

**BA Degree in Social Sciences
Level 5**

Course Descriptions

Department of Social Studies - HSS

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Economics and Development Studies

Semester 1

1. DSU5331- Global Political Economy (Traditional)

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the study of political economy, with an emphasis on the relationship between politics and economics in the international system. At the end of the course the students will be able to demonstrate understanding of how conflict over the distribution of economic gains and power relations affect economic outcomes, identify and evaluate the merits of competing theoretical perspectives, and identify and critique different principles of economic justice.

Number of Credits: 03

2. DSU5335 - Resource Economics (Traditional)

The main objective of this course is to provide an understanding on resource based economy in a clear and simple manner. You will realize at the end of the course the importance of using natural resources in a sustainable manner and the time value of natural resources from an economic point of view. You will also be able to distinguish the different types of natural resources and how they contribute to our daily life. Most natural resources are finite in nature and therefore you will recognize the importance of saving these resources for future generations. To understand the concepts discussed in this course it is necessary for one to have a basic knowledge of Microeconomics and a fair knowledge of mathematical concepts of differentiation and integration.

Number of Credits: 03

3. DSU5337 - Principles of Econometrics (Traditional)

This course will introduce some of the developments in the theory and practice of econometrics. It emphasizes the techniques for basic empirical research, interpretation of quantitative results and model evaluations. It also aims to develop an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of these techniques. The course also focuses on valid application of the techniques to real data and problem analysis in a wide range of social science areas.

Number of Credits: 03

4. DSU5333 – Comparative Economic Systems (IMM)

This course is concerned with the study of different economic systems or regimes which is a sub-classification of economics. The study of different economic systems is important as it lays down the determinants of economic growth as well as the downfall of economies in the world. Therefore, ranging from capitalism, Marxism and open economy, this course tries to give a broader understanding of how selected economies in the world have progressed so far.

Number of Credits: 03

Semester 2

1. DSU5332 - Agricultural Economics (IMM)

This course is broadly concerned with the application of economic principles to agriculture related activities. More specifically it focuses on the institutional aspects about farming in developing countries. Many farmers in the developing world are constrained by various institutional problems, related to physical resources, such as land, labour and capital that are needed for production, as well as other supporting services including credit, marketing and transportation. Hence, the course aims to deepen students' understanding of how economic principles that guide production as well as the institutional constraints farmers face, especially in developing countries like Sri Lanka.

Number of Credits: 03

2. DSU5334– Philosophical Foundations of Economics (Traditional)

This course will provide an introductory understanding of the philosophy and methodology of economics. It will begin with the discussion on the philosophy of the classical economic thinking also presenting different perspectives of economic methodology. It will move on to discuss the development of logical positivism, the dominant economic thinking of the 1970s and 1980s. The course will also provide a perspective on normative economics which aims to guide policy. The connection between economics and values will be a major point of discussion. The course will also introduce the philosophy and different methodological issues concerning major branches of economics.

Number of Credits: 03

3. DSU5338 – Banking and Financial Systems (Traditional)

This course will help understand the structure of financial system and how it works. It will broadly talk about financial markets and financial instruments, financial institutions and financial services. It will focus on the role of banks, non-bank financial institutions and the central bank. The course is also intended to provide basic understanding of how foreign exchange market works and how financial crises occur.

Number of Credits: 03

4. DSU5336 – Urban Economics (online)

This course is concerned with the economic study of urban areas and issues especially urbanization, education, housing, crimes etc. Due to globalization and migration economies around the world are faced with many challenges. It is important to understand how urbanization is affecting human lives and the economies. Therefore, this course introduces major topics in urban economics and gives an understanding about the economic motivations underlying the formation, functioning and development of cities.

Number of Credits: 03

5. DSE5301 - Statistics for Social Sciences (Traditional)

This course is designed for learners with limited or no knowledge of statistics. It introduces you to the basics of statistical -techniques which social scientists use to summarize, analyze and interpret numeric data. The topics include frequency distribution, central tendency, variability, and estimation. You will also briefly learn how to test hypotheses and study several applications of hypothesis testing.

Number of credits: 03

Communication Studies

Semester 1

1.DSU5321- Communication Research (Traditional)

This course provides an overview of fundamentals of communication research within the body of social scientific research. The students are expected to gain an understanding of research procedures widely used for mass communication studies. Such as content analysis, survey research, pretesting methods for communication research, importance of ratings research, communication programme evaluation and ethical concerns of social research. This Module will enable you to cultivate the mind-set required to be a practitioner of communication research in your life and in your profession.

Number of Credits: 03

2. DSU5323- Corporate Communication and Image Building (Online)

This Module on Corporate Communication provides an understanding of the importance of establishing good communication policies in realizing the final objectives of running a company with a good organizational image. We will look at the importance of communication from the stage of generating ideas to levels of entrepreneurship and make sense of macro and micro organizational situations that require image building as institutions grow.

Number of Credits: 03

3. DSU5325- Communication Campaigns (IMM)

A Communication campaign is more than a communication program. It is a series of coordinated activities designed to achieve a set of clear objectives. Depending upon the audience and objectives, strategies and activities in communication campaigns may vary. The campaigns are specific and strategic and are most effective in influencing knowledge, attitudes and behavior of people. Some of the theories and models in the field of communication developed over the years to explain the processes and effects provide a strong foundation for communication campaigns. In addition, monitoring to ensure smooth functioning of the campaign and evaluation to understand the extent to which the campaign achieves its targets are important components.

Number of Credits: 03

4. DSU5327 - Media and Democracy (Traditional)

This course addresses the role of mass media as a social institution in functional democracies and enlightens students about constraints faced by this institution when countries fail to adhere to related standards, thus weakening democracy. The major issues addressed include: The role of government in a democratic society; Media Freedom as a Human Right; Media; the watchdog of a democratic society, Understanding Quasi Democracies; The importance of legal safeguards for journalists; Citizen Journalism as a modern safeguard of democracy; The power of the vernacular media in developing societies; The role of the media in post conflict societies; and Role of print and electronic media in multiethnic countries.

Number of Credits: 03

Semester 2

1. DSU5324- Cross Cultural Communication (Traditional)

This is a compulsory course for the students following the media and communication stream. The concept of cross cultural communication is multi discursive and it has the potential to address all that is considered prominent and insignificant by different people in different cultural settings. It further describes the importance of being objective rather than subjective in cross cultural communication to strengthen mutual understanding and respect among members in a society. A course of this nature is indeed timely when Sri Lankans are called upon to make sense of distinct cultural practices of one another. The lesson materials are presented in two study blocks. The first study block contains ten lessons, providing philosophical and sociological concepts of culture and communication. The second study block contains eleven lessons that are representative of cross cultural patterns of Sri Lankan society.

Number of Credits: 03

2. DSU5326- Media Organizations and Management (Traditional)

Media Management is a Module that deals with the management of the institution of mass media in a free and open society. This considers the way the cultural disseminations take shape organizationally, on a routine basis, through human creativity and technology. The organizational frontier of media deals with the human potential for creativity and how that is given shape within an organization. It helps us to know that the quality of media disseminations are a reflection of what humans produce, and to maximize such potential, what one should do. The Module does not neglect the ultimate beneficiaries of media institutions, namely, the people, qualified as a collectivity of interests that needs to be activated and cultivated for 'Common Good'.

Number of Credits: 03

3. DSU5322 - Media Occupations and Professions (Online)

The course introduces you to 'media occupations and professions' based on the concepts rooted in the sociology of work and media convergence. At the end of this course, the students will be able to understand the evolution of media occupations and professions as well as situate the current developments within the media industry based on a sound theoretical framework backed by critical perception.

Number of Credits: 03

Society and Culture Studies

Semester 1

01. DSU5651- Social Science Research Methods (Traditional)

This is a compulsory course for all students in the BA in Social Sciences in Level 5. The main objective of this course is to provide students with a sound understanding of social science research and how they are conducted. While the process of research is common to all disciplines, there are specific research methods and techniques that are specific to social sciences since social sciences primarily focus on individuals and society. The sessions are organized in a way to introduce students to the fundamentals of doing research, starting with the philosophical understanding of research in the social sciences and moving on to research designs, methods and techniques of data collection, different methods of analysis, presenting research findings and finally to ethics in research.

Number of Credits: 06

02. DSU5353- Gender and Social Inquiry (Online)

This is a compulsory course. In this course the student will gain an understanding regarding the social construction of gender. You will be able to critically understand and evaluate how gender identities are constructed, reproduced and reinforced in society, and intervene effectively and progressively in promoting gender equality. It focuses on the historical and general prevalence of gender inequality in society and the historical beginnings and evolution of feminist and gender thought. The concept of masculinity, gender configurations within the social institutions of education, culture media and sports as well as gender configurations in the workplace. It also discusses gender and issues of development and gender planning with a focus on the Sri Lankan context.

Number of Credits: 03

03. DSU5355- Education and Social Mobility (IMM)

This is an optional course. In addition to the printed course material, each session also has online reading material and activities provided through Moodle. Please note that both the printed and online materials are required for successfully completing this course. We recommend that you refresh your memory by reading through the session on education in SSU1251: Understanding Society and Culture offered in the Level III, before you start going through the material in this course. In this course, we look at the link between education and sociology, theoretical approaches to education, link between the education and the economy, different service providers in education and education in Sri Lanka; problems in the contemporary education system and gender issues. Final focus is on education as a site of struggle and protest in Sri Lanka. In addition, you're advised to engage with online resources as they are important in developing your analytical and critical thinking skills.

Number of Credits: 03

04. DSU5357- Globalization, Migration and Social Change (Online)

This course is optional and it has been prepared to introduce the student to the concept of globalization and related ideas. The module will provide knowledge on globalization and social change as well as its links with the subject of migration. It seeks to provide you with a history and a broad overview of the evolution and development of the concept of globalization and focuses on some of the major theoretical explanations pertaining to several aspects of globalization. It also addresses a few key social institutions and structures such as culture and the State their experience of globalization as well as the responses to globalization by way of social change and migration.

Number of Credits: 03

Semester 2

4. DSU5352- Social Theory (Traditional)

This is a compulsory course for all students in the Society and Culture Studies stream in Level 5. It is a follow-up from the theories introduced in *Understanding Society and Culture (SSU1251)* in Level 3. The main objective of this course is to provide students with a good understanding of social theory that can be applied to everyday social phenomena. It is intended to offer broad descriptions of the main theoretical traditions within sociology and anthropology and how they evolved in the last two centuries. This course therefore comprises the classical and early social theorists to the modern and contemporary theorists and their ideas of society.

Number of Credits: 03

5. DSU5354- Health and Society (Online)

This is an optional course. The aim of this course is to understand how Sociological perspectives on health, illness and medicine are fundamental to understand society. This module will begin with an overview of health, based on the ideas that are ranging from general lay views to Sociological perspectives on health. This will lead into discussion of the social context of health both at macro and micro Sociological levels. The case for an understanding of social factors in health and illness will be made by considering a range of social theories and social structure (social class, caste, gender, ethnicity, age and etc). Students will then apply their knowledge of social theory and social structure to a range of health-related topics which will include: professionalisation of health and medicine; medical encounters such as doctor-patient relationships; health inequality, various health challenges, technologisation of health, and health ethics in local and global contexts.

Number of Credits: 03

6. DSU5356- Ethnicity in Everyday Life (Online)

This is an optional course offered at Level 5. The subject of 'ethnicity' has been at the centre of social science discussions primarily in post-independent Sri Lanka. It is mainly due to the harshness of the ethno-national tensions which led for a military struggle that existed for more than three decades. Against this backdrop, this module will discuss sociological and anthropological approaches to ethnicity which is quite different from traditional established fixed notions of identity in Sri Lanka. The social construction of ethnic identity will be the focus of the course. Within this broader approach situational, contextual nature as well as individual and group negotiations and formations of ethnic identity is discussed. The fact that ethnicity's incapability of standing/ practicing in isolation among humans as social animal is been considered. During the discussion examples are drawn from Sri Lanka, South Asia and other places. Those who successfully complete this module will be able to describe social construction of ethnic identity and boundaries, explain inter-connections of ethnicity to other similar social dimensions of people lives, discuss the fluid nature of ethnic identity against the existing fixed explanations, critically assess his/ her own individual and group ethnic identities, and finally to link it with the existing social problems. In general, this module will help any student in social science to critically look at operations of ethnicity, which will be very useful not only from a scholarly point of view but also as a responsible member of a conflict-ridden society.

Number of Credits: 03

Politics and International Studies

Semester 1

01. DSU5341- Gender Politics (Traditional)

This is a compulsory course for all students in Politics and International Studies stream. The course will explore various dimensions of socially constructed nature of male and female identities and thereby attachment of meanings to human body which in effect work as masculine/feminine binaries in politics of everyday life of the individual and the state and society relations. You will be first introduced to the concept gender, nexus between gender and politics, feminism and various theories in feminist politics. Next you will be introduced to feminist approach to political participation and leadership. Afterwards, we will discuss limitations and opportunities women face with reference to political parties, electoral politics, war and peace building, environmental politics.

Number of Credits: 03

02. DSU5345- State, Society and Citizens: Normative Dimensions of Political Life (IMM)

This is an optional course. It aims to challenge students as well as teachers to link, and establish connections between learning political science and appreciating the normative foundations of political life. The course starts with an introduction to state, society relations, classical as well as contemporary normative goals in politics and normative commitments. It also explores the relationship between citizenship and political life, citizenship and minorities, culture, state, society and citizenship.

Number of Credits: 03

Semester 2

01. DSU5342- Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding (Traditional)

This is a compulsory course. It is designed to enable students to gain an understanding of some key themes in the field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, while linking them to theories as well as global and Sri Lankan experiences of conflict and conflict resolution. You will start by understanding conflict, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Afterwards, you will focus on different types of conflict with case studies from across the world.

Number of Credits: 03

02. DSU5344- Sri Lanka in a Globalised World: Issues and Challenges (IMM)

This is optional for all students in Level V. The course will turn the student's attention to the challenges and issues faced by Sri Lanka in dealing with the external world in an era of technological, financial, cultural and political globalization. Mainly the focus will shift to the areas of foreign policy making, Sri Lanka- great power relations, human rights regime and sanctions, relations with international financial agencies and state welfare, and other economic, cultural and political challenges of globalization.

Number of Credits: 03

03. DSU 5347- Law and Politics (IMM)

This is an optional course. In this course, you would be introduced to the social and political aspects of law. You will start by familiarizing with linkages between law and politics, philosophical and theoretical perspectives on law and politics, about international law and the nation-state system, concepts like state and sovereignty. Course also looks at citizenship, migrants, refugees and rights of migrant labour, international law and war and peace, development politics and law.

Number of Credits: 03

04. DSU5346- Cyber Politics (Online)

This is an optional course. In this course unit, we mainly attempt to discuss how the new information and communication technologies have changed the traditional meaning of politics and how the state has responded to the rising challenges from the Internet, how cyberspace causes for creating new political and social identities etc. Students who opt for this course must study online and experience a virtual class room mostly. However, the major objective of this course would be to make an attempt to comprehend new conceptualizations of politics at a time of rapid changes in technologically driven commination on a global scale.

Number of Credits: 03

Extended Essay (DSU5361) / Internship (DSU5362)

This is a compulsory course for all four streams at level 5 – semester 2. Students are expected to either write an extended essay **or** work as an intern in an organization approved by the Department of Social Studies for 150 hours. The primary objective of the course, in keeping with the aim of enhancing knowledge, attitude and skills of students in the BA programme, is to facilitate the students' development of critical thinking, empathy and academic knowledge. However, the specific objectives of the course vary according to the employment status of the student, and are as follows:

- For employed/previously employed/retired students - to develop analytical and critical thinking skills by writing an extended essay.
- For unemployed students - to provide them with exposure and experience in the world of work: an internship with an organization, a minimum of 150 hours to be spent in the organization, certified by the employer. At the end of the internship students are required to submit either a Learning Journal or a Portfolio based on the internship.

Number of Credits: 03