CHRIST COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), IRINJALAKUDA

BOTANICAL DIVERSITY

Programme	B. Sc.				
Course Title	**Plant Ecology, Conservation & Plant Interactions**				
Type of Course	**Minor**				
Semester	**I**				
Academic Level	100-199				
Course Details	Credit	Lecture per week	Tutorial per week	Practical per week	Total Hours
	4	3	-	2	75
Pre-requisites	-				
Course Summary	This course offers basic knowledge related to the relationships between plants and their environment, the importance of conservation efforts and the interactions between different plant species.				

Course Outcomes (CO): After completing the Course, the student should be able to:

CO	CO Statement	Cognitive Level*	Knowledge Category#	Evaluation Tools
CO1	Explain the ecological relationships between plants and the environment	U	C	Test/Assignments/Field study
CO2	Explain the importance of biodiversity, causes for loss and its consequences	U	F	Test/Assignments/Field study
CO3	Summarize the significance of conservation practices	U	C	Test/Assignments/Group project
CO4	Explain various interactions that occur among plant species	U	C	Test/Assignments/Field study
CO5	Apply conservation strategies suitable for neighbouring ecosystems and develop the skills necessary to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of plant ecosystems	Ap	P	Case studies/Presentations/Field reports

* - Remember (R), Understand (U), Apply (Ap), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C)
\# - Factual Knowledge(F) Conceptual Knowledge (C) Procedural Knowledge (P) Metacognitive Knowledge (M)

Detailed Syllabus

Module	Unit	Content	Hrs (45 + 30)
I		**Plant Ecology**	**9**
	1	Ecology - Definition, Ecosystem: ecological factors - biotic and abiotic.	2
	2	Ecological adaptations - Morphological and anatomical adaptations of the following types: Hydrophyte (*Vallisnaria*), Xerophyte (*Opuntia*)	2
	3	Halophyte (*Avicennia*), Epiphytes (*Vanda*) and parasites (*Cuscuta*)	2
	4	Ecological succession - Process of succession, types of succession, Hydrosere	3
II		**Biodiversity, Loss and its Consequences**	**18**
	5	Biodiversity - Definition, types of biodiversity - habitat diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity	3
	6	Values of Biodiversity - Economic and aesthetic value, Medicinal values	2
	7	Concept of Biodiversity Hotspots, Biodiversity hot spots of India.	2
	8	Concept of endemism and endemic species. ICUN plant categories with special reference to Western Ghats.	2
	9	Estimates of extinction rates worldwide and in India, causes of extinction/changes in biodiversity	2
	10	Habitat fragmentation and destruction	3
	11	Threats to biodiversity: Overexploitation, Invasive species	2
	12	Consequences: loss of gene pool, loss of ecosystem services, livelihood	2
III		**Biodiversity Conservation**	**8**
	13	Conservation methods - *In-situ* and *ex-situ* methods.	2
	14	*In-situ* methods - Biosphere reserves, National parks, Sanctuaries, Sacred grooves	2
	15	*Ex-situ* methods - Botanical gardens, Seed bank, Gene banks, Pollen banks	2
	16	Cryopreservation	2
IV		**Plant Interactions**	**10**
	17	Plant interactions: overview, Plant - microbe interactions: Mycorrhizae	1
	18	Plant - herbivore interactions, Plant defences against herbivores	2
	19	Plant - pollinator interactions, Pollination syndromes and floral specialization	2
	20	Ant-plant interactions	1
	21	Plant-animal interactions as ecosystem services	2
	22	Conservation aspect of plant-animal interactions	2

V	Practical (Mandatory Experiments)	30
	1. Study the morphological and anatomical adaptations of the hydrophytes, xerophytes, halophytes, epiphytes and parasites mentioned in the syllabus 2. Study of a pond/forest ecosystem and recording the different biotic and abiotic components 3. Field observations of plant-animal interactions in natural environments around campus 4. Field visit: To study different types of local vegetation/ecosystems and the report to be recorded.	
	Practical (Open Ended)	
	5. Case studies: Contemporary Indian wildlife and biodiversity issues 6. Group presentations in an area of conservation biology 7. Discussion on biodiversity (Man-animal conflict, human interference, climate change)	

Suggested Readings

- Rajak, A. 2020. Textbook of Biodiversity. 1st edition, Notion Press, India.
- Mahanty, S. and Srivastava, A. 2016. Biodiversity and It's Conservation. Disha International Publishing House, India.
- Singh, J.S., Singh, S.P. and Gupta, S.R. 2008. Ecology, Environment and Resource Conservation. Anamaya Publications (New Delhi).
- Krishnamurthy, K.V. 2004. An Advanced Text Book of Biodiversity - Principles and Practices. Oxford and IBH Publications Co. Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.
- Gaston, K J. and Spicer, J. I. 1998. Biodiversity: An Introduction. Blackwell Science, London, UK.
- Primack, R. B. 2002. Essentials of Conservation Biology (3rd edition). Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, USA.
- Chittka, L. and Thompson, J. D. (Eds.). 2001. Cognitive Ecology of Pollination-Animal Behaviour and Floral Evolution. Cambridge University Press.
- Herrera, C. M. and Pellmyr, O. (Eds.). 2002. Plant-Animal Interactions: An Evolutionary Approach. Blackwell Publishing.
- Schaeffer, H.M., and Ruxton, G.D. (Eds). 2011. Plant-Animal Communication. Oxford University Press.

Online Sources

- https://www.igntu.ac.in/eContent/IGNTU-eContent-313628797582-M.Sc-EnvironmentalScience-4-ManojkumarRai-MicrobialEcology-2-3.pdf
- http://www.eagri.org/eagri50/AMBE101/lec29.html
- http://eagri.org/eagri50/AMBE101/pdf/lec29.pdf
- ales.arizona.edu/classes/ento415/LECTURES/ENTO415_PlantInteractions.pdf
- https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/baldwin/webbugs/3005_5006/Docs/notes/notes10.pdf

Mapping of COs with POs:

	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7
CO1	3	-	-	-	1	3	2
CO2	3	-	2	-	2	3	3
CO3	3	-	2	-	2	3	3
CO4	3	-	1	-	2	3	3
CO5	3	1	2	1	2	3	3

Correlation Levels:

Level	Correlation
-	Nil
1	Slightly / Low
2	Moderate / Medium
3	Substantial / High

Assessment Rubrics:

- Quiz / Discussion
- Assignment/ Seminar
- Project/Practical
- Final Exam

Mapping of Cos to Assessment Rubrics

	Internal Exam	Assignment/Seminar	Practical/Project Evaluation	End Semester Examinations
CO 1	✓	✓	✓	✓
CO 2	✓	✓	✓	✓
CO 3	✓	✓	✓	✓
CO 4	✓	✓	✓	✓
CO 5	✓			