

BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES 2021/2022

Course Descriptions - Level IV

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1. ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Semester I Courses

SSU2231/DSU4631 Economy of Sri Lanka - 6 credits (Traditional)

The objective of this course is to give a historical perspective on the economy of Sri Lanka, and the evolution of economic policy making after independence. At the end of the course the students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the structure of the Sri Lankan Economy and critically analyse the policies introduced by the successive governments after independence.

SSU2133/DSU4333 Development Economics - 3 credits (IMM)

The purpose of this course is to introduce major theories of economic development and to place them in a historical context. The course will introduce students to selected issues in economic development including theory, evidence and policy. It provides a comprehensive overview of aspects of economic development and underdevelopment of low-income countries located in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

SSU2135/DSU4335 Monetary Economics - 3 credits (Online)

The purpose of the course is to provide students with a good analysis of major topics in monetary theory and policy. After learning this course, the students will be able to explain the key concepts discussed and demonstrate understanding of key monetary policy instruments.

Semester 2 Courses

SSU3131/DSU4334 International Economics - 3 credits (Online)

This course will introduce the theories and practices of international trade. Introductory sessions will talk about trade theories, particularly the comparative advantage theory, and the rationale for trade restrictions. There will be a brief discussion about trade regulations and industrial policies of the participating countries. While discussing the problems of developing countries in terms of international trade, the students are also exposed to the specific issues faced by Sri Lanka, and its trade relations with the regional countries. The course will also generate debates about exchange rate policies and the balance of payment issues.

SSU2132/DSU4332 Health Economics - 3 credits (IMM)

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the study of health care sector, with an emphasis on financing, resource allocations, evaluation of efficiencies and the study of applied health economics with special reference to Sri Lanka.

SSU2136/DSU4336 Public Finance - 3 credits (IMM)

The aim of this course is to introduce and familiarize students with a set of tools for analysing the role that government plays in the economy and the lives of its citizens. It also looks into the impact of government expenditure programs and taxation systems on the welfare and behaviour of its citizens. At the end of the course students will be able to understand theories on public finance and how it is practically used by economies. They will also be able to critique government financial management practices whilst identifying possible remedies to handle problem situations.

2. SOCIETY AND CULTURE STUDIES

Semester I Courses

SSU2152/DSU4352 Social Psychology - 3 credits (Traditional)

The course is intended to introduce the students to the principles of social psychology and its major perspectives and will focus on interactions and behaviour of people as interpersonal phenomena in groups and in society. The primary objective of the course is therefore to provide an understanding of individual behaviour, perceptions and attitudes in relation to a specific group or social context. Students will learn how behaviour is influenced by as well as influences other people and factors in society.

SSU2153/DSU4353 Kinship, Family and Marriage - 3 credits (Online)

The aim of this course is to enable students to be able to analyze and understand different kinship structures, family formations and reproductive cohabitation systems. In this course, students will learn about different kinship structures and their functions their limitations and prevailing issues around family. This course will also discuss marriage, divorce and alternative cohabitation styles, their functions and limitations and how marriage practices, family structures and arrangements have changed through times.

SSU2155/DSU4355 Religion, Society and Culture - 3 credits (IMM)

In this course, students will learn what are the major functions and characteristics of religion as a social institution. Students will also be able to understand the linkages between religion, society and culture, identify key theoretical approaches used to explain religion and culture and discuss the elements of religion and culture.

Semester 2 Courses

SSU2252/DSU4652 Development Theory and Practice - 6 credits (Traditional)

This course aims to encourage students to critically reflect on the theory and practice of community development. It will discuss relevant historical and theoretical debates concerning the nature of community, civil engagement, and social change. It will look at how the community relates to larger economic and political processes. It will consider the types of community development organizations and programmes that exist and how social interactions at the community level influence the functioning and shape of these organizations and programmers.

SSU2154/DSU4354 Economy & Society - 3 credits (Traditional)

This module will educate students about key aspects in relation to economy and society in sociology and anthropology. This course looks at how economy and society has been well connected historically. The contemporary global and local situation will also be discussed. The module will also introduce the students to key thinkers addressing questions relating to economy and society. It will show how the historical relationship between economy and society has contributed to the development of sociological theories. Themes in the course will include economic systems, social differentiation, particularly gender and class, the development of capitalism and the global changes to economy and society. The course will also address the contemporary economic and social challenges in South Asia and particularly Sri Lanka. The course will be both theoretical and case oriented, the latter focussing on the processes leading to contemporary economic and social problems, which can be analysed by sociological and anthropological approaches.

SSU2156/DSU4356 Politics & Social Movements - 3 credits (IMM)

In this course, drawing from sociology and anthropology of politics, students will learn about power and its manifestations in society. It will focus on how institutions such as the state and government function in society and consider the relationship between state and society. It will also look at how social movements are formed and how they function with a focus on the Sri Lankan context.

3. COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Semester I Courses

SSU2221/DSU4621 Communication and Participatory Development - 6 credits (Traditional)

It focuses on theories and practices of communication to engage people in participatory decision making and explores the use of both traditional and modern mass media in empowering people to discover solutions to development problems in diverse sectors.

SSU2123/DSU4323 Disaster Communication - 3 credits (IMM)

This course will enable you to understand the major functions of communication in a disaster and how we can maximise communication to provide information and much needed help to the disaster affected masses. At the end of this course, the students will be able to describe in detail how communication works at each phase of the disaster risk reduction cycle.

SSU2125 Creative Communication - 3 credits (Online)

This course focusses on a branch of mass media that encompasses creative communication (creative forms of communicating covering poetry, novels, paintings) that traces important landmarks of history and power of these works to change policies and create social movements and going parallel to themes they learn as a student of social sciences.

Semester 2 Courses

SSU2222/DSU4622 Environmental Communication - 6 credits (Traditional)

The course focuses on environmental issues and policies. It provides an understanding of environmental communication and equips students with the guidelines for effective environmental communication. In addition, it highlights the importance of professional communication of scientific issues.

SSU2124/DSU4324 Advertising & Promotions - 3 credits (IMM)

The course provides students with the knowledge and skills to develop advertising and promotional strategies in line with marketing principles. The role of marketing between businesses and consumers is emphasized. The concept of Integrated Marketing Communication and its effects on consumers, the effectiveness of marketing communication strategies used in campaigns and designing effective communication campaigns are examined.

SSU2127/DSU4327 Appreciation of Film & Theatre – 3 Credits (IMM)

The course will provide historical developments and the present state of the field of film and theater with reference to the local and the global context. Further, this course emphasizes the ideological and socio-political presence in the formation and the development of this sector. The role of the audience as critics has been a special concern throughout the course. It would also educate students to appreciate film and theatre and focus on its ability to span across diverse cultural and social settings.

4. POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Semester I Courses

SSU2241/DSU4641 Living Political Ideas - 6 credits (Traditional)

It is designed to introduce students to the major philosophical foundations of politics. The course will be organized under a few themes and present a survey of philosophers in the classical and modern political thought literature.

SSU2143/DSU4343 Politics of Sri Lanka: Institutions & Processes - 3 credits (Traditional)

This course provides students an understanding of the political processes and trends of post-independent Sri Lanka through four themes: nation-building and national integration, spread of democracy, challenges to the political system and several key turning points. While discussing political processes, students will also learn to employ key political science concepts necessary for in-depth understanding.

SSU2145/DSU4345 Political Participation, Representation & Governance - 3 credits (IMM)

This course deals with some important aspects of democratic political processes, namely political participation and representation. The course content will deal with practical issues, such as the holding of elections, voters' behaviour, election campaigning and interests groups with necessary conceptual explanations.

Semester 2 Courses

SSU2242/DSU4642 Politics of South Asia: Internal Dynamics & Extra Regional Powers - 6 credits (Traditional)

The course content will deal with the social, political and economic dynamics of the region and prospects and challenges for greater Regional Cooperation in the 21st century.

SSU2144//DSU4344 International Organizations & Transnational Governance – 3 credits (IMM)

The content of the course will broaden the students' present knowledge about the International Organizations and their function in the modern world. Furthermore, the course will explore the concept of transnational governance in the context of the declining authority of the state.

SSU2146/DSU4346 Public Policy & Administration – 3 credits (Online)

This course will help students to understand public policy and public administration in general while paying special attention to the transforming nature of public policy. It will be conducted online and does not accompany a course book.

Continuing Education (CE) Course -Semester 1

DSE4207 Nonviolent Communication 3 credits (online)

The primary theoretical focus for the course draws from a process known as Nonviolent Communication (aka Compassionate Communication) developed by clinical psychologist Marshall B. Rosenberg, PhD. This model incorporates theory and research from the fields of psychology, neuroscience, communication, religion, sociology, anthropology, and peace studies. Nonviolent Communication has been increasingly sought after as a strategy to promote social change, conflict management, conflict transformation, reconciliation and mediation skills. This course provides those involved in planning for long-term and peaceful development with a clear understanding of the principles and processes underlying the sustainable and resilient transition of a post-conflict environment. This course can support in developing communication skills that deepen understanding and compassion for self and others and improve relationships at all levels.