



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

PCR 851



**Environmental Security
and Conflict Resolution
Course Guide**

PCR 851 Environmental Security and Conflict Resolution

Course Guide

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Introduction

PCR 85I is a three-credit course consisting of 20 units. It has a minimum duration of one semester and is suitable for all students of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution.

This course examines in detail issues on environmental security and conflict resolution. It covers various topics such as definition of environmental security, international relation theories applied to environment, theoretical overview of environmental security, and environmental laws. Conceptualisation of conflict, linkage between environmental threat to conflict, theories of conflict and conflict resolution techniques among others were also addressed in this course.

There are compulsory prerequisites for this course. The course guide tells you briefly what the course is all about, what you are expected to know in each unit, what course materials you need to use and how you can work your way through these materials. It also emphasises the necessity for tutor-marked assignments. There are also periodic tutorial classes that are linked to this course.

What You Will Learn In This Course

The overall objective of this course is to expose the students to the whole range of issues surrounding the environment and conflict. It seeks to acquaint the student with the basic concept of environmental security - what distinguishes environmental conflict from other forms of violence, causes of environmental threat, types of conflicts, origin of environmental security and various methods of conflict resolution especially in this contemporary time.

Course Aims

The basic aim we intend to achieve in this course is to expose the student to the complex phenomenon of environmental security, its various perceptions and analysis, to show students how environmental threat has contributed in undermining international peace and security. The course is geared towards exposing the student to the understanding of environmental security as a new paradigm in security studies, how environmental threats cause and exacerbate conflict and various conflict resolution techniques used to control and manage conflicts.

Course Objectives

Several objectives can be delineated from this course as each unit has specific objectives. The unit objectives can be found at the beginning of a unit. You may want to refer to them during your study of the particular unit to check on the progress you are making. You should always look at the unit objectives after completing a unit. This is to ensure that you have covered what is required of you in that unit.

On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:

- explain the origin and meaning of environment security
- identify the different situations in which environmental problems can constitute a threat to international peace and security
- discuss the various international theories that applies to environment

- explain the basis for the Green political theory
- provide the perspective of political ecology on the environmental debate
- define the environment
- explain why International Environmental law was developed
- explain the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Treaties entered into by states
- explain the various interventions by Nigerian government aimed at addressing environmental degradation
- discuss the distinct views of both environmental conflict and environmental security
- describe the linkage between environment and conflict
- describe the various environmental challenges facing humanity
- describe those environmental problems facing Nigeria as a country
- explain what natural resources are
- relate these resources to conflict
- describe the various types of conflict
- explain some of the theories of conflict developed by conflict scholars
- provide useful explanations under which conflict always occur
- define conflict resolution
- describe the conditions necessary for conflict situation to exist
- identify the stages of responses to conflict resolution
- explain the various conflict resolution techniques
- identify the various methods of ending conflict
- Identify the different processes involved in conflict management.

Working through This Course

To complete this course, you are advised to read the study units, recommended books and other materials provided by NOUN. Each unit contains tutor-marked assignment, and at some points in the course you are required to submit assignments for assessment purposes. At the end of the course, there is a final examination. The course should take you about 20 weeks to complete. You need to allocate your time in order to complete the course successfully and on time.

Course Materials

The major components of this course are:

1. Course Guide

2. Study Units

3. Textbooks and References

5 - downloaded for free as an Open Educational Resource at oer.nou.edu.ng

4. Assignment File

5. Presentation Schedule

Study Units

There are 20 study units in this course, as follows:

Module 1

Unit 1 Basic Definition of the Concept Environmental Security

Unit 2 Origins of Environmental Security

Unit 3 Environmental Security Analysis

Unit 4 Environmental Problems as a Threat and the United Nations' Security Council

Module 2

Unit 1 International Relations Theories Applied to Environment

Unit 2 Theoretical Framework Applied in Environmental Security

Unit 3 Green Political Theory

Unit 4 Environmental Security versus Political Ecology

Module 3

Unit 1 Understanding the Environment

Unit 2 Development of International Environmental Law

Unit 3 Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Treaties

Unit 4 National Environmental Laws

Module 4

Unit 1 Conceptualisation of Conflict

Unit 2 Theories of Conflict

Unit 3 Conflict Resolution Techniques

Unit 4 Conflict Management

Module 5

Unit 1 Environmental Conflict and Environmental Security

Unit 2 Linking Environmental Threat to Conflict

Unit 3 Environmental Challenges

Unit 4 Natural Resources and Conflict

Each unit contains a tutor-marked assignment which will assist you in achieving the stated learning objectives of the individual units and of the course in general.

Textbooks and References

Abolurin, A. (2010). *Democratisation and Conflict Management in Nigeria*. Ibadan: John Archers (Publishers) Ltd.

Shedrack, G. B. (Ed.). (2011). *Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies in West Africa*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Barnett, J. (2001). *The Meaning of Environmental Security: Ecological Politics and Policy in the New Security Era*. New York: Zed Books.

Myer, Norman (1993). *Ultimate Security: the Environmental Basis of Political Stability*. New York: Norton.

Osita, C. E. & Ogaba O. (Eds). (2010). *Climate Change and Human Security*. Lagos: NIIA.

Ross, M. (1993). *The Management of Conflict: Interpretations and Interest in Comparative Perspective*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Vogler, J. & Imber, M. (Eds). (1996). *The Environment and International Relations*. London: Routledge.

Shedrack, G. B. (2011). "The Methods of Conflict Resolution and Transformation." In Shedrack Gaya Best (Ed.). *Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies in West Africa*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Birgitta Johansson & Formas Fokuserar (Eds). (2009). Stockholm, "The UN's Climate Panel, the IPCC" in Climate Challenge – the Safety's Off.

Homer-Dixon, T. (2009). *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Wali, R.C. (2008). "Managing the Consequences of Conflict and its Post Traumatic Disorder." In Sylvester, V. M. & Wali, R. C. (Eds). *Reading in Peace and Conflict Resolution*. Ibadan: Stirling-Horden Publishers (Nig) Ltd.

Westing, A. H. (Ed.). (1989). *Comprehensive Security for the Baltic: An Environmental Approach*. London: SAGE.

World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) (1987). "Our Common Future." Brundtland Report.

Assignment File

There are two aspects to the assessment of this course. In this file, you will find all the details of the work you must submit to your tutor for marking. The marks you obtain for these assignments will count towards the final mark you obtain for this course. Further information on assignment will be found in the assignment file itself, and later in this course guide in the section on assessment. There are many assignments for this course, with each unit having at least one assignment. These assignments are basically meant to assist you to understand the course.

Assessment

There are two aspects to the assessment of this course. First, are the tutor-marked assignments; second, is a written examination. In tackling these assignments, you are expected to apply the information, knowledge and experience acquired during the course. The assignments must be submitted to your tutor for formal assessment in accordance with the deadlines stated in the assignment file. The work you submit to your tutor for assessment will account for 30% of your total course mark.

At the end of the course, you will need to sit for a final examination of three hours duration. This examination will account for the other 70% of your total course mark.

Self-Assessment Exercise (SAEs)

There are 20 tutor-marked assignments in this course. You only need to submit some of the assignments. The best four (i.e. the highest four of what you submit) will be counted. Each assignment counts for 20 marks but on the average when the five assignments are put together, the score will count 30% towards your total course mark. The assignments for the units in this course are contained in the assignment file.

You will be able to complete your assignments from the information and materials contained in the reference books, reading and study units. However, it is always desirable at this level of your education to research more widely, and demonstrate that you have a very broad and in-depth knowledge of the subject matter. When each assignment is completed, send it together with a TMA (tutor-marked assignment) form to your tutor. Ensure that each assignment reaches your tutor on or before the deadline given in the assignment file. If, for any reason you cannot complete your work on time, contact your tutor before the assignment is due to discuss the possibility of an extension. Extensions will not be granted after the due date unless there are exceptional circumstances warranting such.

Final Examination and Grading

The final examination for this course will be of three hours' duration and have a value of 70% of the total course grade. The examination will consist of questions, which reflect the practice exercises and tutor-marked assignments you have previously encountered. All areas of the course will be assessed. Use the time between the completion of the last unit and sitting for the examination to revise the entire course. You may find it useful to review your tutor-marked assignments and comment on them before the examination. The final examination covers information from all aspects of the course.

Course Marking Scheme

Table 1: Course Marking Scheme

ASSESSMENT	MARKS
Assignments 1-4	Four submitted, best three accounts for 30% of course marks
Final examination	70% of overall course marks
Total	100% of course marks

How to Get the Most from This Course

In distance learning, the study units replace the conventional university lecture. This is one of the great advantages of distance learning; you can read and work through specially designed study materials at your own pace, and at a time and place that suits you best. Each of the study units follows a common format. The first item is an introduction to the subject matter of the unit, and how a particular unit is integrated with the other units and the course as a whole. Next to this is a set of learning objectives. These objectives allow you to know what you should be able to do by the time you have completed the unit. These learning objectives are meant to guide your study. The moment a unit is finished, you must go back and check whether you have achieved the objectives. If this is made a habit, then you will significantly improve your chances of passing the course.

The following is a practical strategy for working through the course. If you run into any trouble, telephone your tutor. Remember that your tutor's job is to help you. When you need assistance, do not hesitate to call and ask your tutor to provide it.

1. Read this Course Guide thoroughly, it is your first assignment.
2. Organise a Study Schedule. Design a 'Course Overview' to guide you through the Course. Note the time you are expected to spend on each unit and how the assignments relate to the units. Important information, e.g. details of your tutorials, and the date of the first day of the Semester is available from the NOUN Website. You need to gather all the information into one place, such as your diary or a wall calendar. Whatever method you choose to use, you should decide on and write in your own dates and schedule of work for each unit.
3. Once you have created your own study schedule, do everything to stay faithful to it. The major reason that students fail is that they get behind with their course work. If you get into difficulties with your schedule, please, let your tutor know before it is too late to get help.
4. Turn to Unit 1, and read the introduction and the objectives for the unit.
5. Assemble the study materials. You will need your text books and the unit you are studying at any point in time.

6. Work through the unit. As you work through the unit, you will know what sources to consult for further information.
7. Up-to-date course information will be continuously posted there.
8. Well before the relevant due dates (about 4 weeks before due dates), access the assignment file on the NOUN Website and download your next required assignment. Keep in mind that you will learn a lot by doing the assignment carefully. They have been designed to help you meet the objectives of the course and, therefore, will help you pass the examination. Submit all assignments not later than the due date.
9. Review the objectives for each study unit to confirm that you have achieved them. If you feel unsure about any of the objectives, review the study materials or consult your tutor.
10. When you are confident that you have achieved a unit's objectives, you can start on the next unit. Proceed unit by unit through the course and try to pace your study so that you keep yourself on schedule.
11. When you have submitted an assignment to your tutor for marking, do not wait for its return before starting on the next unit. Keep to your schedule. When the assignment is returned, pay particular attention to your tutor's comments, both on the tutor-marked assignment form and also the written comments on the ordinary assignments.
12. After completing the last unit, review the course and prepare yourself for the final examination. Check that you have achieved the unit's objectives (listed at the beginning of each unit) and the course objectives (listed in the course guide).

Tutors and Tutorials

There are 15 hours of tutorials provided in support of this course. You will be notified of the dates, times and location of these tutorials, together with the name and phone number of your tutor. Your tutor will mark and comment on your assignments, keep a close watch on your progress and on any difficulties you might encounter and provide assistance to you during the course. You must mail your tutor-marked assignments to your tutor well before the due date (at least two working days are required). They will be marked by your tutor and returned to you as soon as possible. Do not hesitate to contact your tutor by telephone, e-mail, or discussion board. The following might be circumstances in which you will find help necessary. Contact your tutor if:

- i. You do not understand any part of the study units or the assigned readings.
- ii. You have a question or problem with an assignment, with your tutor's comments on an assignment or with the grading of an assignment.

Summary

You should try your best to attend the tutorials. This is the only chance to have face-to-face contact with your tutor and ask questions which are answered instantly. You can raise any problem encountered in the course of your study. To gain the maximum benefits from

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course tutorials, prepare a question list before attending them. You will learn quite a lot from participating in the discussions.

We wish you success and hope that you will find the course both interesting and useful. Good luck.