

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Minutes of Meeting

Subject : B.A. (Hons.) Economics Fifth Semester ( erstwhile FYUP)  
Course : 13 – Political Economy  
Date of Meeting : 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2015  
Venue : Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics  
University of Delhi, Delhi – 110 007  
Chair : Prof. Aditya Bhattacharjea

Attended by:

1. Aditi Aeron Bansal, SBSC (M)
2. Jayesh Adeshra, SBSC (M)
3. Reshmi Ganguly, LSR
4. Pooja Verma, Shivaji College
5. C. Saratchand, Satyawati College
6. Divya S. Gupta, Mata Sundari College
7. Subansh Prasad Singh, Sri Aurobindo College
8. Vandana Tulsyan, Dayal Singh College
9. Malini Sharma, Daulat Ram College
10. Saumyajeet Bhattacharya, KMC
11. Archana Aggarwal, Hindu College
12. Deepali Sharma, SGTB Khalsa College
13. Dorothy R., Bharti College
14. Kavita, Motilal Nehru College (E)
15. Shailesh Kumar, Bharati College
16. K. Mayonmi, DCAC
17. Swagat Raout, Aurobindo (E)
18. Mamta Dutt, Shivaji College
19. Namita Mathur, I.P. College
20. T.M. Thomas, Deshbandhu College

## **POLITICAL ECONOMY**

### **Course Description**

Employing perspectives from alternative schools of thought, this course explores the development of the structure and institutions of capitalist economies and their relationship to social and political forces. Students are expected to read some classic texts as well as more recent commentaries.

### **Course Outline**

#### **1. Capitalism as an Evolving Economic System**

Basic features; capitalism as a historical process; accumulation and crisis; monopoly capitalism.

## 2. The State in Capitalism

The state and the economy – contestation and mutual interdependence; the state as an arena of conflict; imperialism – the basic foundations.

## 3. Governance and Regulation

Theories of regulation; the political economy of policymaking and governance; theories of rent-seeking and corruption.

## 4. Voting and Collective Action

Collective action; lobbying.

**Format of question paper:** The question paper will have two sections. Section A will be of 15 marks with one out of three questions to be answered and Section B of 60 marks with three 20 marks questions out of seven to be answered. Questions in Section A will be confined to topics 1 and 2. Questions in Section B can be drawn from any topic.

### Readings:

1. J. Gurley, "The Materialist Conception of History", Ch.2.1 in R. Edwards, M. Reich and T. Weisskopf (ed.), *The Capitalist System*, 2nd edition, 1978.
2. O. Lange, *Political Economy*, Chapters 1 and 2, Vol. 1, 1963.
3. E. K. Hunt, *History of Economic Thought*, M.E. Sharpe, Indian edition, Shilpi Publications, 2004.
4. Irfan Habib, "Capitalism in History", *Social Scientist*, Vol. 23, pp. 15-31, 1995.
5. R. L. Heilbroner, "*Capitalism*", in *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Modern Economics*, Macmillan, 1987. Also reprinted as Chapter 2 in *Behind the Veil of Economics* by R.L. Heilbroner, W.W. Norton, 1988.
6. P. Sweezy, *The Theory of Capitalist Development*, Monthly Review Press, 1942, chapters 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 (pg 156 - 164 and 180-183)
7. Anwar Shaikh, Entries on "Economic Crises" and "Falling Rate of Profit" in T. Bottomore et al. (ed.), *The Dictionary of Marxist Thought*, OUP, Indian edition, Maya Blackwell, 2000.
8. Vamsi Vakulabharanam, "The Recent Crisis in Global Capitalism: Towards a Marxian Understanding", *Economic and Political Weekly*, March 28, Vol. 44, pp. 144-150, 2009.
9. J. Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, George Allen and Unwin 1976, Chapters 6, 7 & 8.
10. R. Heilbroner, "The Role of the State", in *The Nature and Logic of Capitalism*. 1985, Ch.4 pg 85 -105 (i.e. Section I omitted)
11. M. Kalecki, "Political Aspects of Full Employment", in E.K. Hunt and J.G. Schwarz (eds.), *A Critique of Economic Theory*, Penguin Books, 1972.
12. Prabhat Patnaik, "Lenin's Theory of Imperialism Today", in K.S. Jomo (ed.) *The Long Twentieth Century: The Great Divergence: Hegemony, Uneven Development and Global Inequality*, OUP, 2006.
13. James O'Connor, "The Meaning of Economic Imperialism", in Robert Rhodes, ed. *Imperialism and Underdevelopment*, New York: Monthly Review Press, pp. 101 to 111, 1970. [This should be treated as a background reading for the topic]
14. A. Krueger, "The political economy of a rent-seeking society", *American Economic Review* LXIV, 291-303, 1974.
15. G. Stigler, "The theory of economic regulation", *Bell Journal of Economics* 2, 3-21, 1971.
16. S. Bowles, H. Gintis, "The evolutionary basis of collective action", in B. Weingast, D. Wittman (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*, pp. 951 – 967, Oxford University Press, 2008.

*Indicative allocation of readings:*

Topic 1: Readings 1-9

Topic 2: Readings 10 -13

Topic 3: Readings 14, 15

Topic 4: Reading 16