

Faculty of Economics
Introduction to South Asia
B-3: *South Asia Economies – An Introduction*

Duration: Fridays, 11 am – 1 pm; 24 April – 04 May 2017

Credits: 1

Course Instructors: Syed Ahsan; Snehashish Bhattacharya; Anirban Dasgupta

Note: The course is limited to a maximum of 25 students on a first-come-first-served basis. The course will not be offered if a minimum of ten students have not opted for it.

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students from a non-economics background to the important issues facing the South Asian economies. The course will start with an account of the historical evolution of post-colonial South Asia from an economic perspective including the development strategies chosen by the different countries. Subsequently an overview of the recent performance of South Asian countries in terms of growth, poverty reduction and other dimensions of human development will be presented to be followed by a discussion on selected topics relevant to an understanding of South Asian economies and its development, experience and prospects.

Topics

1. Historical evolution of post-colonial political economy in South Asia
2. An economic profile of South Asia
3. Growth, poverty and inequality
4. Agriculture and Rural Development
5. Industrialization and the Informal Sector
6. Trade and regional integration
7. Climate change, natural resources and environmental governance

Evaluation

Grading will be based on a final exam consisting of short answer questions

Readings (Some lectures will be supplemented with specific readings distributed in class)

- Bose, Sugata and Ayesha Jalal (1998), *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy*, Routledge (chapters 18 & 19).
- Hossain, Moazzam, Rajat Kathuria and Iyanatul Islam (2010) *South Asian Economic Development*, 2nd ed., Routledge.
- Haq, Mahbub ul, Human Development Centre (various years) *South Asia Human Development Reports*