

Department of Sinhala M.A. / M. Phil Programme

Background and Rationale

The department of Sinhala has been offering postgraduate degrees for the last fifty years, and during those years the postgraduate curriculum was revised a number of times taking into account developments in the relevant subject areas and national needs. With this curriculum proposal, the department revises its postgraduate curriculum introducing several new courses and significantly revising the existing courses.

Stream 1:

In order to complete the stream 1 of the MA programme in Sinhala the graduate must complete eight courses, 6 core courses and two optional courses within one academic year.

Stream 2:

To complete the stream 2 of the MA programme, the graduate is required to pass six courses and to write a research project in the form of a thesis (or any other form of research/scholarly work in consultation with the supervisor and the department higher degrees committee) containing minimum of twenty thousand (20000) words.

Graduate Profile

The MA/M. Phil programme of the department of Sinhala intends to produce a postgraduate who has an in depth knowledge in the relevant subject areas, and skilled in conducting research in those subjects, and who is capable of critically evaluating both received knowledge and the new developments in the field. In addition, the department envisions a postgraduate who is balanced in thinking and who is productive in a variety of related professions and trained in producing scholarly documents in elegant and correct Sinhala.

General Objectives

The M.A. / M. Phil programme of the department of Sinhala intends to provide students with an advanced knowledge in the subject areas under the department's purview and to train students in conducting independent research in those fields, namely, literature, language, and culture. This revised curriculum maintains that 'three-stream tradition' which has been the practice of the department for several years:

Sinhala language

In relation to Sinhala language, the program focuses on training students in correct and elegant use of Sinhala in written communication for different communicative purposes. Moreover, the language courses of this program expose students to diverse language styles, grammatical traditions, language histories, and many forms of accepted language usage.

Sinhala literature

In terms of literature, the program covers Sinhala literature focusing on many different literary genres belonging to different periods. Both prose and poetry are studied extensively in two different courses. This innovative curriculum of the program introduces new courses with new

teaching methods and theoretical approaches to literature in order to encourage students to develop broader perspectives on the subject matter.

Culture

Under the stream of culture, the program presents a group of courses capturing the most salient features of human culture and the evolution of Sinhala culture. In that, this curriculum includes courses in cultural norms and behaviours, rituals and performance, institutions and cultural monuments. In these courses the students are trained to holistically understand culture as a collection of multitude of human actions and creations by providing them with a theoretical grounding in the concept of culture.

Mphil Thesis

Mphil thesis may be written in any of the above streams or related fields abiding by the regulations of Postgraduate Institute in the Humanities and the Social Sciences.

Prospective Careers after Graduating

After following this program the students will have the knowledge and background to enter into diverse careers in education, research, administration, media, public relations, art, theater, clerical service, and they will also be able to further develop their skills and knowledge in these fields. This program will help those who are already employed in institutions related to above subjects to further develop their skills and potentials for career advancement.

Medium of Instruction: Sinhala, (English on Request)

Duration: one year (course work)

Two years (Course work and Thesis)

Admission Criteria:(1) Basic special degree in Sinhala (First class or Upper Second or GPA above 3.3)
(2) Basic special degree in Sinhala with a second lower or bellow GPA 3.3 and a postgraduate diploma in Sinhala offered by the department of Sinhala at a recognized university
(3) Basic degree in any subject and the Postgraduate Diploma in Sinhala offered by the department of Sinhala at a recognized university

MA/M. Phil SL 601	Research Methodology and Writing Skills for Sinhala (c)
MA/M.Phil SL 602	Contemporary Applications of Western Literary Theories (o)
MA/M.Phil SL 603	Sinhalese Poetry during and after Colonialism (C)
MA/M.Phil SL 604	Socio-linguistics (O)
MA/M.Phil SL 605	History of the Sinhala Language a(c)
MA/M.Phil SL 606	Cultural Studies (C)
MA/M.Phil SL 607	Modern Linguistics (O)
MA/M.Phil SL 608	Sinhala Fiction: Novels and Short Stories(o)
MA/M.Phil SL 609	Principles of Sanskrit Literary Criticism and History of Sinhala Literary Criticism (o)

Course No: MA. / M. Phil. SL 601	
Course Title: Research Methodology and the Writing Skills for Sinhala	
Credits: 3	
Prerequisites: None	
Core/Optional: Core	
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce basic qualitative and quantitative research methods To train students in conducting research To familiarize students with key aspects of academic writing To develop skills in academic writing To train students in conducting and writing research in Sinhala To help students to internalize the ethics of research 	
Time Allocation: Lectures 45 Tutorials	
Course Description	
<p>This is a course in research methodology and academic writing with special attention to scholarly writing in Sinhala. While the course begins by introducing the concept of research, the key aspects of research methodology and academic research such as qualitative and quantitative research, ‘research question,’ ‘topic,’ ‘thesis,’ and so on are introduced systematically. In addition, the course trains students in practical aspects of research writing such as, data collecting, note taking, summarizing, paraphrasing, developing research proposals, and so on while the basic modes of documenting research such as book reviews, research papers, memos, and dissertations are introduced. The significance of time management in planning and conducting research will also be emphasized. Moreover, the ethics of research will also be discussed taking examples of incomplete citations and plagiarism. With the intention of producing quality researchers in Sinhala language and literature, the course pays attention to training students in correct and elegant academic writing.</p>	
Assessments	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60

Course No: MA / M. Phil SL 602	
Course Title: Sinhalese Poetry during and after Colonialism	
Credits: 3	
Prerequisites: None	
Core/Optional: Core	
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce the evolution and development of modern Sinhala poetry To examine the ways Sinhala poetry dealt with new subjects and themes during this period To evaluate the diverse subject matters, forms, styles, intentions of the poetry written Kandian period To introduce new poetic trends developed with the influence of world literary traditions during the Colombo period To understand the influence and impact of colonialism and nationalism on Sinhala poetry To evaluate the contribution of the free verse movement to Sinhala poetry 	
Time Allocation: Lectures 45 Tutorials	
Course Description <p>This is a course in Sinhala poetry from the 16th century to the present, and it begins by paying attention to the first encounter of Sinhala literary culture with the Western culture and its impact on Sinhala poetry. Thus, the course focuses on new modes of poetry such as <i>Hatan Kavya</i>, <i>Jataka Kavya</i> and <i>Upadesha Kavya</i> that emerged during this period. The course also deals with poetic works belonging to various modes of poetry written in the Kandian period, and the folk poetry began to be composed from the 16th century onwards. In addition, the growth of poetry with secular themes such as <i>Rati Kavya</i> and <i>Prashasti Kavya</i> will also be assessed.</p> <p>Moreover, the course includes an evaluation of the poetry of Colombo period and the ways Western education and modern Western poetry have influenced Sinhala poetry, and the development of children's poetry during this period is also examined. In addition, the course evaluates the interconnections between nationalism and anti-colonial sentiments and Sinhala poetry. The free verse movement and debates on literary modernism make a significant section of the course.</p>	
Assessments	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60

Course No: MA/M. Phil/SL603	
Course Title: Contemporary Applications of Western Literary Theories	
Credits: 3	
Prerequisites: None	
Core/Optional: Core	
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the students with a strong background in contemporary literary theory To examine contemporary applications of Western literary theory To enable students to engage in theoretically grounded literary criticism To train students in theoretical thinking 	
Time Allocation: Lectures 45 Tutorials	
Course Description This course evaluates the contemporary practical applications of classical and modern Western literary theory. The course begins by reviewing the key theoretical concepts commonly used in literary criticism in Sri Lanka and other places. Then, the course goes on to examine as to why those specific theories are applied and popular. Thus, the theories such as formalism, structuralism, post-structuralism, feminism, postcolonialism are reexamined paying attention to their practical usages in Sinhala literary culture. In addition, the course takes into account the ways by which these theories are used in other literary cultures in South Asia.	
Assessments	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60

Course No: MA / M. Phil SL 606	
Course Title: Cultural Studies	
Credits: 3	
Prerequisites: None	
Core/Optional: Core	
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the students with a background in Cultural Studies To introduce the concept of culture To expose students to cultural diversity of humanity To critically evaluate the connection between culture and politics To evaluate as to how cultural studies can be influenced by other subject areas such as social theory, media studies and so on To assess the notions of ‘popular culture,’ ‘high culture,’ ‘mass culture’ 	
Time Allocation: Lectures 45 Tutorials	
Course Description This course introduces the subject of cultural studies by providing the history, background, key theories and development of the subject. This course has two main goals: Firstly, it evaluates the concept of culture throughout human history, and secondly, it introduces key concepts of cultural criticism to understand how human culture can be critiqued, reshaped or renewed. In addition, the course pays attention to different forms of cultural exchange, cultural politics and cultural movements that shaped human society and history. The course draws on intellectual resources of other subject areas such as postcolonialism, media studies, and social theory. Moreover, the course reviews the received notions of popular, high culture, mass culture and so on. The course will introduce the key theories of contemporary cultural theorists.	
Assessments	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60

Course No: M.A/M. Phil SL605	
Course Title: History of the Sinhala Language	
Credits: 3	
Prerequisites: None	
Core/Optional: Core	
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce the origin, evolution and history of Sinhala language To provide the students with an understanding of language families, inter-language relations To examine the concept of language change and its causes To introduce the key conceptual categories in linguistics To evaluate grammatical traditions in Sinhala 	
Time Allocation: Lectures/Tutorials 45	
Course Description This is a course on the origin and evolution of Sinhala language, and it includes a brief survey of the history of middle-Indo Aryan languages, which are considered to be related to the origin of Sinhala language. The different stages in the development of Sinhala are studied systematically. Through the study of phonemes, morphemes and syntax using sources such as inscriptions, the course investigates the Indian language contact which expedited the evolution of Sinhala. In addition, the course introduces the key concepts of linguistics with special attention to language change. The linguistic concepts found in traditional grammars in <i>Sidat Sangarava</i> are studied with comparative perspectives.	
Assessments	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60

Course No: MA/M. Phil/SL 604	
Course Title: Socio-linguistics	
Credits: 3	
Prerequisites: None	
Core/Optional: Core	
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To familiarize students with social value of language To enable students to understand the social diversity through language diversity To make students able to understand the links between social institutions and language To make students informed in the advantages of being bilingual and polyglot. To train students in planning and introducing language change. 	
Time Allocation: Lectures 45 Tutorials	
Course Description In this course in sociology of language investigates the interconnections between language and society taking a broader view as to what constitutes ‘language.’ The ways social differences reflect in language will be one key theme in the course while linguistic manifestations of concepts such as national identity, ethnicity and nationalism will also be critically investigated. The ways by which inter-cultural relations are expressed in language will be studied in order to facilitate students in thinking as to how different cultural relations are possible within a single language and in other languages. In addition, the concepts of diglossia, language contact, dialects, registers, jargons, slangs and so on will be examined, and the sociological aspects of monolingualism, bilingualism and multilingualism will be discussed. Students will be encouraged to engage with concepts such as ‘language planning’ with attention to their significance in modern Sinhala usage.	
Assessments	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60

Course No: MA/M. Phil/SL 607	
Course Title: Modern Linguistics	
Credits: 3	
Prerequisites: None	
Core/Optional: Core	
Objectives: To introduce the basic concepts of modern linguistics To provide students with theoretical knowledge in examining the structure of a language To make students grounded in concepts related to levels of language structure To make the students able to understand views on ‘meaning-construction’	
Time Allocation: Lectures 45 Tutorials	
Course Description This course provides the theoretical and practical knowledge of modern linguistics for a systematic study of language. Firstly, the key features of modern linguistics will be introduced. Secondly, descriptive linguistics will be introduced with attention to its relevance to Sinhala language studies. In descriptive linguistics following levels of language will be discussed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Phonetics ii. Phonology iii. Morphology iv. Syntax v. Semantics 	
Assessments	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60

Course No: MA/M. Phil/SL 608	
Course Title: Sinhala Fiction: Novels and Short Stories	
Credits: 3	
Prerequisites: None	
Core/Optional: Optional	
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To familiarize students with the difference between ‘short story’ and ‘novel’ To make students aware of the history of modern Sinhala fiction To analyze key aspects of modern fiction To evaluate various influence on modern fiction writers To examine new trends in fiction To train students in appreciating modern fiction with different theoretical perspectives To enable the students in utilizing new literary devices in creating and analyzing fiction 	
Time Allocation: Lectures 45 Tutorials	
Course Description	
<p>This course has two sections each focusing on two main genres of modern fiction: Novel and Short Story. Initially, the course will deal with the origin and evaluation of modern Sinhala fiction. Then, the genres of novel and short stories will be studied with close readings of selected texts and with attention to structural and stylistic aspects in them and the literary devices utilized by the writers and the sources of influence on their art. In addition, the content of these texts will be analyzed with the intention of discerning key themes dealt with in them.</p> <p>Thus, themes such as colonialism, nationalism, globalization, modernization will be discussed in relation to the art of novel. Since novel as a genre grew in the context of colonialism and nationalism above themes are integral to this study. Modern social critical thought such as feminism, modernism, postmodernism and their relationship to the art of novel will also be evaluated.</p> <p>With regard to short story, the course will discuss the generic difference between novel and short story in order to understand the features unique to short story. The different modes of representation and narrative devices of short story will be also evaluated.</p>	
Assessments	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60

Required Texts

Novels: *Hevanella*. Siri Gunasinghe. Maharagama: Saman Press, 1961.

Mañ. Virapoukune Uparathana. Colombo: Fast Publishers, 2010.

Sedona. Eva Ranvira, Wijesooriya: Colombo, 1999.

Podu Purushaya, Sunethra Rajakarunanayake, Nugegoda: Sarasavi, 2008.

Suddilage kathawa . Simon Navagatthegama, Colombo: Surasa, 5th Print. 2012.

Karumakkarayo. Gunadasa Amarasekara, Boraesgamuwa: Visidunu, 1996.

Charitha Thunak .K. Jayathilake, Colombo: Pradeepa, 2004.

Short Stories: A selection of short stories will be used depending on the requirements of the course.

Course No: MA/M. Phil SL609	
Course Title: Principles of Sanskrit Literary Criticism and History of Sinhala Literary Criticism	
Credits: 3	
Prerequisites: None	
Core/Optional: Core	
Objectives: To introduce key Sanskrit literary theories To evaluate the influence of Sanskrit literary theories on Sinhala literary culture To assess the significance of Siyabaslakara in understanding Sinhala poetics and prosody To examine the ways contemporary writers have synthesized Sanskrit and Western literary theories to create 'Sinhala literary criticism'	
Time Allocation: Lectures 45 Tutorials	
Course Description This course provides the students with a considerable understanding of Sanskrit literary theories and criticism. The course studies the evolution and development of modern Sinhala literary criticism under the impact of Sanskrit literary theories. In addition, the course includes main Sanskrit theories such as <i>Rasa</i> , <i>Alamkara</i> , <i>Riti</i> , <i>Dhvani</i> and the evolution of the theories of literary criticism in Sanskrit and their impact on Sinhala literary criticism, and also deals with Siyabaslakara and its influence on Mahakavya tradition in Sinhala, and the concepts of literary criticism found in the <i>Sidatsangarava</i> . The synthesis of Sanskrit literary theory and Western literary theory by some contemporary Sinhala writers will be assessed.	
Assessments	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60