

**Course number: LA1890**  
**Course Title: Understanding the Rural**  
**Credit: 1**

**Introduction**

Nearly half of the world's population lives in rural areas. This course intends to familiarize students with the concepts of rural, rural development and rural-urban transitions. At the end of the course, students would have a historical and contemporary understanding of the empirics of the rural, the role of agriculture in development, rural development, and rural-urban transitions, particularly in the context of the Global South and India.

**Details of the Course Syllabus**

- Introduction and Concepts
- Green Revolution
- Economic Liberalisation and Agriculture
- Agrarian Crisis and State of the Indian Farmer
- Farm Laws and Farmers Movement in India, 2020
- Empirics of the Rural
  - o Rural-urban migration
  - o Youth aspirations
  - o Gender

**Reading List**

**Essential Reading**

Lee, Y. F., and M. Kind. "World social report 2021: Reconsidering rural development." United Nations (2021). - *Chapter 1 (pp. 25-37)*

Pingali, P.L. (2012) Green revolution: Impacts, limits, and the path ahead. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 109, 12302–12308.

Rauat, Karan. (2018). The Agrarian Crisis and Forced Migration: Its Roots, Implications and Consequences. Focus on the Global South, India. – *Chapter 2 (Agrarian Crisis in the Contemporary Period)*

RAS (2022), "The Success of the Farmers' Movement," Review of Agrarian Studies, vol. 11, no. 2.

Sen, A., & Ghosh, J. (2017). Indian Agriculture after Liberalisation. The Bangladesh Development Studies, 40A(1 & 2), 53–71. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26572744>

**Recommended Reading**

Datta, A. (2019). Rural development. In Handbook of Social Policy and Development (pp. 169-187). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Desai, Akshayakumar Ramanlal. (1953). Introduction to rural sociology in India. Bombay : Indian Society of Agricultural Economics : Sole distributors, Vora & Co., Publishers - (*Chapters 4 and 9*)

- Deshpande, R. S., & Prabhu, Nagesh. (2005). Farmers' Distress: Proof beyond Question. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40(44/45), 4663–4665.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4417344>
- Doss et al., C. Doss, R. Meinzen-Dick, A. Quisumbing, S. Theis. (2018). Women in agriculture: Four myths. *Glob. Food Sec.*, 69–74 (2018), 10.1016/j.gfs.2017.10.001
- FAO. 2016. Migration, agriculture and rural development. Rome.
- Frankel, F. R. (1971). *India's Green Revolution: Economic Gains and Political Costs*. Princeton University Press.
- Griffin, Keith. (1974) *The Political Economy of Agrarian Change: An Essay on the Green Revolution*. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press,.-xv, 264 pp. \$11.00.
- Jodhka, Surinder S. (2021) Why are the farmers of Punjab protesting?, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 48:7, 1356-1370, DOI: 10.1080/03066150.2021.1990047
- Ramakumar, R. (2022), "Introduction: Economic Reforms and Agricultural Policy in India", in Ramakumar, R (ed.), *Distress in the Fields: Indian Agriculture After Liberalisation*
- Ramachandran, V.K., Rawal, V. (2010). The Impact of Liberalization and Globalization on India's Agrarian Economy. In: Bowles, P., Harriss, J. (eds) *Globalization and Labour in China and India*. International Political Economy Series. Palgrave Macmillan, London. [https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230297296\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230297296_6)
- Suthar S. K. (2018). Contemporary farmers' protests and the 'New Rural-Agrarian' in India. *Economic and Political Weekly, Review of Rural Affairs*, 53(26–27), 17–23.
- White, B. (2012), Agriculture and the Generation Problem: Rural Youth, Employment and the Future of Farming. *IDS Bulletin*, 43: 9-19.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1759-5436.2012.00375.x>
- Wiggins, S. (2016). *Agricultural and Rural Development Reconsidered: A Guide to Issues and Debates*. *IFAD Research Series*.

### **Grading and Evaluation**

Component 1: Class participation and attendance: 40%

This component will evaluate (the progress in) students' abilities to raise critical questions and elucidate key arguments during class discussions.

Component 2: End-term assignment: 60%

This component will evaluate students' writing skills and their ability to critically reflect on a topic under study.

### Lecture listing:

1. Lecture 1, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023: Introduction and Concepts (Amrita Datta)
2. Lecture 2, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023: Green Revolution I (Amrita Datta)
3. Lecture 3, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023: Green Revolution II Amrita Datta)
4. Lecture 4, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023: Economic Liberalisation and Agriculture I (Amrita Datta)
5. Lecture 5, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023: Economic Liberalisation and Agriculture II (Amrita Datta)
6. Lecture 6, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023: Agrarian Crisis and the State of the Indian Farmer (Kunal Munjal, online)
7. Lecture 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023: Farms Laws and Farmers Movement in India (Kunal Munjal, online)
8. Lecture 8, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023: Empirics: Rural-urban migration (Amrita Datta)
9. Lecture 9, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023: Empirics of the Rural (Amrita Datta)
10. 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023: Concluding LA1870 and film screening, *Peepli Live*

### Distribution of topics and readings

Topic	Essential Reading	Recommended Reading
Introduction and Concepts	World Social Report 2021 Chapter 1 (pp. 25-37)	Desai (1961) Chapters 4&9 Datta (2019) Suthar (2018)
Green Revolution	Pingali (2012)	Frankel (1971) Griffin (1979)
Economic Liberalisation and Agriculture	Sen and Ghosh (2017)	Ramakumar (2021)
Agrarian Crisis and the State of the Indian Farmer	RLS (2018) - <i>Chapter 2</i> ( <i>Agrarian Crisis in the Contemporary Period</i> )	Ramachandran and Rawal (2010) Deshpande (2012)
Farms Laws and Farmers Movement in India	RAS (2021)	Jodhka (2021)
Empirics of the Rural <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Rural-urban migration</li><li>o Gender</li><li>o Youth</li></ul>	Wiggins (2016), pp. 40-44	Doss et al. (2018) White (2012) FAO (n.d.)