

South Asian University
Faculty of Economics

Introduction to South Asian Economies

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Course Description (Monsoon 2017)

This course is designed to introduce students from a non-economics background to some of the important issues facing the South Asian economies. The course will start with an account of the current economic profile of the South Asian region, touching upon sectoral structure of the economies and their evolution, the broader pattern of growth, human development, issues of international and regional trade, role of the public sector, evolving patterns of poverty and economic inequality. An in-depth examination will be made of the state of the agricultural sector, especially the changes the sector has undergone over time, and the challenges confronting it (e.g., faster growth, climate adaptation, international trade). Policy interventions required to make the sector resilient enough to stand up to some of these challenges will be discussed. Similarly, the issues of energy, a key input in any production, both for exhaustible and renewable types, will be reviewed for a better understanding of its appropriate role and the policy regimes relevant for its efficient utilization and development.

Evaluation

Grading will be based on a mid-term and a final exam, details of which will be announced at the start of the course.

Topics

1. An Economic Profile of South Asia
2. Patterns of Economic Growth, Trade and Human Development
3. Evolving Poverty and Inequality Profiles
4. Agriculture, the Rural Economy & Overall Economic Growth: the Theoretical Perspective
5. State of the South Asian Agriculture: Observations from Data
6. Challenges confronting South Asian Agriculture and the Way Forward
7. Energy and the Economy: Efficient Utilization and Reforms
8. Energy Security in South Asia
9. Energy, Environment & Climate

Readings (Additional details will be provided at the start of the course)

- Lakner, C & B. Milanovic (2016), ‘Global Income Distribution: From the Fall of the Berlin Wall to the Great Recession’, *World Bank Econ Rev* 30 (2): 203-232.
- World Bank (2016), *Fading Tailwinds: South Asia Economic Focus*, Spring (Washington, DC).
- Oxfam (2016), “An Economy for the 1%”, Oxfam Briefing paper # 210, Jan 18 (www.oxfam.org).
- Verick, S & R. Chaudhary (2014b), “Women’s Labour Force Participation in India: Why is it so Low?”, ILO, Delhi.
- Timer, C. P. (1988), ‘The Agricultural Transformation’ in H. Chenery and T. N. Srinivasan (Eds.) *Handbook of Development Economics*, Chapter 8, Vol. 1, Elsevier Science Publisher.
- Tiffin R and X. Irz (2006), “Is Agriculture the Engine of Growth?” *Agricultural Economics* 35, pp. 79–89.
- Joshi, P. K., A Gulati, P S Birthal, and L Tewari (2004), “Agriculture Diversification in South Asia: Patterns, Determinants and Policy Implications,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 39, No. 24, pp. 2457-2467.
- Sivakumar, M.V.K. and R. Stefanski (2011), ‘Climate Change in South Asia’, in R. Lal et al. (Eds.), *Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia*, Chapter 2, Springer Science+Business Media B.V.
- Shankar, K. R., K. Nagasree, G. Nirmala, M. S. Prasad, B. Venkateswarlu, and Ch. S. Rao (2014): ‘Climate Change and Agricultural Adaptation in South Asia’, in L. F. Walter (Ed.) *Handbook of Climate Change Adaptation*, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg.
- Ingco, D. M. and T. Kandiero (2003): ‘Introduction’ in M. D. Ingco (Ed.) *Agriculture, Trade, and the WTO in South Asia*, World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- Reddy N. D. and S. Mishra (Eds.) (2009), *Agrarian Crisis in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
- Ebinger, Charles, K. (2013), *Energy and Security in South Asia: Cooperation or Conflict?* Cambridge University Press, New Delhi.
- Dhungel, Raj (2008), “Regional Energy Trade in South Asia: Problems and Prospects” *South Asia Economic Journal*, Volume 9, Issue 1, pp. 173-193
- SAARC Energy Centre (2008), “Developing Integrated Energy Policies in South Asia”
http://www.saarcenergy.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/02/Integrated_Policies_3_2008.pdf
- Asian Development Bank (2015), “Energy Outlook for Asia and the Pacific” (www.adb.org)
- SAARC Energy Centre (2015), “Study to Assess Renewable Energy Development in South Asia; Achievements and the Way Forward in the Perspective of Policies and Investment Opportunities” <http://www.saarcenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Study%20Report.pdf>