ETHNICITY AND SOCIAL IDENTITY
IN SRI LANKA
Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education Program (ISLE) Program

Suggested US semester credit hours: 4
IFSA-Butler Course Code: SO282-04 and AN282-04
Delivery method: Face to Face
Language of Instruction: English

Panel of teachers:
- Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya
  Tel: 0777-810118 / E-mail: kalingatudorsilva@gmail.com
- Dr. Fazeeha Azmi, Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya
  Tel: 0777748168 / E-mail: fazeehaazmi@gmail.com
- Dr. Dhammika Herath, International Centre for Ethnic Studies
  Tel: 071-8003605 / E-mail: dhammikk@yahoo.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides an introduction to Sri Lanka society through exploration of three primary bases of personal and social identity, namely caste, social class and ethnicity. One of the key sociological issues to be explored in this course is why ethnicity is more important than either caste or social class in shaping group processes, political dynamics and social conflict in contemporary Sri Lanka. The war between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE ended in May 2009 but the ethnic divide and the resulting tensions are continuing in different ways. In the post-war era instead of promoting ethnic reconciliation as such, celebration of the war victory, militarization and economic development have been aggressively pursued by the state, disregarding the political demands from minority communities. In this course the upsurge in ethnicity and nationalism is viewed not as a uniquely Sri Lankan phenomenon, but a worldwide process in some ways contrary to the expected trajectory of globalization. Will ethnicity remain as important as before in post-war Sri Lanka? In the absence of an ethnicized war and the resulting instrumentalization of ethnicity by armed actors, will other identities like broader citizenship, gender, social class and even caste acquire a greater significance than before? These are some of the new questions that will be addressed in this course.

COURSE DELIVERY
1. Lectures/Seminars
2. Assigned Readings
3. A Field Visit

EVALUATION METHODS
The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Class participation & quizzes =20%
- Report on the field visit =30%
- Term Paper =50%
COURSE SYLLABUS

ATTENDANCE

Students studying on an IFSA-Butler program are required to attend all regularly scheduled classes, studios, recitations, workshops and laboratory sessions. Failure to attend classes may result in a loss of credit and a fail on your transcript. The specific application of the attendance guidelines is at the instructor’s discretion. Lateness or absence can affect the student’s grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings, viewings</th>
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</table>
| 1       | Introduction to the Course | Silva, Niluka  
2002  
| 2       | Caste             | Silva, K.T.  
2006  
Silva, K.T., Sivapragasam, P.P. & Thanges, P.  
2009  
| 3       | Social Class      | Jayawardena, K.  
1983  
Kandiah, Tiru  
1983  
Kannangara, A.P.  
2011   
| 4       | Ethnicity         | Wimmer, Andreas  
2008   
Hollinger, David A.  
2008   
Obama, Blackness, and Postethnic America: The Obama |
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| **5** | **Sinhala nationalism** | De Silva, K.M.  
2011  
De Votta, Neil.  
2007  
| **6** | **The Rise of Bodu Bala Sena** | Silva, K.T.  
2013  
Globalization, existential insecurities and interrogating religion in a neo-Buddhist nationalist movement in Sri Lanka. Paper presented in the Conference on Religion and the Politics of Development: Priests, Potentates and ‘Progress’ 28-29 August 2013, organised by Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore  
Colombo Telegraph  
2013  
| **7** | **Field Trip** |   |
| **8** | **Muslim Identity** | Fazeeha, A.  
2012  
Hasbullah, S. H.  
1996  
Refugees are people. Colombo: Northern Muslims Rights Organization.  
McGilvray, D.B.  
2008  
| **9** | **Displacement, Resettlement and Identity Issues** | Brun, C.  
2008  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Texts</th>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Tamil Politics</td>
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### COURSE SYLLABUS

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<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Page/Section</th>
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Students are requested to visit the following website for updates regarding peace and ethnic relations in Sri Lanka.

- [http://www.groundviews.org](http://www.groundviews.org)

Students are also advised to read newspaper reports regarding ethnic relations and political developments in the country.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student’s original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.