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| **Course title:** Economic History of India | | | |
| **Course code:** UEO 208 | **No. of credits**: 4 | **L-T-P**: 60-0-0 | **Learning hours:** 60 |
| **Pre-requisite course code and title (if any):** None | | | |
| **Department:** Policy and Management Studies | | | |
| **Course coordinator:** Dr. Malvika Tyagi | | **Course instructor:** Prof. Sukanya Das/Dr. Malvika Tyagi | |
| **Contact details:** malvika.tyagi@terisas.ac.in | | | |
| **Course type:** Major | | **Course offered in:** Semester 4 | |

**Course description:**

This course brings into focus certain key aspects of the Indian economy during the colonial period. It starts with a discussion of the trends of the fundamental macroeconomic features of the Indian economy during this period. Discussions in the course then centers on the core sectors of the Indian economy. The key issues in Indian agriculture, Indian industry and foreign trade are the focus of these discussions. However, these issues and the performances of each of the core sectors cannot be isolated from the policies that were being pursued by the colonial government in India that were primarily meant to cater to the interests of the economy of colonial Britain. Critical analysis of the economic policies—fiscal, monetary, and industrial—that were pursued by the colonial administration in India with the related consequences on the levels of living of a huge mass of the population, is the focus of discussions in Module 5.

The transition of India from a colonised nation to a post-colonial state is inextricably related to the policies that were pursued by the government of the independent nation. Discussions in the last module (Module 6) revolve around the debates, prior to and at the time of independence, on the possible development trajectories of the newly independent nation. The government position on the subsequent implementation of Five-Year Plans that shaped the development trajectory was an outcome of these debates.

**Course objectives:**

- To understand the structure and overall performance of the Indian economy and its core sectors between 1857 and 1947.
- To acquaint the students with the macroeconomic policies that were pursued by the colonial administration and enable them to critically examine those through the impacts these policies had on the population.
- To understand the transition of a colonised nation in terms of pursuing an autonomous development trajectory after independence.

**Course contents**

| Module | Topic | L | T | P |
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| 1. | Macroeconomic Trends in the Indian Economy<br><br>• Growth rate of national income and shares of sectors in the national income<br>• Structure of national income and workforce<br>• Trends in real wages and the levels of living | 10 | | |
| 2. | Issues in Indian Agriculture<br><br>• Trends in production and yield<br>• Commercialization of agriculture<br>• Agrarian relations in the countryside<br>• Movements of agricultural prices | 10 | | |
| 3. | Issues in Indian Industry<br><br>• The development of railways<br>• De-industrialization debate<br>• Labour relations | 10 | | |
| 4. | Colonial India in the World Economy<br><br>• Levels and patterns of international trade<br>• Economic relationship between colonial India and Britain | 12 | | |
| 5. | Economic Policy of the Colonial Government and its Consequences<br><br>• Fiscal policy<br>• Industrial policy<br>• Monetary policy<br>• Critical evaluation of policy interventions during famines | 12 | | |
| 6. | Indian Economy in Transition: From the Colonial to the Post-Colonial<br><br>• Debates on the nature of Indian planning after Independence<br>• The consensus on state-led capitalist development | 6 | | |
| | **Total (in hours)** | **60** | | |

**Evaluation criteria**

- Minor 1: Written test [after the completion of Module 1] — 25% [learning outcome 1].
- Minor 2: Presentation [after the completion of Modules 2, 3 and 4] — 35% [learning outcome 2].
- Major exam: Written test: [after the completion of the course; based on Modules 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6] — 40% [learning outcomes 2, 3 and 4].

**Learning outcomes**

After the completion of the course, students will develop:

- Understanding of the performance of the Indian economy during the colonial period.
- Comprehensive understanding of the issues related to the core sectors of the economy that has repercussions in the contemporary period.
- Detailed understanding of the policies of the colonial administration and the impacts of these policies on the economy.
- Understanding of the changes in the development trajectory of the Indian economy during transition.

**References**

***Textbooks***


- Bagchi, A. K. (2008). *Private Investment in India: 1900-1939*. Cambridge University Press.
- Balakrishnan, P. (2010). *Economic Growth in India: History and Prospect*, Oxford University Press.
- Kumar, D. And Desai, M. (2008). *The Cambridge Economic History of India: Volume 2*, Cambridge University Press.
- Roy, T. (2011). *The Economic History of India: 1857-1947 (3rd edition)*, Oxford University Press.


CORE reading materials (module-wise):

- Module 1: Macroeconomic Trends in the Indian Economy
- Roy, T. (2011). Chapter 3 in *The Economic History of India: 1857-1947 (3rd edition)*, Oxford University Press.
- Krishnamurty, J. (2008). The occupational structure in D. Kumar and M. Desai (eds.), *The Cambridge Economic History of India: Volume 2*, Cambridge University Press.

Module 2: Issues in Indian Agriculture

- McAlpin, M. (2008). Price movements and fluctuations in economic activity (186-1947) in D. Kumar and M. Desai (eds.), *The Cambridge Economic History of India: Volume 2*, Cambridge University Press.
- Habib, I. (2006). Chapter 3 in *Indian Economy: 1858-1914*, Tulika Books.
- Roy, T. (2011). Chapter 3 in *The Economic History of India: 1857-1947 (3rd edition)*, Oxford University Press.
- Guha, S. (1992). Introduction to *Growth, Stagnation or Decline? Agricultural Productivity in British India*, Oxford University Press.

Module 3: Issues in Indian Industry

- Roy, T. (2011). Chapter 6 in *The Economic History of India: 1857-1947 (3rd edition)*, Oxford University Press.
- Bagchi, A. K. (2008). Chapter 14 in *Private Investment in India: 1900-1939*. Cambridge University Press.
- Habib, I. (2006). Chapter 2 in *Indian Economy: 1858-1914*, Tulika Books.

- Morris, D. Morris. (1965). Chapter 11 (Summary and Conclusions) in *The Emergence of an Industrial Labour Force in India: A Study of the Bombay Cotton Mills, 1854-1947*, Oxford University Press, University of California Press.
- Hurd, J. H. (1983). Chapter 8 in in D. Kumar and M. Desai (eds.), *The Cambridge Economic History of India: Volume 2*, Cambridge University Press.

Module 4: Foreign Trade and the Balance of Payments

- Mukherjee, A. (2010). How colonial India made modern Britain. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(50), 73-82.
- Roy, T. (2011). Chapter 3 in *The Economic History of India: 1857-1947 (3rd edition)*, Oxford University Press.
- Habib, I. (2006). Chapter 4 in *Indian Economy: 1858-1914*, Tulika Books.
- Chaudhuri, K.N. (1983). Foreign trade and balance of payments (1757-1947) in D. Kumar and M. Desai (eds.), *The Cambridge Economic History of India: Volume 2*, Cambridge University Press.
- Patnaik, U. (2017). Revisiting the 'drain', or transfer from India to Britain in the context of global diffusion of capitalism. *Agrarian and Other Histories: Essays for Binay Bhushan Chaudhuri, New Delhi:* Tulika Books, 277-317.
- Balachandran, G. (2016). Colonial India and the world economy, C. 1850-1940., in Chaudhury, L. et al (eds.), *A New Economic History of Colonial India*. Routledge, London and New York.

Module 5: Economic Policy of the Colonial Government and its impacts

- Bagchi, A. K. (2008). Chapter 2 in *Private Investment in India: 1900-1939*. Cambridge University Press.
- Patnaik, U., (2018). Profit inflation, Keynes and the holocaust in Bengal, 1943–44. *Economic and Political Weekly*, *53*(42), 33-43.
- Dreze, J. (1991). Chapter 1 in *The Political Economy of Hunger. Volume 2: Famine Prevention*, Clarendon Press.

Module 6: Indian Economy in Transition: From the Colonial to the Post- Colonial

- Balakrishnan, P. (2010). Chapter 2 in *Economic Growth in India: History and Prospect*, Oxford University Press.
- Patnaik, P. (1998). Some Indian debates in planning in T. J. Byres (ed.), *The Indian Economy: Major Debates Since Independence*, Oxford University Press.
- Dasgupta, C. (2016). Chapters 4 and 5 in *State and Capital in Independent India: Institutions and Accumulation*, Cambridge University Press.

**Additional reading materials:**

- Guha, S. (1992). *Growth, Stagnation or Decline? Agricultural Productivity in British India*, Oxford University Press.
- Chattopadhyay, R. (1987). An early British government initiative in the genesis of Indian planning, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 22(5), 19-29.
- Parthasarathi, P. (2011). *Why Europe grew rich and Asia did not: Global economic divergence, 1600–1850*. Cambridge University Press.
- Ray, R. K. (1992). *Entrepreneurship and industry in India, 1800-1947*. Oxford University

Press.
- Patnaik, U. and Patnaik, P. (2021). *Capital and imperialism: theory, history, and the present*. Monthly Review Press.
- Parthasarathi, P (2009), "Historical Issues of Deindustrialisation in Nineteenth Century South India" in T. Roy and G Riello (eds) *How India Clothed the World: The World of South Asian Textiles I500-1850,* Brill, Leiden, pp. 415-435.

**Pedagogical Approach:**

- Classroom lectures

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**Additional information (if any):** None

Course prepared by: Dr. Shantanu De Roy

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**Student responsibilities:** Attendance, feedback, discipline: as per university rules.

Course reviewers:

Prof. C. Saratchand, Department of Economics, University of Delhi.
Mr. Saumyajit Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, Department of Economics,
Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi.