

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Deviance, Crime and Social Justice		
Course Code	SOC 4175	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, tutorials	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		
Course Description			
<p>Human societies from their early forms of civilizations have attempted to identify specific processes to demarcate between the behaviours that were seen as threatening to the social existence from those behaviours that were considered as favourable to the society. Measures were developed to control the former while promoting the latter through some form of social consensus arrived at via different social institutional processes including social norms, cultural values, ritualistic practices, religious behaviours or legal justice systems. The development of criminology as a unique discipline was perhaps the most crucial occurrence in this regard which contributed to the emergence of universally accepted legal codes as well as of a more humanitarian treatment of the offenders. Sociological studies of crime and deviance made a significant contribution to his understanding by unearthing many social, structural, institutional and relational issues that led certain individuals or groups to deviate from the accepted normative standards of the society while identifying the ways and means of controlling such behaviours for the benefit of the majority. However, certain fundamental issues were raised during this development with regard to the terminology, crime and deviance; what are the definitions, who defines, how are they defined and why, and also why certain individuals and groups deviate from the norms while the other conform. The debates on these issues prevail up to date based in different schools of thought no common consensus has been arrived. This course attempts to critically understand these developments while paying attention to many behaviors in the society that have escaped such labelling for varying reasons yet could have serious negative effects on the individuals and the society, perhaps, more seriously than those behaviours that have been identified and labelled. The effectiveness of the correctional systems will be evaluated within this context. The course will be totally based on readings and films. The readings will be prescribed during the course under each theme separately.</p>			

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Sociology of Medicine		
Course Code	SOC4178	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, presentations and discussions	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		
Course Description			
<p>This course introduces the basic concepts and theoretical perspectives in sociology of medicine. The students will learn how illness, health and medicine can be studied as social phenomena. The course primarily focuses on two major themes. Sociological approaches to health and medicine and social relations and power dynamics involved in doctor-patient relationships and the social inequalities in health and health care. It further discusses some of the selected health issues within broader socio-economic context.</p>			

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Sociology of the City		
Course Code	SOC 4180	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 course unit introduces students to the main approaches to investigating the urban experience in the social space of the modern city. Also, the course unit will ground students in an understanding of cities as critical nodes within a world that is increasingly interconnected socially, culturally, politically and economically. It will investigate the causes and effects of this interconnectedness as well as the methods utilized to measure it. It will explore how the global context shapes urban issues, examining the global urban networks across which capital, labor and ideas flow.</p>			

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

Course Title	Violence and Conflict-Related Psychological Issues		
Course Code	SOC 4183	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussion classes	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		

Course Description

Sri Lanka has been experiencing a wide range of problems over the last 3 decades including the on-going conflict, high rates of suicide, alcohol consumption, child abuse, domestic violence etc. There is an assumption that counselling is the response to all the problems of the country. While counselling may help some individuals deal with difficult issues, it may not be an acceptable intervention to others. People have different understandings of why and how they are distressed and where and from whom to seek support, when they feel that support is necessary. Most people do not identify their problems as the cause of any psychological distress. For some people feeding their families, educating their children or having to live with an alcoholic husband are issues that they feel they have to deal with more urgently. These social issues however have an immediate bearing on the psychological well-being of individuals and communities. The psychosocial distress brought about by organised violence in Sri Lanka is an area of human suffering that is poorly understood and consequently individuals and communities are inadequately supported in their efforts to alleviate or recover from this.

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

Course Title	Sociology of the Arts		
Course Code	SOC4285	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, tutorials, visits to galleries, museums, exhibitions and viewing films and dramas	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		

Course Description

This course will encourage students to explore significance of art for human self-understanding from both an anthropological and a sociological point of view focusing on selected areas of arts among which naturally visual arts emerge prominent while also looking at the politics of aesthetics. It will also introduce students to a basic understanding of the history of world art and Sri Lankan art on the one hand, and the theoretical debates that have emerged in the context of reading art on the other.

The arts, whether music, painting drama, film, sculpture, photography or anything else is of central importance in attempting to understand human society and culture. The arts have occupied an important place in the life of humanity over the history of human civilization initially as part of rituals in hunting and warfare, death, agricultural fecundity, religious practices, symbolic representation of the state and in the modern period as creative expression of arts with the notion of arts for its own sake, art freeing itself from serving other purposes. In all these manifestations of art it has provided a focus for collective self-reflection on the life of the collective. Today, in many societies, where economic development has reached its peak and where democratic practices have been institutionalized, the arts occupy a central place in the contemporary social life in providing a focus for collective discussions and debates on human self-understanding under modernity and post-modernity.

In general, the course will be organized around the main themes that have so far emerged in the major debates on the arts. Debates on the arts have been centered on themes such as nature and culture, beauty, aesthetics and taste, 'high culture' and 'low culture,' culture and entertainment or "popular culture." Some of these discussions have been centered on the idea of the persistence of the 'backward' or the 'pre-modern' within arts. On yet other moments, the debates have focused on the purpose of the arts in society. On the basis of these kinds of debates, there are a number of discourses that have addressed numerous aspects of the arts in society over time.

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

Course Title	Community Social Work		
Course Code	SOC 4187	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, practice placement work and discussions	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core course module offered for social work study stream</i>		

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a frame of reference and skills for advanced community-based social work practice. Theories of social change are examined with examples drawn from community organizing and policy advocacy. This course is conducted within two basic premises: (1) that there are wide disparities among people in terms of their power and the control they exert over resources and other people: moreover, these disparities are exacerbated by class, race, gender, physical and mental status, sexual orientation, and age; and (2) the role of the social worker is not to help people adjust to these disparities, but rather to help them to develop the skills and gather the resources necessary to change this situation and challenge any misuse of power by others. This course offers an opportunity to investigate the practical application of community based social work within the framework of the above premises.

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Independent Study II (Data Collection and Analysis and Dissertation writing)		
Course Code	SOC 4197 and SOC 4297	Notional hours	300
No. of Credits	6	Discussions and individual supervision sessions	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		
Course Description			
<p>As part of the compulsory unit Independent Study II, students are required to work on data collection and analysis during Semester I. Semester II would be spent on writing the dissertation.</p> <p>The following criteria will be taken into account in evaluating the dissertation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Introduction of the research and presentation of background information (material from comparative sources, justification of the study) (b) Information on field situation, clarification of techniques used and methodological issues (c) Presentation of objectives, research questions and the ethnographic details and data (d) Analysis, theoretical sophistication and rigor and the strength of key arguments and conclusions (e) Technical accuracy of the bibliography and in-text citation (f) Logic of presentation (relevance of chapter selection etc.), clarity of presentation and creativity 			

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Collaborative Social Work		
Course Code	SOC4239	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, tutorials and field work	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core course module offered for social work study stream</i>		
Course Description			
<p>In the last decade, principles of self-organization and nonlinear dynamics have become prominent in understanding complex dynamics of professions, such as social work, psychotherapy, and management. From <i>synergetics</i>, some “generic principles” can be deduced, which can be seen as necessary prerequisites for facilitating self-organized order transitions, i.e. formation of new, more functional or desirable cognitive-emotional-behavioural-relational pattern(s). The synergetic principles offer a meaningful frame for an understanding processual organization of social work, heuristics and techniques. In the above-mentioned disciplines, the HOW of doing it (for example social work working relationship, collaboration, partnership etc.) and the PROCESS of (verbal, nonverbal) dialogue-in-action in which <i>co-creation</i> of desired outcomes is accomplished, has already become or is becoming a subject matter of primary importance and research interest.</p> <p>“Co–creation” is the key term to be used in the new language of social work in order to describe how we define the process of help. Co–creation articulates the new, postmodern paradigm and redefines the roles of both, the client and the social worker. Social workers are not seen any more as experts in power or with aim of “changing the clients” (i.e. their patterns of thinking, feeling, behaving and relating to others) in a more or less linear way but as accountable allies - professionals, scientist and artists in co-creating a context in which clients, related to as experts on experience, mobilize their own resources or are empowered to use different energizing, motivating resources in order to make a transition in their self-organization and realize the desired change. Once the desired outcome has been co-defined, social workers lead the process of exploring a client’s life-world, focusing on his or her (available and yet to be provided) resources, co-planning their use in order to accomplish the outcome.</p> <p>The postmodern concept of <i>ethics of participation</i> emphasizes the quality of the relationship between social worker and clients: they co-create interpretations, meanings, solutions. A postmodern social worker supports conversations to create new, useful narratives. A new responsibility is emerging: the responsibility to collaborate for understanding, exploring alternative meanings, creating new meanings and new narratives together with the clients. A social worker no longer owns solutions or right answers but, instead, has to face the uncertainty in confronting open spaces in searching with all participants involved in problem-solution.</p> <p>Theory and models for collaborative social work practice are to be presented, experientially tested and used in direct (field) practice: a model of <i>working relationship and unique working project of help</i> are proposed and explored as possible definitions of the specific, social work way of help. The working relationship defines relationships and conversations that make</p>			

changes possible. It is about the *how* in doing social work, about important elements that have to be taught and learned: the language, methods, and skills. Establishing a working relationship is the first, highly professional task of the social worker. The basic elements of any social work working relationship are: a. agreement to cooperate; b. instrumental definition of the problem and co-creating solutions; c. personal leading. Those three basic elements are embedded in the context of contemporary concepts in social work: d. strength perspective; e. ethics of participation; f. co-presence, »here and now«; g. actionable knowledge. It is a model that social workers can use and share with clients to make co-creating good solutions possible.

A special sensitivity for the involuntary entering condition of a social work client and the ability in contributing to constructive reframing regarding the perspectives of deviance, resistance, reactance and power is needed, in order not to reduce but to enhance the possibilities of co-creating a collaborative social work relationship.

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Sociology of Development		
Course Code	SOC 4272	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures and discussion classes	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		
Course Description			
<p>Contemporary sociological discussions give a lot of prominence to developmental issues. Sociology of development captures many such discussions and, maybe even debates, on developmental issues taking into account the developed and developing country contexts. This course focuses on understanding the theories of development and, on identifying and understanding developmental issues with particular reference to South Asia.</p>			

Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Contemporary Rural Society		
Course Code	SOC 4274	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussion, self-study	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		
Course Description			
<p>The urban-rural divide is gradually losing its significance due to national, international and global tendencies. Contemporary rural societies have undergone many changes in demographic, economic, social and political terms. Yet, rural societies continue to have some of their own peculiarities and identities that are of a sociological significance. Students will be guided through the relevant literature mainly on Sri Lanka and India.</p>			
Course Objectives			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i To provide an understanding of the changes that have taken place in rural societies. ii To provide an understanding of the existing social issues in rural societies. iii To provide an understanding of the theoretical approaches to examining rural societies 			

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Colonial and Postcolonial Society		
Course Code	SOC4281	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, discussions, group presentation, and self-study	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		
Course Description			
<p>This course will cover several aspects of post-colonial society with reference to their manifestations in colonial Sri Lanka. The focus will be on nationalism, violence, gender and religion and ritual and visual representations such as art, architecture and murals. Analyzing ethnographic accounts on these aspects the course will explore the colonial roots of post-colonial social life in Sri Lanka, paying attention to both change and continuity.</p>			

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Sociology of Mass Media		
Course Code	SOC4282	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, tutorials	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	none		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		
Course Description			
<p>This course is organized into four main sections. The first will explore a variety of theoretical approaches to the study of media technologies and popular culture beginning with the work of the Frankfurt School. This section will explore the manner in which the advent of new media technologies in the aftermath of the 1st world war was discussed by the Frankfurt School and the manner in which they analyzed the changes in practices of representation that occurred. This section will also look at work by Roland Barthes and John Tagg for their respective perspectives on structuralism and its emphasis on essences and post structuralism's emphasis on power and history.</p> <p>The second section of the course will pursue issues of representation and media practice in relation to new media in the global South. Recent Anthropological work on media in this region has foregrounded local particularities that are mobilized through universally present media technologies. The non-western contexts will provide examples that students will be better able to understand and relate to. We will also read scholarly writing on media in Sri Lanka that will inform the research projects that will be undertaken by students as part of the assessment component of the course.</p> <p>The third section of the course will be devoted to seminar presentations by students. In the fourth section we will devote one hour every week to in-class viewing and critical analysis of films, television programs, internet content, newspapers and magazines.</p> <p>The objective of the course is to provide Sociology Special Degree students with a critical understanding of the politics of media representation and popular culture.</p>			

Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Sociology of Knowledge		
Course Code	SOC4284	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, tutorials	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		
Course Description			
<p>For centuries, 'knowledge' was a subject area which attracted the serious concern of the philosophical circles. Knowledge was studied as an entity created by the human society along its intellectual advancement. The sociological concern of knowledge developed much later in the twentieth century as large a number of anthropological and sociological studies revealed the worth of traditional and local knowledge existed in non-intellectual societies according to the modern interpretation of "intellect".</p>			

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

Course Title	Sociology of the Arts		
Course Code	SOC 4285	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, tutorials, visits to galleries, museums, exhibitions and viewing films and dramas	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Optional</i>		

Course Description

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Bachelor of Arts - Special Degree in Sociology (Part III)			
Course Title	Contemporary Sociological Theory		
Course Code	SOC 4186	Notional hours	150
No. of Credits	3	Lectures, tutorials, discussions, presentation and assignments	
Pre-requisites Course Codes	None		
Course Type	<i>Core</i>		
Course Description			
<p>With a view to throw light on contemporary social life through an attempt to develop a critique of Modernity, this course is intended to introduce and guide in thinking through, some selected key ideas, from a number of contemporary social theorists or schools of social thought, whose disciplines range from Sociology to Philosophy.</p>			