

## PROGRAMME OFFERED JOINTLY WITH THE MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE

### **BA (Hons) Mauritian Studies SHG1412 (F/T) (Subject to Approval)**

#### **1. Rationale**

This programme offers interdisciplinary ways of exploring Mauritian society, its environment, history, culture and their intersections. Conceived around the disciplines of History, Geography and Social Anthropology, it is designed to provide knowledge and competence for a number of professions in such sectors as teaching, civil service, the media or media related industries and in tourism.

#### **2. Objectives**

The BA (Hons) Mauritian Studies programme will equip students with theoretical concepts and practical tools to understand the Mauritian society in its complexity and enable them to play their part in shaping it both as an informed member of the society and as a social scientist.

#### **3. Learning Outcomes**

After completing the programme students will

- demonstrate the ability to question, discuss, analyse issues, carry out individual and group work and communicate their views effectively, both verbally and in writing.
- display a responsible attitude and a sense of belonging to the Mauritian nation.

#### **4. General Entry Requirements**

In accordance with the University General Entry Requirements for admission to undergraduate degree Programmes.

#### **5. Programme Requirements**

A credit in English Language at the Cambridge SC/'O' Level or equivalent and 2 GCE 'A' Level passes in any of the following subjects: Sociology, History, Geography, Economics, Languages and Literature (English, French or any Oriental Language).

#### **6. Programme Duration**

	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Degree	3 years	5 years

**7. Minimum Credits Required For Degree Award - 102**

**Breakdown:**

<b>CREDITS FROM</b>				
	<b>Core Modules</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>GEMS</b>	<b>Dissertation</b>
<b>Degree</b>	78	9	6	9

**8. Credits Per Year**

Minimum - 18 credits  
Maximum- 48 credits. Subject to Regulation 6.

**9. Assessment**

Each module can either be taught in Semester I only or in Semester II only or throughout the two semesters.

Assessment will be based on a written examination of 2 to 3-hour duration (normally a paper of 2 hours' duration for modules carrying less or equal to three credits, and 3 hours' duration for modules carrying six credits) and on continuous assessment done during the semester or year.

Written examinations for all modules will be carried out at the end of the academic year except for DE modules and some Semester Modules (unless otherwise stated). Relevant information will be provided to the students prior to delivery of the modules.

The continuous assessment will count for 20% to 30% for all modules, unless otherwise specified in the programme and at least two (2) assignments/tests per module.

Continuous assessment may be based on laboratory work, fieldwork, seminars and/or assignments and should include at least 1 class test.

For a student to pass a module an overall total of a minimum of 40% should be obtained in that module.

Special examinations (e.g. class tests) will be arranged at the end of semester 1 or semester 2 for exchange students who have registered only for one semester. In case of yearly modules, credits will be assigned on a pro-rata basis.

**10. Submission Deadline for Dissertation**

On the last working day of March.

**11. Repeat And Termination Of Registration**

If the CPA of a student is < 40% for an academic year, s/he will have to repeat the entire academic year, and retake modules as and when offered. However, s/he will not be required, if s/he wishes, to retake modules for which **Grade C** or above has been obtained.

Students will be allowed to repeat **only once** over the entire duration of the Programme of Studies.

Registration of a student will be terminated if

- (i) the CPA < 40% at the end of an academic year and the student has already repeated one year of study;
- or
- (ii) the maximum duration allowed for completion of the Programme of Studies has been exceeded.

**12. Modules of Special Nature**

A student can take a maximum of 9 credits of Self-Study Subjects and Independent Study, subject to approval of the Department.

**13. The Programme is Broken Down as Follows:**

Year of study	Core modules (6 credits)	Core modules (3 credits)	Electives (3 credits)	GEM (6 credits)	Dissertation (10 credits)
Year 1	4	2	1(compulsory)	1	
Year 2	4	2	2	-	
Year 3	3	-	-	-	1
Total	66	12	9	6	9

**14. List of Modules**

CORE Code	Earn 78 Credits		Credits
	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L + P	
MST 1001Y(1)	Mauritius under Colonial Rule: A Society in the Making (1638-1968)	3 + 0	6
MST 1002Y(1)	Littérature Mauricienne et Diaspora	3 + 0	6
MST 1003Y(1)	Mauritius: The Physical Environment and Natural Resources	3 + 0	6
POLI 1211(1)	Government and Politics of Mauritius	3 + 0	3
MST 1004Y(1)	An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3 + 0	3
CSE 1010 e (1)	Introduction to Information Technology	O.E	3
ECON 2013Y(3)	Economic History: From a Port of Call to the Contemporary Economy	3 + 0	6
MST 3004Y(3)	Demography and Settlement	3 + 0	6
FREN 2011Y(3)	Initiation aux Etudes Créoles	3 + 0	6
MST 3001Y(5) R	Research Methodology	3 + 0	6
MST 3002Y(5)	Anthropology of Health and Religion	3 + 0	6
MST 3003Y(5)	Cultural Studies	3 + 0	6
HIST 4001Y(5)R	Contemporary Issues in Mauritian Society	3 + 0	6

MST 4003Y(5)	Anthropology of Change and Development	3 + 0	6
MST 2000Y(3)	Public History: Archives, Museums and Heritage	3 + 0	3
<b>MST 4000(5)</b>	<b>Dissertation</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>ELECTIVES</b>	<b>Choose 6 credits</b>		
CIVE 3217(5)	Introduction to GIS	3 + 0	3
SOCI 1005Y(1)	An Introduction to Sociological Analysis	3 + 0	3
ENG 2010Y(3)	Multi-Lingualism	3 + 0	3
MST 4004Y(5)	Folklore and Oral Traditions in the South-West Indian Ocean	3 + 0	3
IREL 2003Y(3)	Contemporary Indian Ocean	3 + 0	3
WPH 1110(1)	Western Philosophy	3 + 0	3
<b>Plus one GEM over 4 years</b>			<b>6</b>

#### 15. Programme Plan - BA (Hons) Mauritian Studies

<b>CORE</b>	<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Hrs/Wk L + P</b>	<b>Credits</b>
MST 1001Y(1)	Mauritius under Colonial Rule: A Society in the Making (1638-1968)	3 + 0	6
MST 1002Y(1)	Littérature Mauricienne et Diaspora	3 + 0	6
MST 1003Y(1)	Mauritius: The Physical Environment and Natural Resources	3 + 0	6
MST 1004Y(1)	An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology <sup>1</sup>	3 + 0	3
FREN 2011Y(3)	Initiation aux Etudes Créoles	3 + 0	6
CSE 1010 e (1)	Introduction to Information Technology <sup>1</sup>	O.E	3
POLI 1211(1)	Government and Politics of Mauritius <sup>2</sup>	3 + 0	3
<b>GEM</b>			<b>6</b>
<b>CORE</b>	<b>Year 2</b>		
ECON 2013Y(3)	Economic History: From a Port of Call to the Contemporary Economy	3 + 0	6
MST 3004Y(3)	Demography and Settlement	3 + 0	6
MST 3002Y(5)	Anthropology of Health and Religion	3 + 0	6
MST 2000Y(3)	Public History: Archives, Museums and Heritage	3 + 0	3
IREL 2003Y(3)	Contemporary Indian Ocean	3 + 0	3
MST 3001Y(5)R	Research Methodology	3 + 0	6

<b>ELECTIVES</b>	(Choose 2)		
SOCI 1005Y(1)	An Introduction to Sociological Analysis	3 + 0	3
ENG 2010Y(3)	Multi-Lingualism	3 + 0	3
WPH 1110(1)	Western Philosophy	3 + 0	3
CIVE 3217(5)	Introduction to GIS	3 + 0	3
MST 4004Y(5)	Folklore and Oral Traditions in the South-West Indian Ocean	3 + 0	3
<b>CORE</b>	<b>Year 3</b>		
MST 4003(5)	Anthropology of Change and Development	3 + 0	6
MST 3003Y(5)	Cultural Studies	3 + 0	6
HISTR 4001Y(5)	Contemporary Issues in Mauritian Society	3 + 0	6
<b>MST 4000(5)</b>	<b>Dissertation</b>	<b>3 + 0</b>	<b>9</b>

**Note :** (1) *Offering of electives would be subject to availability of resources and critical mass. The Department reserves the right to offer additional electives.*

- (2) <sup>1</sup> – *Module taught and examined in Semester I*  
(3) <sup>2</sup> – *Module taught and examined in Semester II*

#### **14. Outline Syllabus**

##### **MST 1001Y(1) - MAURITIUS UNDER COLONIAL RULE : A SOCIETY IN THE MAKING (1638-1968)**

An in-depth study of the complexities of our society during colonial times - Focus on central themes essential for an understanding of the socio-economic, political and cultural factors contributing to the making of present-day Mauritius - Immigration and settlement, slavery and its abolition, political and constitutional evolution, the creolisation process.

##### **MST 1002Y(1) - LITTÉRATURE MAURICIENNE ET DIASPORA**

On se propose dans un premier temps de faire un survol de l'histoire de cette littérature plurilingue et dans un deuxième temps, d'interroger des extraits de textes littéraires et d'étudier en profondeur les spécificités, les convergences et les divergences. Il s'agira dans ce cours d'étudier cette littérature relativement récente de la diaspora. L'on essaiera d'analyser comment chaque romancier apporte une lumière nouvelle à ce passé douloureux et pourtant fondateur.

##### **MST 1003Y(1) - MAURITIUS: THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

This module will identify and analyse the physical characteristics of the land and sea territory of the Republic of Mauritius, including its geology, climate, flora and fauna and natural resources. Methods and skills pertaining to physical geography will be taught.

##### **MST 1004Y(1) - AN INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

This course is designed to introduce students to the methods, theories and concepts of cultural anthropology. It brings about an understanding of the similarities and differences in society and of how the world's system is interconnected despite the different cultural traditions. The module focuses on basic anthropological concepts to comprehend how people lead their everyday life through language, economy, family life and kinship, religion and other institutions.

**FREN 2011Y(3) - INITIATION AUX ETUDES CREOLES**

Genèse et évolution des sociétés créoles de l'esclavage à nos jours à travers le monde. Créolisation linguistique et culturelle dans l'Océan Indien. Le créole mauricien: origine, description et développement.

**CSE 1010e(1) - INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

The World of Computers; Main components of the computer; The evolution of computers; Input and output devices; Secondary Storage; Programming; Systems Software; Application software; Systems analysis and design; Communications and connectivity; The internet; Information technology and society.

**POLI 1211(1) - GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF MAURITIUS**

This module is an introduction to the government and politics of Mauritius. It emphasises the primacy of the constitution, the checks and balances in our system, the nature of our parliamentary democracy and our Republican model, the protection of our fundamental rights and freedoms.

**ECON 2013Y(3) - ECONOMIC HISTORY : FROM A PORT OF CALL TO THE CONTEMPORARY ECONOMY**

This island's economic history during colonial times is the main focus of this module. The resources mobilized at the different stages of the country's development from a simple port of call to a thriving sugar colony is examined before considering the challenges facing Mauritius in today's world economy.

**MST 3004Y(3) - DEMOGRAPHY AND SETTLEMENT**

Current demography, spatial organization and interactions among villages and towns studied in a historical perspective. Students will be equipped with methods and skills pertaining to Human Geography.

**MST 3002Y(5) - ANTHROPOLOGY OF HEALTH AND RELIGION**

This module builds on MST1004 Y(1). It will look at the anthropology of, health and religion with reference to the ethnographies of the rituals, symbolism and religious knowledge of non-western societies including Mauritius, its neighbours and other societies of the Indian Ocean and will refer to some aspects of medical anthropology.

**MST 2000Y(3) - PUBLIC HISTORY: ARCHIVES, MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE**

Students will learn how history is communicated to the public using various medium, both through conventional and electronic channels: Archives, museums, memorial and heritage sites, theme parks etc.

**IREL 2003Y(3) - CONTEMPORARY INDIAN OCEAN**

This module will look at contemporary events and issues related to the Indian Ocean, using an international relations perspective that focuses on political conflicts and negotiations, as well as on the geopolitics that have occurred particularly during and after the Cold War. The Chagossian issue, including the construction of an American base on Diego Garcia, will also be dealt with in this module, which will furthermore look at diplomacy in the region in general terms.

**MST 3001Y(5)R - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This module explores a variety of research methods used to investigate different research topics. The stages involved in the research process from specifying a research problem to the collection of data through qualitative and quantitative methods to the dissemination of findings will be discussed. Ethical issues in research will also be raised. This module will be evaluated by

Continuous Assessment only, including a project consisting of original research based on fieldwork.

**MST 4003(5) - ANTHROPOLOGY OF CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT**

This module explores selected key ideas from the field of anthropology which are of central relevance to development, seen as progressive social change. It helps students understand the social anthropological concepts and methods, and their application to development issues and policies.

**MST 3003Y(5) - CULTURAL STUDIES**

This module will look at aspects of culture through the medium of the written, visual, oral and media-based sources and see how people give meanings to their lives in the contemporary world. Forms of culture (film, books, magazines, television, photographs, newspapers, digital and cyber-culture, theatre, art and dance, popular leisure activities, political and cultural movement and subcultures) will be studied in different settings – historical, contemporary, global, national and local.

**HIST 4001Y(5)R - CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN MAURITIAN SOCIETY**

This seminar-based module provides students with the opportunity to address topical political, socio-economic, cultural and environmental issues in Contemporary Mauritius, placing them in the regional and global context. Continuous assessment will account for 60% of the evaluation and examination for 40%.

**MST 4000(5) - DISSERTATION**

At the end of the third year of the programme, the students will be required to submit a project dissertation. The title of the dissertation has to be approved and a Project Supervisor identified by the Programme Co-ordinator. The final copy should be submitted by end of March and the dissertation length should be in the range of 8000-12000 words.

***ELECTIVES***

**SOCI 1005Y(1) - INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

The module aims to introduce student who are unfamiliar with sociology to the sociological discipline. It provides an introduction to main schools of sociological theory and the application of these theories to the analysis of social institutions and social policies.

**ENG 2010Y(3) - MULTI-LINGUALISM**

Definition of concepts. Monolingualism. Bilingualism. Multilingualism. Diglossia. Bilingual/multilingual individuals-states. Multilingual states: Territorial/Personality principle. Reasons for bilingual/multilingual states.

**WPH 1110(1) - WESTERN PHILOSOPHY**

Discussion on the main problems of Western Philosophy with focus on Metaphysical problems.

**CIVE 3217(5) - INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

What is GIS? Technologies merged to create a GIS; spatial and non-spatial information; What can a GIS do? What type of information makes up a GIS database; Metadata, GIS application worldwide (on the internet); IDRISI – a raster-based GIS system; view, display, document a file; create view palettes for vector and raster files; import bmp and dxf files; on-screen digitising; simple analytical tools; Boolean algebra. Applications of GIS – microprojects.

**MST 4004Y(5) – FOLKLORE AND ORAL TRADITIONS IN THE SOUTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN**

This course is designed to familiarise students with the ways in which folklore functions in the everyday life, and throughout the life cycle, in societies of the South West Indian Ocean. It will explore how our own cultures shape our perceptions. The study of folk traditions, in different contexts, focuses on cultural relativism, fieldwork, folksong, the genres of folk narrative et al.

*January 2010*