

Course title: Water resources - Institutions and Governance				
Course code: WSW 143	No. of credits: 3	LTP distribution: 24-18-0	Learning hours: 42	
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None				
Department: Department of Regional Water Studies				
Course coordinator(s): Dr. Nirupam Datta			Course instructor(s): Dr. Nirupam Datta	
Contact details:				
Course type: Compulsory Core			Course offered in: Semester 1	
Course Description				
<p>This course will introduce students to diverse perspective on water institutions and organisations. The course examines the relation between water and development. The course explores this relation in context of governance framework which is increasingly being influenced by conflict over resources. The course focuses on the characteristics of water institutions in South Asia, particularly India, and discusses how these characteristic features have influenced the reform process. Relation between state formation and irrigation, contestation over water, challenges to water governance in South Asia are also discussed. A prominent focus of this course is on discussing the trajectory of water reforms in India and salience of actors in influencing/obstructing institutional change.</p>				
Course objectives				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce students to basic concepts, and principles that undergird water institutions, its governance and management. To explore the rationale for water reforms, key proponents of reforms and how interests, ideas and actor's influence reforms process. To explore specific cases of water reforms in South Asia, particularly India, and contestations around it. 				
Course content				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1	Introduction <i>i) Water institutions and organisations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing key concepts: institutions, organisations and their relationship, institutional change - Characteristics of water institutions (formal and informal), organisations and bureaucracy in India - Property rights (open access, common, private and state) - Understanding institutions in context of water, multiple level of organisations in water sector - Irrigation and state formation - How notion of legal pluralism and social capital shape access to water 	5	4	
2	Water governance and institutional reform <i>i) Water governance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is governance? - Is 'good governance' good enough? - Ground water markets (form of governance) <i>ii) Key institutional reforms in water sector</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major drivers of reform process - Rationale for reform and its implications - Forms of institutional innovation and reform (decentralisation, privatisation and public-private participation, IRAs) - Process of reforms and resistance to reforms (internal or external) <i>iii) Proponents of reforms - salience of actors in reform process</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International institutions, bureaucracy, civil society organisations, etc. <i>iv) Politics of reforms</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenges to water governance - Water bureaucracy 	10	8	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decentralising water institutions (Water User Associations (WUA), Village Watershed Committees (VWC), etc. <p><i>vi) Water sector reforms in India and elsewhere</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reforms that have been introduced in the water sector (Drinking water, Water for agricultural use, Water regulatory authority) <p><i>vii) Discussion of some key cases that elucidate -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience, politics of reform, learning and lessons - Discern underlying narratives and discourses which have influenced reform process 			
3	<p>Common property water resources</p> <p><i>i) Forms of collective action and their role in sustaining livelihoods</i></p> <p>Case studies: Gender and participation in WUAs, VWC, etc.</p>	4	3	
4	<p>Social movements</p> <p><i>i) Contestations over water</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue of equity, rights, gender concerns in water allocation <p><i>ii) Social movements around water</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water privatisation 	2	1	
5	<p>Way forward: new and emerging challenges</p> <p><i>i) Practical approaches to resolve water problems – moving beyond model frameworks</i></p>	3	2	
		24	18	

Evaluation criteria

1. 25% of the grades will be based on class participation. Class participation will be adjudged based on the quality of discussion that students engage in based on their reading/understanding of the material circulated and their preparedness for seminars and tutorials. Other methods like debates, role-play, etc. will also be employed to adjudge class participation.
2. 25% of the grade will be assessed through class presentation. Students can choose to present any session's reading. A list will be circulated in the first week of class, wherein students can mark their selection of text for presentation.
3. 25% of the grades will be assessed through a short reaction paper (2000 words) that the student will be expected to hand in once in the semester. Students can choose any week's readings for writing their reaction papers. The reaction papers should go beyond summarizing readings and clearly articulate grasp of concepts and debates in order to undertake a good institutional analysis. If students like, they can draw on any additional work for making their argument. It is expected that students will adhere to tenets of academic honesty, as elaborated in university regulations.
4. Another 25% of the grade will be assessed through written exam at the end of the semester.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students would:

- Have the ability to understand the reasons for contestation over water resources, its management and governance
- Be able to understand, analyse issues regarding water governance and reforms in India taking into account social, economic and environmental parameters
- Be able to articulate the contemporary challenges that the water sector in India faces

Pedagogical approach

This course curriculum has been designed as a learning programme wherein students will be able to read, discuss and write about the work being discussed. The course will be run as a seminar and it will be expected that students read beforehand the assigned reading and come prepared to the class to participate in the discussion. This will also give them an opportunity to reflect on authors' approach, methods employed, and explanatory building blocks used to take forward their argument. Audio visual tools like short documentaries that highlight institutional and governance issues will also be used in the course.

Materials

Module 1. Introduction

i) Mehta, L., Leach, M., Newell, P., Scoones, I., Sivaramakrishnan, K., & Way, S.-A. (1999). Exploring Understandings of Institutions and Uncertainty: New Directions in Natural Resource Management, *IDS Discussion Paper 372* (pp. 48). Brighton: Institute of Development Studies.

Module 2: Water governance and institutional reforms

i) Grindle, M. S. (2007). Good Enough Governance Revisited. *Development Policy Review*, 25(5), 553-574.

ii) Mollinga, P. P. (2010). The material conditions of a polarised discourse: Clamours and silences in critical analysis of agricultural water use in India. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 10(3), 414-436.

iii) Narain, V. (2008). Crafting Institutions for Collective Action in Canal Irrigation: Can We Break the Deadlocks? In V. Ballabh (Ed.), *Governance of water: institutional Alternatives and Political Economy* (pp. 159-173). New Delhi: Sage Publications.

iv) Sangameswaran, P. (2009). Neoliberalism and water reforms in western India: Commercialisation, self-sufficiency, and regulatory bodies. *Geoforum*, 40(2), 228-238.

Module 3: Common property water resources

i) Ostrom, E. (1999). *Governing the commons: The evolution of institutions for collective action*: Cambridge University Press.

Module 4: Social movements

i) Phadke, R. (2005). People's science in action: the politics of protest and knowledge brokering in India. *Society and Natural Resources*, 18(4), 363-375.

Module 5: Way forward: new and emerging challenges

i) Mollinga, P. P., Meinsen-Dick, R. S., & Merrey, D. J. (2007). Politics, plurality and problemsheds: A strategic approach for reform of agricultural water resources management. *Development Policy Review*, 25(6), 699-719.

Suggested Readings

i) Chibba, M. (2009). Governance and Development: The current role of theory, policy and practice. *World Economics*, 10(2), 79.

ii) Shah, T. (2009). *Taming the Anarchy: Groundwater Governance in South Asia*. New Delhi: Routledge. Chapter 1

iii) Zwartveen, M. (2011). Questioning masculinities in water. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 61(18), 40-48.

iv) Meinsen-Dick, R. (2007). Beyond panaceas in water institutions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 104(39), 15200-15205.

v) Saleth, R. M., & Dinar, A. (2005). Water institutional reforms: theory and practice. *Water Policy*, 7(2005), 1-19.

vi) Mukherji, A., Fuleki, B., Shah, T., Suhardiman, D., Giordano, M., & Weligamag, P. (2009). *Irrigation reform in Asia: A review of 108 cases of irrigation management transfer: Revitalising Asia's Irrigation: Options for the Future* (Report). Colombo: International Water Management Institute.

vii) Molle, F., Mollinga, P. P., & Wester, P. (2009). Hydraulic bureaucracies and the hydraulic mission: Flows of water, flows of power. *Water Alternatives*, 2(3), 21.

viii) Rap, E. (2006). The success of a policy model: Irrigation management transfer in Mexico. *Journal of Development Studies*, 42(8), 1301-1324

ix) Zwartveen, M. (2011). Questioning masculinities in water. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 61(18), 40-48.

x) Ballabh, V. (2008). Governance of Water: Issues and Challenges. In V. Ballabh (Ed.), *Governance of water: institutional Alternatives and Political Economy* (pp. 3-17). New Delhi: Sage Publication.

xi) Butterworth, J., Warner, J., Moriarty, P., Smits, S., & Batchelor, C. (2010). Finding Practical Approaches to Integrated Water Resources Management. *Water Alternatives*, 3(1).

Journals

- i) Water Alternatives
- ii) Water Policy
- iii) World Development
- iv) Economic and Political Weekly
- v) International Journal of Water Resources Development

Additional information (if any)**Student responsibilities**

Students are expected to come prepared for class, having done the required reading and be able to participate in class discussions. Additionally, class representative will be responsible for recording attendance.

Course reviewers:

1. Dr. Vishal Narain, Associate Professor, Management Development Institute, Gurgaon
2. Dr. Neeraj Mishra, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore