language, religion, customs and traditions, types and patterns of rural settlements, the site, size, growth and functions of urban settlements, and the functional classification of towns. The study of spatial distribution of economic activities, industries, trade, and modes of transportations and communications as influenced by the physical environment are also the important topics of human geography.

Course Contents:

I. Introduction to Human Geography

i. Scope and Status of Human Geography
ii. Branches of Human Geography

II. Basic concepts and Theories

iii. Environmental Determinism
iv. Possibilism
v. Probabilism and Cognitive Behaviourism

III. Population

i. Population Distribution, Density, and Growth
ii. Dynamics including fertility, mortality, and migration
iii. Population Composition and Structure
iv. Rural and Urban Population

IV. Man, Environment Relations

V. Human Activities

i. Primary Activities
ii. Secondary Activities
iii. Tertiary Activities

iv. Quaternary Activities

v. Quinary Activities

VI. Settlements

i. Theories of Human Settlement

ii. Types of Settlements

iii. Rural Urban Contrast

VII. Urbanization

i. History and Process of Urbanization

ii. Factors of Urbanization

iii. Modern Trends of Urbanization

VIII. Future Geography

i. Resources and Development

ii. New technologies and Spatial Techniques

iii. Information Technologies

Books Recommended:

- Rowntree, L. et .al (2004) "Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World" Prentice Hall, New York
- Neuwirth, R. (2004) "Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters, A New Urban World" Routledge, London.
- Harper, H.L. (2003) "Environment and Society: Human Perspectives on Environmental Issues" Prentice Hall; (3 Edition)
- Knox, P.L. & S.A. Marston (2003) "Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography" Prentice Hall. (3rd Edition)
- Becker, A. & Secker (2002) "Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space" John Wiley and Sons. (7th Edition)
- Blij, H.J.D. (2002) "Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space" John Wiley and Sons (7th Edition)
- Lewis, C.P. Mitchel-Fox & C. Dyer (2001) "Village, Hamlet and Field: Changing Medieval Settlements in Central England" Windgather Press.
- Paull, Knox & Sallie, A Marston. Human Geography: "Places and regions in global context", Second edition, Prentice Hall, 2001.
- Hagget, P. (1997): "Geography: A Modern Synthesis" Harper International, London.