**Course Title:** Economic and Political Geography of South Asia  
**Course No:** IS 529N  
**Total Credits:** Four (4)  
**Course Teacher:** Dr. Ambrish Dhaka

**INTRODUCTION**

The course intends to provide the geographical underpinning to the regional understanding of the South Asia countries. The study aims at providing the framework for the delineation of regional issues that are sourced in the economic and political geography of these countries. The geography background helps in exploring the transient economic-political factors at the neighbourhood and the regional level that define the unique characteristics of South Asian region. The cross-country comparative of South Asia's economic geography helps understand the scale of economic convergence and divergence as a region. The aim is to generate a cohesive understanding of the region, so that there is focus on regional issues rather than country based issues. The political units and geographic features of state territory help understand the organisation of the South Asian societies.

**INSTRUCTION METHOD:** Lectures, Seminars/Tutorials

**EVALUATION PATTERN:** Semester Exams, Term paper & Session work

**COURSE CONTENTS**

1. The South Asia as a region, major physiographic division, major climatic features, economic features - organisation of principle economic activities, political features- state and administrative features- capitals and boundaries of the countries.

2. Elements of economic geography:

   A. Agriculture systems- agro-climatic regions of South Asia, major commercial crops- production, efficiency, growth, crop combination pattern analysis, irrigation development, major crops- wheat, rice and sugarcane, cotton; plantations- rubber, tea and timber activity, fishing industry in south Asia.

   B. Industrial systems- iron & steel, textile, petroleum, cement and chemical industries. Location of industrial activity- patterns and changes, industrial agglomerations. Major industrial regions of South Asia, Service sector- growth of IT sector and outsourcing industry.

   C. Biotic and abiotic resources- Iron, coal, aluminium, natural gas & oil, forest and vegetation- patterns and change, patterns of resource trade.
3. Political and Administrative Geography- geographic basis of the nations in South Asia, role of frontiers and boundaries, federalism and the state structure; electoral systems and geography of political representation, administrative geography of South Asian countries.


5. Spatial representation of Data, Basic concepts of Mapping and Projections, Use GIS techniques for Mapping and digital cartography through software applications.

**SELECTED READINGS**


Bradnock, RW & Williams, G. South Asia in a globalising world: a reconstructed regional geography, 2002, Prentice-Hall.

Chapman, Graham. The geopolitics of South Asia: from early empires to the nuclear age, 2003, Ashgate. Ch. 5, 6, 12, 13, & 14.


Shafi, Mohammad. Agricultural geography of South Asia, 2000, New Delhi.


Abbasi, BA. Geography of South Asia, 1992, New Delhi.


Bari, SA. Textbook of economic geography (with special reference to India and
Pakistan), 1965, Bombay.
Basham, AL. Civilizations of Monsoon Asia, 1974, New Delhi.
Brammer, Hugh. The geography of the soils of Bangladesh, 1996, Dhaka.
Chibber, HL. Advanced economic geography of India and Pakistan, 1949, Banaras.
Jalalzai, Musa Khan, A New Hope for Peace in South Asia, 2005, Michigan.
Lytle, EE. Bibliography of the geography of Afghanistan : Background for planning, 1976, Monticello.
Schwartzberg, JE. A Historical Atlas of South Asia, 1993, OUP-USA.