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)
• Reddy N. D. and S. Mishra (Eds.) (2009), Agrarian Crisis in India, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.