

# Foundations Course 2014

## Mandatory 3 Credit Course for Incoming Cohort

### Concept and Coordination:

Shivali Tukdeo and T Gopi Rethinaraj

### Teaching:

NIAS faculty

**Course Format:** Lectures and discussion

### Course Description:

The main purpose of this course is to introduce students to the idea(s) of knowledge production, history and structure of academic disciplines and multi/interdisciplinary approaches. Academic disciplines connected to the practices of teaching-learning- research went on to make up the character of higher education in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Over the course of the late twentieth century, however, the subtle shift began to occur towards particularisation and specialisation of knowledge on the one hand, and towards growing trends of comparative studies and hybrid disciplines on the other. The permeability of boundaries between disciplines opened up new areas of inquiry, highlighted new language of analysis, and it brought in new, combinatorial partnerships-- universities, government agencies, think tanks, industry research units, NGOs, and social movements-- to name a few. Keeping in mind this context, it is instructive to note that the term “interdisciplinary” is used to talk about approaches, methods, perspectives and even a discipline! The variance in the understood meaning of the term and a lack of definitional clarity are good starting points for this class. Team-taught by NIAS faculty, the course will look at historical, theoretical and practical orientations of interdisciplinarity.

### Course Objectives:

- (i) To introduce students to the various ways of knowledge production in different disciplines
- (ii) To understand the ways and terms on which different disciplines interact.
- (iii) To learn to read key texts and respond to them in reflective, critical engagement
- (iv) To carry out a short, multi/interdisciplinary research project

**Course Design:**

The course is divided into the following modules: (1) Knowledge Production and history of disciplines (2) Tenets of major domains of inquiry (Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities) (3) Evolution of Interdisciplinarity (4) Interactions between disciplines

The course consists of 28 lectures of 1½ hours, meeting twice a week (Tuesday & Thursday: 10.30am – 12.00pm).

**Texts:** A wide range of readings will be used for this class, including print and audio-visual media. A reader comprising of all assigned readings will be provided in the beginning of the semester.

**Evaluation:**

Students will be required to write a book review (25% of the grade), engage in a collaborative research project with their peers (50% of the grade) and organise film screening and discussion (10%). Attendance and participation in class would be counted for 15% of the total grade. Details of course work and requirements will be shared in class.

## NIAS Foundation Course 2014

### Schedule:

Sl No	Date	Time	Topic /Theme	Faculty
			<b>Module #1: disciplines/interdisciplinarity</b>	
1	Tue, Aug. 19	1030-1200	Introduction to the Course	Shivali Tukdeo Gopi R.
2	Thu, Aug. 21	1030-1200	Ways of Knowing	Shivali Tukdeo
3	Tue, Aug. 26	1030-1200	History of the discipline	Shivali Tukdeo
4	Thu, Aug. 28	1030-1200	Interdisciplinarity: Theory	Shivali Tukdeo
<i>Friday, August 29, Ganesh Chaturthi</i>				
5	Tue, Sept. 2	1030-1200	The 'social' in Social Sciences	Carol Upadhyia
6	Thu, Sept. 4	1030-1200	The 'social' in Social Sciences	Carol Upadhyia
7	Tue, Sept. 9	1030-1200	The Natural Sciences: Questions, History, Assumptions	Anindya Sinha
8	Thu, Sept. 11	1030-1200	The Natural Sciences: Questions, History, Assumptions	Anindya Sinha
9	Tue, Sept. 16	1030-1200	Knowledge Production in the Humanities	S. Settar
10	Thu, Sept. 18	1030-1200	Knowledge Production in the Humanities	Sangeetha Menon
11	Tue, Sept. 23	1030-1200	Introduction to Academic Communications and Presentations	Sangeetha Menon
<i>Wednesday, September 24, Mahalaya Amavasye</i>				
<i>Module #2: Disciplines and their interactions/influences on other fields</i>				
12	Thu, Sept. 25	1030-1200	Applied Mathematics across disciplines	Janaki Balakrishnan
			<b>Theme 1: The concept of Resources in different disciplines</b>	
13	Tue, Sept. 30	1030-1200	Applied Mathematics across disciplines	Janaki Balakrishnan
<i>Thursday, October 2, Gandhi Jayanthi</i>				
<i>Friday, October 3, Ayudha Pooja</i>				

14	Tue, Oct. 7	1030-1200	Economics and Economic Determinism	Narendar Pani
15	Thu, Oct. 9	1030-1200	Economics in other disciplines and other disciplines in economics	Narendar Pani
16	Tue, Oct. 14	1030-1200	Psychology and its connection to other sciences	Malavika Kapur
17	Thu, Oct. 16	1030-1200	Archaeology, Heritage and Materials	Sharada Srinivasan
18	Tue, Oct. 21	1030-1200	Archaeology, Heritage and Materials	Sharada Srinivasan
<b>Wednesday, October 22, Naraka Chaturdashi</b>				
<b>Module # 3: Multi/Interdisciplinary Approaches to Migration</b>				
19	Thu, Oct. 23	1030-1200	Mobility of Artifacts	
<b>Friday, October 24, Deepavali</b>				
20	Tue, Oct. 28	1030-1200	Mobility, Development and Identity	Carol Upadhyia
21	Thu, Oct. 30	1030-1200	Migration and Security Studies	M. Mayilvaganan
<b>Saturday, November 1, Kannada Rajyotsava</b>				
<b>Tuesday, November 4, Moharam</b>				
22	Thu, Nov. 6	1030-1200	Migrant/citizen and conflict	Anshuman Behera
23	Tue, Nov. 11	1030-1200	Sociology and Economics of Migration	Narendar Pani
<b>Module #4: New Disciplines</b>				
24	Thu, Nov. 13	1030-1200	Public Policy and the need for multidisciplinary perspectives	Gopi R/HSK Nathan/Shoibal C.
25	Tue, Nov. 18	1030-1200	From Animal Behaviour to Animal Cognition	Binoy Vijayan
26	Thu, Nov. 20	1030-1200	The Story of Gender Studies	Anitha Kurup
27	Tue, Nov. 25	1030-1200	Multidisciplinary approaches to Agro-biosecurity	P.K.Shetty
28	Thu, Nov. 27	1030-1200	Energy Studies, Climate Change	Dilip Ahuja/ Gopi R.
	<b>Tue, Dec. 2</b>	<b>10:30-4:30</b>	<b>Project Presentation</b>	<b>Evaluation Committee</b>