

**Course Name** – URBAN NATURES: Rivers and green planning of the cities

**Course Code** – TBD

**Credits-** 3

**Faculty Name** - MINATI DASH

**Faculty Biography** (maximum three to four sentences) -

Minati Dash is a sociologist who works in the area of politics of development. More specifically, she is interested in anthropology of extraction, Adivasi rights, Urban Sociology, River- centred Urban Planning and Anthropology of Climate Change

**Course Description-**

This multidisciplinary course is an invitation for students to engage in a series of multimodal pedagogical activities drawing on the fields of urban political ecologies to 'unsettle the understanding of 'cities' as ontological entities separate from 'nature' (Kaika, 2020). It discusses how urban environments are produced through political contestations. It critically examines how and why certain urban environments are created and who benefits from them, specifically in the context of river-centered green planning in cities. As cities contend with rapid urbanization and the impacts of climate change, these questions become primary. Moreover, the role of urban rivers and wetlands as critical green infrastructure is increasingly recognized as the cornerstone of making cities environmentally resilient.

The students will interrogate the ecological, political, and social dimensions of urban rivers to understand how these water bodies have been imagined with respect to their uses over history and how they have been mapped. They will engage in understanding the role of rivers in the politics of "green planning," focusing on objectives, gains and losses of such planning through a lens of ecological and social justice.

**Prerequisites-**

An interest in political ecology will be useful to understand the key concepts in the course

**Scheme of Evaluation and Grading -**

Internal Evaluation (70 percent) would be based on two assignments:

Assignment 1 -

mapping a River (20%): A 4-page visual + narrative "biography" of one urban river stretch in India, tracing its historical, ecological, social, and planning history.

Assignment 2- (50%): Policy Critique and Alternative justice-oriented intervention - This assignment has two components. The first part requires a critical analysis of two city or green planning documents and a policy brief or design proposal proposing an alternative green intervention for a specific Indian city, which aims to design with nature that is justice-oriented and ecologically and socially equitable.

External Evaluation would be conducted as a viva by an external juror.