Details on SPL 801 (Advance Topics in Policy Studies) Courses on offer in Semester II

Date: Dec 28, 2020

SPL 801A

Title: “Science, Technology, Innovation (STI) Policy and Agriculture”
Instructor: Prof Soutrik Basu

Course Information: After successful completion of this course students are expected to be able to: understand the role technology has historically played in shaping agricultural production, food security and development from global perspective; familiarize themselves with the national and international institutional architecture of agricultural research, education, extension and policy making; gain in-depth knowledge on theories and frameworks to analyze technology development trajectories and innovation pathways for agricultural development; and finally, understand the 21st century challenges for transition to sustainable agro-food systems, role of technology & innovation and policy framing.

The course content will be as follows. Introduction to Agriculture, Development and Food Security; STI contribution to Agricultural Development; Types of Agriculture; Formal Institutions and Organization of Agricultural Research and Policy Making; ToT; AgroEcology; Linear to Systems thinking in Agri-Systems; Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems; Farmer’s Field School, Farmer First Movement; Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS); Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D); Mission Oriented Agricultural Innovation Systems (MAIS); Institutional Change in Agriculture; Science of Scaling; Smallholder agriculture; Global Food Security and Global Agri-Food Systems; Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus; Sustainable Agriculture; New Institutions for Global Agriculture; Agriculture 4.0

SPL 801B

Title: “Unpacking Infrastructure Finance: A Policy Perspective”
Instructor: Prof Rohit Chandra

Course Information: This course is an introductory graduate-level course on the political economy and public policy of financing and building large infrastructures. Whether it be power plants, highways, airports, canals, cold-storage warehouses, mobile towers or carbon capture systems, questions around the financing, commissioning, maintaining and owning infrastructures is critical to the building of modern nation-states. In this course, students will learn some basic analytical tools to understand how financiers and policy makers think about the risks and returns of investing in infrastructure. The majority of this course will focus on the
institutional underpinnings of the financial system and how bankers, investors (both domestic and foreign), bureaucrats, government companies, private companies, regulators, civil society and citizens think about infrastructure, and how these institutions collectively determine what does and does not get built. This course will cover global experiences in infrastructure finance, placing the Indian experience in larger context. Ultimately, students will be expected to apply the tools and approaches of this course for a final paper in their own areas of research which are related to infrastructure and finance. This course is a bridge for public policy and social science post-graduate students who have an interest in finance as it applies to infrastructure, but know relatively little about the topic. Some basic foundations in microeconomics is useful, but not required.

SPL 801C

Title: “Governance challenges in energy systems in transition”
Instructor: Prof Abhishek Malhotra

Course Information: The course “Governance challenges in energy systems in transition” will be based on historical examples of energy transitions and theoretical frameworks to understand them, drawing on concepts from innovation studies, policy studies, political science, management and finance. At the end of the course, students will be able to: (i) explain key features of the energy transition using historical examples, (ii) understand current challenges in the energy system, using theoretical frameworks and concepts for studying technological transitions, and (iii) discuss key issues of relevance to public policy in national and global energy transitions. Throughout the duration of the course, students will be expected to analyze in a term paper the context, strategy, opportunities, and challenges of transitioning to a low-carbon energy system for an assigned developing country.