

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part II)

Course Title	Social Policy and Social Development		
Course Code	SOC3142	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, tutorials and small group discussions	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		

Course Description

This course emphasizes the importance of social policies for achieving social development goals. It explores major areas of social policy that has contributed to a high level of social development in Sri Lanka in terms of both achievements and failures in the relevant fields. The course also provides a comparative perspective on social policy and social development, drawing examples from other regions of the world. Different welfare state models are compared with a view to locating Sri Lanka in the global social policy context.

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Course Title	Political Sociology		
Course Code	SOC 3144	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussions, guided practical work, self-study	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		

Course Description

This unit is designed primarily for students in the Faculty of Arts in the Special Degree Programme. The aim of this course is to provide a sociological perspective on politics, with particular reference to the political system of Sri Lanka. Further this course will consider ethnographic studies drawn from Sri Lanka and other South Asian countries.

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Course Title	Applied Social Research		
Course Code	SOC 3147	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussions, guided practical work, self-study	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		

Course Description

This unit introduces you to the practice and theory of applied social research. It provides you with the necessary information to understand the importance of research in the field of applied social science and its application to project development, evaluation and monitoring using Logical Framework approach. In studying this unit, you will have an opportunity to develop an understanding of the major qualitative and quantitative methodologies in the applied social research.

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Course Title	Independent Study I (Literature Review and Research Design)		
Course Code	SOC 3153 and SOC 3253	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Discussions and individual supervision sessions	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		

Course Description

The Independent Study is a mandatory component of the Special Degree programme in Sociology. This course unit is designed to provide students with a grounding in social research to enable them to conduct a research on their own. Students will have to write a dissertation based on extended reading and independent research. Dissertation work formally commences at the beginning of the Third Year, Semester I and is completed by the end of the Fourth Year, Semester II. The total process of the Independent Study programme requires the students to complete three compulsory components, a literature review on the selected topic, the preparation of the research design, and to write a dissertation based on research. Students are required to work on their literature review during Semester I. In Semester II students have to develop a comprehensive research design outlining in detail how they intend to carry out their research. The process of reviewing the literature (SOC 3153) and developing the research design (SOC 3253) is spread over two consecutive semesters but considered as one course unit.

Field Training Program

The Department organizes a field training program annually for Third Year Special Degree students. This program has also been incorporated into the Independent Study I. The main objective of the field training is to give the students an opportunity to gain experience in conducting field research. The activities of the field training are designed on group work method with the intention of giving the students an opportunity to work creatively with different points of view by working collaboratively with others. Students are divided into small groups and they have to plan the research and write the report as a group.

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Course Title	Introduction to Psychological Disorders		
Course Code	SOC 3155	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussion classes	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		

Course Description

Abnormal psychology is an academic and applied subfield of psychology involving the scientific study of abnormal experience and behavior (as in neuroses, psychoses and mental retardation) or with certain incompletely understood states (as dreams and hypnosis) in order to understand and change abnormal patterns of functioning. The definition of what constitutes 'abnormal' has varied across time and across cultures and varies among individuals within cultures. Today, persistent abnormal functioning is often associated with a mental disorder. In general, abnormal psychology studies people who are consistently unable to adapt and function effectively in a variety of conditions. This course will discuss specific disorders such as anxiety disorders, affective disorders, schizophrenia and personality disorders. It will present theories that explain certain abnormal behaviours. Students will also discuss issues of abnormality, labeling etc. through discussions of case studies, and screening of films, and to question cultural appropriateness of the certain measurement tools to assess abnormality.

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Course Title	Basic Methods in Counselling		
Course Code	SOC 3157	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussions, guided practical work, self-study	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		
Course Description			
<p>This module provides knowledge on the interpersonal and communication skills needed to provide support for a range of psychosocial problems. In addition, this module will facilitate and support personal growth. The application of counselling theories on counselling practice will be explained through the discussion of cases. This module also seeks to provide the students with a foundation of skills in theory and practice within a professional ethical framework.</p>			

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Course Title	Theories and Methods in Social Work		
Course Code	SOC3168	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, tutorials	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		
Course Description			
<p>The course gives a basic understanding of the most important theories and perspectives in the discipline of Social Work. It includes theories of justice, otherness, identities, violence, antiracism, disability and gender theories. It also gives a basic insight into some core social work methods which help the student to understand the ways in which social work users could be supported while providing the students with the knowledge of practical social work skills. The course leads the student to grasp the interconnectedness of the theoretical approach and practice-based-approach in social work. It demonstrates the necessary integration between theories, practices, social work ethical principles and personal values.</p>			

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Course Title	Neo - Classical Sociological Theory		
Course Code	SOC3173	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, group work, class discussions	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		

Course Description

If Classical Sociological Theory can be taken as an attempt to understand and interpret the rise of “society” and individualism under modernity and its implications for the collective life from varying perspectives, this course invites the students to read Neo-Classical Sociological Theory, as an attempt to understand and interpret the further unfolding of modernity in terms of later advances in sociological theory.

If Structural Functionalism sought to extend an understanding of Sociology as an objective field of study, a critique of the systemic and objective approach to society, initiated by C.Wright Mills, followed by theorists such as Alvin Gouldner, and Conflict theorists lead by Ralf Dahrendorf, pave the way to Phenomenological Sociology and Ethnomethodology, and Symbolic Interactionism. Theorists falling under the latter groups represent a tendency in Sociology that focuses on what has come to be known as “micro sociology” of everyday life. Their studies shift the focus of Sociological theorizing from society as a collective, to its constituting element of the individual or the “self” and its interactions in everyday life, representing society foremost as a product of the interaction between individual selves, and the “self” as an achievement of the individual itself, thus interpreting the modernist duality perceived between “self and society” as a sociological reality.

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part II)			
Course Title	Qualitative Analysis		
Course Code	SOC 3241	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussions	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		
Course Description			
<p>The basic objective of the course is to encourage students to move beyond the methods of analysis in quantitative research and explore the approaches, methods and practices in the field of qualitative research. The course will focus on the research techniques and methods of analysis in qualitative research.</p>			

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Course Title	Sociology of Religion		
Course Code	SOC 3143	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussions, guided practical work, field visits, self-study	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		

Course Description

This course provides students with a Sociological and Anthropological understanding of religion. We will be looking at the diversity of religious groups, but the truth or falsity of given religions will not be discussed. Being a believer or unbeliever is irrelevant to this sociological study of religion. The sociological view requires objectivity on the part of the observer, and while the insider's view must be respected and considered, our focus is sociological and not doctrinal. The interaction between society and religion is central in our exploration of religion as a cultural phenomenon. The course will also introduce selected seminal ethnographic texts dealing with the religious changes, political use of religion in general as well as in Sri Lanka. This course includes visiting religious sites in and around Colombo.

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part II)			
Course Title	Contemporary Social Issues		
Course Code	SOC 3246	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussions, guided practical work, self-directed learning	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		
Course Description			
<p>For more than a century, sociological knowledge has developed as an explanation to the existing social issues in different societies in the world: yet, the social issues throughout the world has been changing, disappearing and reappearing in different forms while a whole new set of social issues have also come into existence as a result of continuous social change. This course attempts to understand the nature of social issues and to examine why they are sociologically important while emphasizing the social issues predominant within the present Sri Lankan society.</p>			

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part II)			
Course Title	Sociology of Industry and Formal Organizations		
Course Code	SOC 3248	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussions, practical work, self-study	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		
Course Description			
<p>This course will introduce to students the sociological, industrial, and psychological theories applicable to industrial and other work settings and methods of studying work and workers. Thus, the course unit examines classical and contemporary traditions of industrial and organizational theories in order to enable the students to understand industries and formal organizations and their behavior. Further, the course unit will introduce several industrial sociologists and industrial psychologists who have contributed to the development of industrial and formal organizational theories under different topics in the context of their own work.</p>			

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Course Title	Gender and Development		
Course Code	SOC 3260	Theory hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, classroom interactive activities, films	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	none		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		

Course Description

It is now widely recognized that pervasive and pre-existing gender inequalities mean that development processes have differential effects on women and men. This course addresses a number of key issues involved in the study of the nexus between gender and development and explores the themes that are central to development debates from a gender perspective.

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Course Title	Community Mental Health		
Course Code	SOC 3262	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures and practice placement work	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core course module offered for social work study stream</i>		
Course Description			
<p>Mental health issues are increasing in Sri Lanka due various factors, such as disasters, changing life styles, poverty, and homelessness. Care for people with mental health issues is basically centered within or in relation to institutions while the concept of community care is rather undeveloped in the country. The course attempts to view the issue of mental health within a social work approach focusing on the possibility of adopting a community care approach with special reference to the Sri Lankan context.</p>			

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part II)			
Course Title	Education and Society		
Course Code	SOC 3267	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussion classes, research	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		
Course Description			
<p>Education is a key institution among the social institutions that are the concern of sociologists. The education system of a society and other social institutions such as economy, polity, law, family, religion and military have a reciprocal relationship with each other. Education plays a crucial role in determining the nature and sustainability of many social interactions that take place in these other social institutions and vice versa. Education is also a key institution responsible for transferring the values that drive a society.</p> <p>This course focuses on understanding the role played by education in determining the nature of a given society by drawing students' attention towards sociological theories of education and thereby offering them the necessary sociological knowledge for engaging in a critical analysis of the system of education in Sri Lanka.</p>			