

Course Title: PhD Coursework (Syllabus) in Economics
Department of Economics, Rabindranath Tagore University (RTU)
Hojai, Assam

Assessment and evaluation will be conducted following RTU Regulations for Research Council and the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) as per the UGC and other related authorities' guidelines.

Sl. No.	Paper No.	Paper Name	Marks
01	Course-I	Research Methodology	100
02	Course-II	Research proposal and Presentation (department)	100
03	Course-III	Contemporary Economic Challenges: Theories, Policies, and the Indian Experience (department)	100
04	Course-IV	Research Ethics and Computer applications	50+ 50
TOTAL			400

Course ECO-PhD-II: Research Proposal and Presentation

(4 credits, 100 marks - In Semester: 40, End Semester: 60)

COURSE OUTLINE

The course *ECO-PhD-II: Research Proposal and Presentation* is designed to equip PhD scholars with the essential skills and methodological tools required for independent academic research in economics. It comprises three integrated units. The first unit focuses on foundational research methodology. The second unit advances into quantitative research methods, including statistical inference, linear regression, binary choice models (LOGIT/PROBIT), censored regression (TOBIT), time series analysis, and panel data modelling, with practical training in econometric software. The final unit guides students through the development of a full-fledged research proposal, encouraging them to define research questions, articulate objectives, justify methodology, and present their proposals before an academic audience. The course integrates theory with hands-on practice to build strong research, analytical, and presentation competencies.

UNIT	PAPER	MARKS
Unit-I	Research Methodology and Practice Introduction to research Sampling design: Probability and non-probability sampling Survey technique and tools: Qualitative (PRA and FGD) and Quantitative (Survey schedule) Critical summary of articles Formatting and referencing Review of literature Data entry (using MS Excel), Power Point Presentation.	30
Unit-II	Research Methodology and Quantitative Tools Statistical estimation and inference Linear Regression Model (with emphasis on model specification, estimation, interpretation of results, and inference) Analysis of Binary Choice: LOGIT and PROBIT Models, censored regression, and TOBIT model Econometric Analysis of Time Series Data (with emphasis on model specification, estimation, interpretation of results, and inference) Panel Data Modelling (Model estimation and analysis using suitable software like SPSS, STATA and EViews).	40
Unit-III	Preparing a research proposal and presentation	30

Evaluation: Theory (70 marks) and Practical: Research proposal presentation and Viva (30 marks)

Total: 100 Marks

Suggestive Readings List

A. Research Methodology and Academic Writing

1. Kothari, C.R. *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*. New Age International Publishers.
2. Kumar, Ranjit. *Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners*. SAGE Publications.
3. Hart, Chris. *Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Social Science Research Imagination*. SAGE Publications.
4. University of Chicago Press. *The Chicago Manual of Style*. (Latest Edition) — Useful for mastering Chicago referencing style.

B. Econometrics and Quantitative Methods

5. Johnston, J., & Dinardo, J. *Econometric Methods*. McGraw-Hill Education.
6. Maddala, G.S. *Econometrics*. McGraw-Hill Education.
7. Gujarati, Damodar N. *Basic Econometrics*. McGraw-Hill Education.
8. Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*. Cengage Learning.
9. Gupta, S.P., & Kapoor, V.K. *Fundamentals of Applied Statistics / Statistical Methods*. Sultan Chand & Sons.

Course ECO-PhD-3- Contemporary Economic Challenges: Theories, Policies, and the Indian Experience

(4 credits, 100 marks - In Semester: 40, End Semester: 60)

COURSE OUTLINE

The course on *Advanced Economic Theory and Contemporary Issues in the Indian Economy* is designed to provide PhD scholars with a deep and critical understanding of both theoretical foundations and real-world economic challenges. The first unit covers advanced economic theory, including general equilibrium analysis, institutional economics, macroeconomic policy frameworks, and environmental economics with an emphasis on non-market valuation. The second unit addresses contemporary global and national economic issues such as globalization, public welfare interventions, health economics, and banking sector dynamics, including regulation, valuation, and performance metrics. The third unit focuses on key aspects of the Indian economy, such as inclusive growth, agricultural transformation, industrial reforms post-liberalization, and evolving dynamics in the external sector including trade, foreign investment, and currency management. The final unit identifies and analyses persistent problem areas in India, including income inequality, unemployment, infrastructure deficits, banking sector reforms, environmental sustainability, gender disparity, and governance-related challenges. Through a blend of theoretical insights and policy-oriented discussions, this course aims to foster a comprehensive and research-oriented understanding of the Indian and global economic landscape.

UNIT	CONTENT	MARKS
Unit-I	Advanced Economic Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Overview of General Equilibrium analysis: Existence, stability, and uniqueness of equilibrium, computable General Equilibrium Model▪ Institutions: Meaning and evolution, allocative efficiency vs. X-efficiency, transaction cost economies▪ Macroeconomic policy in closed and open economy framework▪ Environment and the economy: Role of natural environment, non-market valuation techniques.	20

Unit-II	Contemporary Issues in Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Globalization and its consequences ▪ Public intervention in a welfare society: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Government aid to the poor: equity-efficiency trade-off o Effect of price-distorting subsidy and their excess burden o Government and health care: Asymmetric information and rising health care spending, health insurance and the problem of moral hazard, coping with the moral hazard problem: Coinsurance and deductibles, tax policy promoting private health insurance versus publicly financed health care ▪ Banking Sector: Overview of bank operations, regulation of banks, valuation of commercial bank, evaluating bank performance: return on assets and return on equity, bank failures. 	30
Unit-III	Issues of Indian Economy <p>Inclusive Growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Understanding Inclusive Growth o Measurement of inclusive growth o Policies and strategies for achieving inclusive growth in India o Challenges and implications of inclusive growth for different sections of society <p>Agricultural Growth in India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Overview of Indian agriculture o Government interventions and agricultural policies o Challenges in indian agriculture <p>The Industrial Sector and Liberalization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Evolution of the Indian industrial sector o Industrial policy reforms and liberalization o Challenges and opportunities in the post-liberalization industrial sector <p>The External Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o India's trade policies and agreements o Balance of payments and exchange rate management o Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) o Foreign Exchange Reserves o Challenges in the external sector: Trade deficits, currency fluctuations, and global economic factors 	30
Unit-IV	Problem Areas in Indian Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Income inequality and poverty in India o Unemployment and labor market issues o Infrastructure development and bottlenecks o Financial sector challenges and banking reforms o Environmental and sustainability issues o Social issues and gender inequality o Governance and corruption 	20

Evaluation: Theory (100 marks)

Suggestive Readings List:

Core Textbooks

1. Gerber, James. *International Economics*. Pearson Education.
2. Froyen, Richard T. *Macroeconomics: Theories and Policies*. Pearson Education.
3. Maddala, G.S., & Miller, Ellen. *Microeconomic Theory and Applications*. Tata McGraw-Hill.
4. Todaro, Michael P. *Economic Development*. Pearson Education.
5. Thirlwall, A.P. *Growth and Development*. Palgrave Macmillan.
6. Naqvi, Syed Nawab Haider. *Economics of Development: Toward Inclusive Growth*. Sage Publications.

Supplementary Readings on Contemporary Issues

7. Stiglitz, Joseph E. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. W.W. Norton & Company.
8. Folland, Sherman, Goodman, Allen C., & Stano, Miron. *The Economics of Health and Health Care*. Routledge.
9. Rose, Peter S., & Hudgins, Sylvia C. *Bank Management and Financial Services*. McGraw-Hill Education.

Indian Economy and Policy

10. Jalan, Bimal. *The Indian Economy: Problems and Prospects*. Penguin Books.
11. Jalan, Bimal. *India's Economic Policy*. Penguin Books.
12. *Economic Survey of India*. Government of India, Ministry of Finance (Annual).
13. *Human Development Reports*. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
14. *CMIE Reports*. Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (Regular Publications).

Specialized Readings

15. Melberg, Hans O. *Economics of Agricultural Markets*.
16. Bhide, Shashanka, & Thorat, Sukhadeo. *Rural Labor Markets in India: Issues and Policy Options*. Springer or relevant academic publishers.