

MASTER OF ARTS (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

2017/2018

**MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
(POLITICAL SCIENCE)**

2017/2018

DEGREE PROGRAMS



PROSPECTUS

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

SRI LANKA

1. Introduction

Department of Economics of the University of Kelaniya has been conducting Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Social Sciences (MSSc) degree programs in Political Science since 2002. The courses have been prescribed according to the general regulations for postgraduate degrees offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya.

Master of Arts Degree Program in Political Science by Course Work	<i>One Year Degree Program</i>
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Master of Social Sciences Degree Program in Political Science by Research (Course Work + Thesis)	<i>Two Years Degree Program</i>
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2. Entry Qualifications

Master of Arts in Political Science (MA)

Bachelor's Degree (General or Special) from a recognized university or any other academic or professional qualifications approved by the Board of Study, Faculty of Social Sciences and by the University Senate.

Master of Social Sciences Degree Program in Political Science (MSSC)

Bachelor's Degree (Special) with a Class from a recognized university with Political Science as a subject or any other academic or professional qualifications approved by the Board of Study, Faculty of Social Sciences and by the University Senate.

Course Units

MA in Political Science Degree Program

Course Code	Course Unit Title	Type	Credits
POLS 53015	Politics & International Relations in South Asian Countries	C	5
POLS 53025	Advanced Political Theory and Analysis	C	5
POLS 53035	Contemporary Political Sociology	C	5
POLS 53045	Political Economy of Transition in the Sri Lankan Context	C	5
POLS 53055	Comparative Public Administration and Policy Analysis	O	5
POLS 53065	Contemporary Local Government and Management	O	
POLS 53075	Research Methods for Political Sciences	O	5
POLS 53085	Independent Dissertation	O	
	Total Number of Credits		30

C = Core course unit

O = Optional course unit

MSSc in Political Science Degree Program

Course code	Course Unit Title	Type	Credits
POLS 53015	Political & International Relations in South Asian Countries	C	5
POLS 53025	Advanced Political Theory and Analysis	C	5
POLS 53035	Contemporary Political Sociology	C	5
POLS 53045	Political Economy of Transition in the Sri Lankan Context	C	5
POLS 53055	Comparative Public Administration and Policy Analysis	O	5
POLS 53065	Contemporary Local Government and Management	O	
POLS 53075	Research Methods for Political Sciences	C	5
POLS 6301W	Thesis	C	30
	Total Number of Credits		60

C = Core course unit

O = Optional course unit

3. Course Structure

Master of Arts Degree in Political Science (MA) - One-Year Degree Program

This degree program consists of,

- i. Four compulsory course units (POLS 53015, POLS 53025, POLS 53035, POLS 53045) and
- ii. One optional course units from (POLS 53055, POLS 53065) and
- iii. POLS 53075 course unit or a dissertation with 8,000 – 10,000 words.

Master of Social Sciences Degree in Political Science (MSSc) – Two Year Degree Program

Year 1

This program consists of,

1. Five compulsory course units (POLS 53015, POLS 53025, POLS 53035, POLS 53045, POLS 53075) and
2. One optional course unit from (POLS 53055, POLS 53065)

And

Year 2

In the second year, all candidates must produce a research thesis (POLS 63015 W). The thesis should be based on an original research under a topic approved by the Board of Study (BoS) of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the University Senate. Supervisor/s for each research student will be appointed by the Board of Study (BoS) of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and by the University Senate.

A viva voce examination will be held after evaluation of the thesis by examiners appointed by the Board of Study (BoS) of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and by the University Senate.

4. Postgraduate Criteria

4.1 Postgraduate Certificate (Political Science)

Eligibility for the Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

- i. For award of a *Postgraduate Certificate*, a student must accumulate grades of B⁻ (B minus) or better in course units aggregating to at least **20 credits** within three consecutive academic years with a **GPA of 2.70 or greater**.
- ii. For award of a Postgraduate Certificate with Merit, a student must accumulate Grades of B⁻ (B minus) or better in course units aggregating to at least **20 credits** within one academic year with a **GPA of 3.70 or greater**, **and** obtain grades of A or better in course units aggregating to at least **50% of total credits** for the course units considered above.
- iii. A student who does not obtain a grade B⁻ (B minus) or better in particular course unit may re-sit the examination of that course unit in the following academic year in order to improve the grade. The best grade obtainable by a student in this instance would be B⁻ (B minus). In the event a student obtains a lower grade while attempting to better the grade, he/she will be entitled to the previous grade.

4.2 Postgraduate Diploma (Political Science)

Eligibility for the Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

1. For award of a *Postgraduate Diploma*, a student must accumulate grades of B⁻ (B minus) or better in course units aggregating to at least **25 credits** within three consecutive academic years with a **GPA of 2.70 or greater**.
- ii. For award of a *Postgraduate Diploma with Merit*, a student must accumulate Grades of B⁻ (B minus) or better in course units aggregating to at least **25 credits** within one academic year with a **GPA of 3.70 or greater**, **and** obtain grades of A or better in course units aggregating to at least 50% of total credits for the course units considered above.

- iii. A student who does not obtain a grade B⁻ (B minus) or better in a particular course unit may re-sit the examination of that course unit in the following academic year in order to improve the grade. The best grade obtainable by a student in this instance would be B⁻ (B minus). In the event a student obtains a lower grade while attempting to better the grade, he/she will be entitled to the previous grade.

Note: A student who fulfills these requirements stipulated under 5.1 above may be considered by the Board of Examiners for the award of Postgraduate Certificate.

4.3 Master's Degree in Political Science by Course Work

Eligibility for the Award of the Master's Degree (MA) by Course Work

- i. For award of a *Master's Degree by Course Work*, a student must accumulate grades of B⁻ (B minus) or better in course units aggregating to at least **30 credits** within three consecutive academic years with a **GPA of 2.70 or greater**.
- ii. For award of a *Master's Degree with Merit*, a student must accumulate grades of B⁻ (B minus) or better in course units aggregating to at least **30 credits** within one academic year with a **GPA of 3.70 or greater**, **and** obtain grades of A or better in course units aggregating to at least 50% of total credits for the course units considered above.
- iii. A student who does not obtain a grade B⁻ (B minus) or better in a particular course unit may re-sit the examination of that course unit in the following academic year in order to improve the grade. The best grade obtainable by a student in this instance would be B⁻ (B minus). In the event a student obtains a lower grade while attempting to better the grade, he/she will be entitled to the previous grade.

Note: A student who fulfills the requirements stipulated under 5.1 and 5.2 above may be considered by the Board of Examiners for the award of Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma respectively.

4.4 Master of Social Sciences Degree in Political science by Research

Eligibility for the Award of the Master's Degree

- i. For award of an MSSc Degree, a student must accumulate grades of B⁻ (B minus) or better in course units aggregating to at least 60 credits of which at least 30 credits must be obtained within four consecutive academic years with a GPA of 2.70 or greater.
- ii. For award of a MSSc Degree with Merit, a student must accumulate grades of B⁻ (B minus) or better in course units aggregating to at least **60 credits** of which at least **30 credits** must be from each academic year within two consecutive academic year with a **GPA of 3.70 or greater, and** obtain grades of A or better in course units aggregating to at least 50% of total credits for the course units considered above.
- iii. A student who does not obtain a grade B⁻ (B minus) or better in a particular course unit may re-sit the examination of that course unit in the following academic year in order to improve the grade. The best grade obtainable by a student in this instance would be B⁻ (B minus). In the event a student obtains a lower grade while attempting to better the grade, he/she will be entitled to the previous grade.

Note: A student who fulfills the requirements stipulated under 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 above may be considered by the Board of Examiners for the award of Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or Master's Degree with Course Work respectively.

5. Grade Point Average

Grade Point Average (GPA) is the credit-weighted arithmetic mean of the grade point values. The GPA is determined by dividing the total credit-weighted grade point value by the total number of credits.

For example, a student who has completed six course units each of 5 credits with grades A, A-, B+, B, C+, and C respectively, would have the GPA:

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{5 \times 4.0 + 5 \times 3.7 + 5 \times 3.3 + 5 \times 3 + 5 \times 2.3 + 5 \times 2}{5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5} \\ &= \frac{20 + 18.5 + 16.5 + 15 + 11.5 + 10}{30} \\ &= \frac{91.5}{30} \\ &= 3.05 \end{aligned}$$

6. Grading System

Range of Marks	Grade	Marks Levels
85-100	A+	4.0
70-84	A	4.0
65-69	A-	3.7
60-64	B+	3.3
55-59	B	3.0
50-54	B-	2.7
45-49	C+	2.3
40-44	C	2.0
35-39	C-	1.7
30-34	D+	1.3
25-29	D	1.0
20-24	E	0.0

7. Subject Curriculum

Course Type: Core

Course Code: POLS 53015

Course Title: Politics & International Relations in South Asian Countries

Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course unit, students will be able to;

- Describe the nature of the politics and interstate relations in South Asian countries;
- Analyze the factors that affect and determine the interstate relations in South Asia;
- Analyze the issues and challenges faced by developing countries.

Course Contents: Historical prospect of political process in South Asian countries; The impact of historical background on governance and international relations; The formulation of the nation and state in the region; A comparative study on changes and trends in government and politics; Contemporary political and economic trends and cooperation in the region under the global and regional environment.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Lectures and Assignments/Class Tests

Methods of Evaluation: Written Examination 80%
Assignments 20%

Course Type: Core

Course Code: POLS 53025

Course Title: Advanced Political Theory and Analysis

Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course unit, students will be able to describe and analyze the Western and Eastern political theories that have been formulated in different contexts.

Course Contents: Study of the Western and Eastern political theories, concepts and approaches comparatively, comparative study on ancient- Indo-Sino, Anglo-European political philosophies and modern political philosophers and their impact on political and government changes in relevant contexts, Feminism and development of post-modernist political theories concepts and thoughts,

Teaching and Learning Methods: Lectures and Assignments

Methods of Evaluation: Written examination 80%
Assignments / Class Tests 20%

Course Type: Core

Course Code: POLS 53035

Course Title: Contemporary Political Sociology

Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course unit, students will be able to:

- Describe the functions of the society to generate the political power and determine its behaviors;
- Demonstrate the knowledge on thoughts and ideas related to the political sociology;
- Analyze the political process and socio-political Issues.

Course Contents: Theories and concepts on power and distribution of power; Development of the state and its impact on society; Capitalism and social classes Political socialization; Political parties; Pressure groups and their functions in society; Modernization movement and ethnic conflict; Political violence in South Asia.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Lectures and Assignments

Methods of Evaluation: Written examination 80%
Assignments Class Tests 20%

Course Type: Core

Course Code: POLS 53045

Course Title: Transition of Political Economy in Sri Lankan Context

Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course unit, student will be able to:

- Describe concepts and theories on political Economy,
- Analyze the political economic policies, reforms and transitions introduced by successive governments and their impact on society and politics in Sri Lanka.

Course Contents: Theories, concepts and approaches about the political economic transitions; Transition of market economy into public sector and its socio-political impact; Relationship between economic related policies and politics; Market forces and the factors that affected the transition to state sector and their different types; Establishment of liberal, democratic, political and economic structure, mechanisms and functions of the state sector to enhance the efficiency of the public good and services; Economic growth; Disparity of distribution and allocation of resources; Macroeconomic policies; Response of the public sector against market economy and their efficiency; Imposing tax and issues related to tax, foreign loans and aids.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Lectures and Assignments

Methods of Evaluation: Written examination 80%
Assignments / Class Tests 20%

Course Type: Optional

Course Code: POLS 53055

Course Title: Comparative Public Administration and Policy Analysis

Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course unit, students will be able to describe the historical and contemporary development of the public administration in advanced and developing countries.

Course Contents: Introduction to public policy, policy analysis and public administration; Historical, constitutional, political, social and economic factors affecting the structure and function of public administration in developed and developing countries; Principles of public service system; Resource allocation for the government, other institutions and departments and the functions of public enterprises and local authorities in that context; Devolution of power; Relationship between decentralization and representation; Recruitment, training, coordination and staffing of various levels of public service; Administrative justice and administrative reform in the context of changing functions of government and private sectors.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Lectures and Assignments

Methods of Evaluation: Written examination 80%
Assignments / Class Tests 20%

Course Type: Optional

Course Code: POLS 53065

Course Title: Contemporary Local Government and Management

Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course unit, students will be able to:

-Critically analyze the functions and structure of local government and states and,

-Apply knowledge of the concepts and principles to understand the local governance in European and Asian region.

Course Contents: Introduction to concept of decentralization and types of decentralization; Theoretical and conceptual background of decentralization, Concept of local government and local governance; Structure and functions of local government in Europe, China, Britain, United States, India, Sri Lanka and Japan; Historical development of local governance in Sri Lanka; Central-local relations; Local finance; Urban government; provincial council system in Sri Lanka; Issues and challenges, trends and way forward of the modern local government.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Lectures and Assignments

Methods of Evaluation: Written examination 80%
Assignments / Class Tests 20%

Course Type : Core / Optional

Course Code : POLS 53075

Course Title: Research Methodology for Political Science

Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course unit, students will

be able to:

- Understand different research perspectives and methodologies in the field of Political Science;
- Have an awareness of their ethical responsibilities when undertaking research;
- Reflect on the meanings and motivations they bring to the research endeavor;
- Perceive the interconnections between research questions, data forums, research methodologies and methods;
- Formulate research questions, hypotheses and accompanying study designs;
- Understand assumptions and issues of validity and reliability of quantitative research;
- Adopt conventions for reporting statistical Findings;
- Interpret and critically evaluate reports of quantitative research.

Course Contents: Nature of research, research paradigms and traditions; Main methods of qualitative research; Introduction to quantitative analysis; Sampling methods; Organizing a sample survey; Methods of action research; Choice of ethnographic research for political science research; Writing and submitting dissertations; Preparation of a research proposal.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Lectures and Assignments

Methods of Evaluation: Written examination 80%

Assignments/Class Tests 20%

8. Contact details

Academic Staff of the MA/MSSC Degree Programs

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Note: Time table and all other messages relevant to the postgraduate program will appear in the department website and the official social

media websites of the university.