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


**Section B**


**Section C**


**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**


### III. Industrial and Agricultural Production in Contemporary India

**Core Readings**


### IV. The State, Economic Institutions and the Informal economy

**Core Readings**


V Social and Cultural Moorings of Economic Action

Core Readings


Optional Readings


