

## MA Mauritian Studies (2 years Part-time) – SHGI500 (Subject to Approval)

### 1. Objectives

This programme is designed to deepen students' understanding of the Mauritian society through the theoretical perspectives of History, Anthropology and Geography. It aims at reinforcing interdisciplinary research methods in studying specific issues in Mauritian and Area Studies and at enhancing students' knowledge of complex societal dynamics and the evolving social configurations in a multi-insular society. It will equip students with research and analytical tools and prepare them as social scientists for a range of professions in the public and private sectors.

### 2. General Entry Requirements

Successful completion of an undergraduate degree with

- At least a Second Class or 50%, whichever is applicable or
- A GPA not less than 2.5 out of 4 or equivalent, from a recognized higher education institution or
- Alternative qualifications acceptable to the University of Mauritius/Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

### 3. Programme Requirements

At least a Second Class Degree in Mauritian Studies, Cultural Studies, History or any Social Science from a recognized University, or alternative qualifications acceptable to the University of Mauritius/Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

### 4. Programme Duration

	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Master's Degree	4 semesters (2 yrs)	8 semesters (4 yrs)
Postgraduate Diploma	4 semesters (2 yrs)	8 semesters (4 yrs)
Postgraduate Certificate	2 semesters (1 yr)	4 semesters (2 yrs)

### 5. Credits Per Year

Minimum 3 credits subject to regulation 4

### 6. Minimum Credits Required For Award

Master's Degree – 36 credits

Postgraduate Diploma – 24 credits

Postgraduate Certificate – 12 credits

Breakdown as follows:-

	<b>Core Modules</b>	<b>Dissertation</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Master's Degree</i>	12 credits	12 credits	12 credits	36 credits
<i>Postgraduate Diploma</i>	12 credits	-	12 credits	24 credits
<i>Postgraduate Certificate</i>	6 credits	-	6 credits	12 credits

### 7. Assessment

**Each module will carry 100 marks (i.e. expressed as %) and will be assessed as follows (unless otherwise specified).**

- For a student to pass a module, an overall total of 40% for combined Continuous Assessment (CA) and Written Examination (WE) components would be required, without minimum thresholds within the individual Continuous Assessment and Written Examination. The same criterion will apply for modules being assessed jointly. Note that all overall marks for the two modules will be considered and not the individual marks for each of the two modules.

- Assessment will be based on Written Examination of 2-3 hour duration carrying 70% of total marks and Continuous Assessment carrying 30% of total marks unless otherwise specified.
- For Modules MST 5245, MST 5246 and MST 5247 Written Examination will carry 60% of total marks and Continuous Assessment 40% of total marks.
- Continuous Assessment may be based on assignment(s), practical tests, seminar presentation etc.
- There is no level attached to modules, i.e. each module carries its own credit value.
- **Submission Deadlines for Dissertation**  
First Draft: End of July in the Final Year  
Final Copy: Last working day of August in the Final Year

## 8. Choice Of Electives

Students will be required to submit their choice of Electives in order of priority by the middle of Semester 1 of Year 1. Each student will opt for two electives relevant to the discipline in which he/she will write the dissertation. The University/MGI reserve the right not to offer a given elective module if the critical number of students is not attained and/or for reasons of resource constraints.

## 9. List of Modules

Module Code	Core Module	Hr/Wk	Credits
MST 5140Y	Anthropology of Food and Health	3	6
MST 5150Y	Change and Development: A Geographical Perspective	3	6
MST 5241Y	Mauritius: a Social and Political History	3	6
<b>Electives (Choose any two)</b>			
MST 5245	Topical Issues: Mauritius and the Region <sup>1</sup>	3	3
MST 5246	Folk Studies in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Outer Islands <sup>2</sup>	3	3
MST 5247	Coastal Issues <sup>2</sup>	3	3
MST 5000	Dissertation		12
Total			36

<sup>1</sup> offered and examined in Semester 1

<sup>2</sup> offered and examined in Semester 2

## 10. Programme Plan

<b>Year 1</b>			
Module Code	Core Module	Hr/Wk	Credits
MST 5140Y	Anthropology of Food and Health	3	6
MST 5150Y	Change and Development: A Geographical Perspective	3	6
<b>Year 2</b>			
MST 5241Y	Mauritius: a Social and Political History	3	6
<b>Electives (Choose any two)</b>			
MST 5245	Topical Issues: Mauritius and the Region <sup>1</sup>	3	3
MST 5246	Folk Studies in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Outer Islands	3	3
MST 5247	Coastal Issues	3	3
MST 5000	Dissertation		12

## **11. Outline Syllabus**

### **MST 5140Y – ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD AND HEALTH.**

This module examines the effects of economic, social and cultural factors on subsistence, diet and health in historical and modern contexts. It will deal with basic issues and important concepts of health behaviour and food consumption. This module will use problem-based learning where students will be exposed to scenarios, case studies, problems or events in Mauritius and surrounding countries, and will stimulate anthropological enquiry.

### **MST 5150Y - CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT: A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

This module will analyse critically the social and spatial impacts of development and change in the Mauritian context. Issues such as: quality of life in towns and villages, energy and water conservation, lifestyle and transmissible diseases will be discussed. The geographies of inequalities and crime, of offshore and call centre activities will be explored. Appropriate theories will be discussed and fieldwork skills developed.

### **MST 5241Y - MAURITIUS: A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY.**

This module will focus on the social and political history of Mauritius and related islands from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century to contemporary times. Special attention will be given to the history of health, inequality, gender issues, labour relations and the development of democracy.

### **MST 5245 - TOPICAL ISSUES: MAURITIUS AND THE REGION.**

This seminar-based module views salient issues in contemporary society through interdisciplinary approach. Selected issues will be discussed and students will investigate a topic of their choice and the results presented in a seminar.

### **MST 5246 - FOLK STUDIES IN MAURITIUS, RODRIGUES AND OUTER ISLANDS.**

This module is designed to sensitise students to the Mauritian cultural diversity through the lens of folkloristic understanding of how culture creates a binding operational system across various sections of the population. The study will also focus on the importance of folklore in the understanding of a nation's culture.

### **MST 5247 - COASTAL ISSUES.**

The coastal zone, as an interface between land and sea, is the seat for conflicting activities with important fallout. This seminar-based module will focus on issues such as fishing, tourism and leisure activities, port activities, coastal pollution and environmental hazards. Students will use geographical methods to investigate a chosen topic for presentation.

### **MST 5000 - DISSERTATION.**

Students will be required to write a dissertation of 10000-14000 words, equivalent to 12 credits, on an original topic which is relevant to their field of study and approved by the Departmental Board. The students will have the opportunity to specialise in one of the disciplines on offer. The dissertation should be research based. Deadline to submit proposal for dissertation is the first week of July of Level I.

*March 2010*