

**Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU
SS 456N Economy and Society in India
MA Compulsory Course (2018)**

Credits: 4

Course Teacher: Prof. V. Sujatha

Objectives:

The course aims at giving an exposure to basic concepts in the understanding of economy and society in general, which the course will review in relation to economy and society in India. In order to get an idea of the complexities of the contemporary Indian situation, the course provides a historical overview of economic relations during colonialism and the role of the state in regulating the economy. The interwoven nature of the social, cultural and economic in production consumption and distribution of goods and services will be dealt with in the other sections. Various aspects of the sociology of economic life in India will be covered by *lectures, guest lectures, class discussion, tutorials; film shows and field based studies will also be part of the learning process.*

Assessment:

End semester examination 2 credits (Around 22 April)

Mid semester examination 1 credit (Around first week of March)

Intra-semester tutorial assignment, presentation and participation 1 credit

Students will be assigned into groups of 8-9 each and groups will be given a theme each from the course outline. The students in a group will work on different readings on the same theme and every student will have to write a separate term paper based on primary data i.e., fieldwork or analysis of secondary databases. The tutorial groups will meet regularly and each student in the group is expected to discuss and present their ongoing work; they will be assisted by the teacher and teaching assistants. Tutorials presentation and participation is a critical part of the assessment and missing tutorial group will be treated as absence from examination. The term paper of 3500 words with references and notes will have to be submitted by 10th April.

I. Basic Concepts and Approaches in understanding Economy and Society

- A. Economic processes- Production, Exchange, Distribution and Consumption
- B. Perspectives from economic sociology (Embeddedness, economic action and social structure)
- C. The anthropology of the economy (Exchange, gift, alternatives to commodity production and market)

Core Readings

Section A

1. Milton Friedman (1953) *Essays in Positive Economics*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (Chapter 1)
2. Marx Karl (1976) *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy Vol. One*. England: Penguin Books. Translated by Ben Fowkes. (Pages. 125- 187, 270- 280, 340- 353).
3. Weber Max (1978) *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. California: University of California Press. (Chap 2: Sociological categories of economic action & Chap 7: The market, its impersonality and ethic).
4. Parsons Talcott and Smelser Neil J (2003) *Economy and Society: A Study in the Integration of Economic and Social Theory*. London: Psychology Press. (Pg. 8-28)
<https://books.google.co.in/books?id=XOLSB30FtKEC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false>
5. Thompson EP (1967) Time, work-discipline, and industrial capitalism. *Past and Present* 38: 56-97.
6. Basu Kaushik (1986) Markets, Power and Social Norms. *Economic and Political Weekly* 21(43): 1893- 96.
7. Uberoi JPS (2008) Sociology of Commerce and Industry or the Three lives of things. *Sociological Bulletin* 57 (1): 41-59.
8. Waring Marilyn (1990). *If Women Counted. A New Feminist Economics*. San Francisco: Harper Collins.(selected portions)

Section B

9. Smelser Neil J and Richard Swedberg (eds) (2005). *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Chap 6, 11, 13, 16, 20, 23, 28, 29).
10. Granovetter, Mark (1985) Economic action and social structure: The Problem of Embeddedness. *American Journal of Sociology*, 91 (3): 481-510.

Section C

11. Polanyi Karl (1957) *The Great Transformation*. Boston: Beacon Press. (Part II, Section I pages 45-81 and Part II, section II)
12. Gregory Chris A (1982) *Gifts and commodities*. New York: Academic Press. (Pg. 41-69)
13. Carrier James G (2005) *A Handbook of Economic Anthropology*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. (Chap 10,13, 17 & 21).

II. Economic history of the Indian subcontinent

- A. Economic Institutions in the Indian subcontinent and international trade in the Pre-British era
- B. East India Companies and colonialism
- C. Development and economic growth in post independent India- Mixed economy

Core Readings

14. Roy Thirthankar. (1999) *Traditional industry in the economy of colonial India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chap 2 & 6)

15. Chandavarkar Rajnarayan (1994) *The origins of industrial capitalism in India: Business Strategies and the working classes in Bombay,1900-1940*. London: Cambridge University Press. (Chap 2 & 3)
16. Rudolph Lloyd and Rudolph Susanne (1987). *In pursuit of Lakshmi. The political economy of the Indian state*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (Chap 7 & 8)

III. Industrial and Agricultural Production in Contemporary India

Core Readings

17. Gupta Akhil (1998) *Postcolonial developments. Agriculture in the making of modern India*. Durham: Duke University Press.
18. Chakravarti, Anand (2001) *Social power and everyday class relations: Agrarian Transformation in North Bihar*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
19. Purushottaman Seema and Patil Sheetal (2017) Regional Economies and Small farmers in Karnataka. *Economic and Political Weekly* 52(46): 78- 84.
20. Chari Sharad (2004). *Fraternal capital: Peasant Workers, Self-made Men, and Globalization in provincial India*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
21. Parry Jonathan, Breman Jan and Kapadia Karin (Eds.) (1999). *The Worlds of the Indian Industrial labour*. New Delhi : Sage Publications. (Chap 1,10,11,12 & 14)
22. Ramaswamy EA and Ramaswamy Uma (1981) *Industry and Labour: An Introduction*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. (Chap 4 & 5).
23. Gerard Heuze (1996) *Workers of another field: Miners, countryside and coal fields in Dhanbad*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. (Chap 3, 5, 6, 7).
24. Hariss-White Barbara and Heyer Judith (eds) (2014). *Indian capitalism in development*. London: Routledge Contemporary South Asia Series. (Chap 10,14, 23, 31,40,46).
25. Upadhyaya Carol (2016) *Reengineering India. Work capital and class in an offshore economy*. New Delhi. Oxford University Press.
26. Parthasarathy D (2015) The poverty of Marxist theory: Peasant classes, Provincial Capital and the critique of Globalisation in India. *Journal of Social History* 48 (4): 816-841.

IV. The State, Economic Institutions and the Informal economy

Core Readings

27. Baru Sanjaya (1988) State and Industrialisation in a Post-Colonial Capitalist Economy: The experience of India. *Economic and Political Weekly* 23 (4): 143-150.
28. Nayyar, Deepak. (2017) Economic liberalization in India. Then and now. *Economic and Political Weekly* LII (2):41-48
29. Sainath P (1996) *Everybody Loves a Good Drought: Stories from India's Poorest Districts*. New Delhi: Penguin.
30. Kundu Amitabh and Sharma Alakh (2001). *Informal sector in India: Perspectives and Policies*. New Delhi: Institute for human development and Research for Applied Manpower Research.

31. Breman Jan (2013) *At Work in the Informal Economy of India. A perspective from bottom up*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
32. Agarwala Rina (2009) An Economic Sociology of Informal Work: The Case of India. *Research in the Sociology of Work* 18: 315- 342.
33. Gill Kaveri. (2009) *Of Poverty and Plastic: Scavenging and Scrap Trading Entrepreneurs in India's Urban Informal Economy*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
34. Baviskar BS and Attwood DM (1987). Why Do Some Co-operatives Work But Not Others? A Comparative Analysis of Sugar Co-operatives in India. *Economic and Political Weekly* 22 (26): A38-A56.
35. Gadgil M and Guha R (1995) *Ecology and Equity. The use and abuse of nature in contemporary India*. New Delhi: Penguin Books.
36. Narasimha Roddam (1996) *Science technology and economy. An Indian perspective*. http://jncasr.ac.in/emu/rnsimha/RN_Website_12may08/rn_files/Attachments/STE-22June2008.pdf

V Social and Cultural Moorings of Economic Action

Core Readings

37. Hariss-White, Barbara (2004). *India Working: Essays on society and economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
38. Jafferlot Christopher and van der Veer Peter (eds) (2008). *Patterns of middle class consumption in India and China*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
39. Kaul Rekha (1993). *Caste, Class, and Education: Politics of the Capitation Fee Phenomenon in Karnataka*. New Delhi: Sage

Optional Readings

1. Schumacher EF (1973) *Small is beautiful: A study of economics as if people mattered*. London: Blond and Briggs.
2. Swedberg, Richard (1991) Major Traditions of Economic Sociology. *Annual Review of Sociology* 17: 251-76.
3. Victor Nee and Swedberg (2005) *The Economic Sociology of Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Pg. 144- 167, 227- 288, 391- 444).
4. Knoke David (2012) *Economic Networks*. Cambridge. Polity Press. (Chap 2 & 3).
5. Godelier Maurice (1972) *Rationality and Irrationality in Economics*. New York: Monthly Review Press.
6. Appadurai Arjun.1988. *The social life of things. Commodities in cultural perspective*. Cambridge University Press
7. Beteille Andre (2007) *Marxism and Class Analysis*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

8. Horkheimer Max and Adorno Theodor (2002) Culture Industry: Enlightenment as mass deception. In: Horkheimer M and Adorno T (eds.) *Dialectic of Enlightenment: Philosophical Fragments*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pages 94-136.
9. Markovits Claude, Pouchepadass Jacques and Subrahmanyam S (2003) *Society and circulation. Mobile people and itinerant cultures in India 1750-1950*. Delhi: Permanent Black (Chap 3 & 5).
10. Moxham Roy (2016) *The Theft of India. The European Conquests of India, 1498-1750*. New Delhi: Harper Collins. (Chap 1 & 3).
11. Dasgupta Ajit (1993). *A History of Indian Economic Thought*. London: Routledge. (Chap 10)
12. Menon Meena and Uzramma (2017) *A Frayed History: The Journey of Cotton in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
13. Mario Rutten (2013) *Rural Capitalists in Asia: A Comparative Analysis on India, Indonesia, and Malaysia*. London: Routledge
14. Parry, Jonathan (ed) (1989) *Money and the Morality of Exchange*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
15. Scott James (1976). *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in South East Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
16. Upadhyaya, Carol (1988). The Farmer-Capitalists of Coastal Andhra Pradesh. *Economic and Political Weekly* 23(27–28): 1433–1442.
17. Portes A and Castells M and Benton LA (1989) *The Informal Economy: Studies in advanced and less developed countries*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.
18. Basu Santanu (1997) Why Institutional Credit Agencies Are Reluctant to Lend to the Rural Poor: A Theoretical Analysis of the Indian Rural Credit Market. *World Development* 25 (2): 267- 280.
19. Visvanathan S and Sethi H (1998). *Foul play: chronicles of Corruption*. New Delhi: Banyan Books.