



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 419 - Economic History of India

Sebastian Prange

This course examines the material foundations of South Asian history. Today, India is the fifth-largest economy in the world by total GDP, and one of the countries with the fastest rate of economic growth. While this growth has been accompanied by a substantial reduction in poverty rates, it is estimated that more than half of India's population — some 900 million people — continue to live below or near the poverty line. This course uses the lens and the tools of economic history to ask how this extreme contrast has come into being, and how it has come to persist.

The course invites you to think big: to seek out broad patterns and identify connections that extend across space and through time. We will explore more than a millennium of South Asian history, all the while taking into account transnational developments and the shifting place of the Indian subcontinent in the world economy.

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

Dietmar Rothermund, *An Economic History of India: From Pre-Colonial Times to 1986* (1988)

Latika Chaudhary, Bishnupriya Gupta, Tirthankar Roy & Anand V. Swamy (eds.), *A New Economic History of Colonial India* (2016)

Tirthankar Roy, *A Business History of India: Enterprise and the Emergence of Capitalism from 1700* (2018)

Assignments

Online participation (discussion forums and other assignments) | 30%

Response Papers (2 short reading responses: 10% each) | 20%

Research Essays (2 essays: 25% each) | 50%