THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – 2015/2016
FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL 4 (1ST SEMESTER)
SSU2153 – KINSHIP, FAMILY AND MARRIAGE

DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)

Date: 14th November 2015   **Time: 01.30 p.m. – 04.30 p.m.**

Instructions:

➢ *Answer four (04) questions only.*

➢ *Each question carries 25 marks.*

1. "It is universally accepted that sexual relations should be confined to the marital relationship". Discuss this statement in relation to the concepts, theories, and discussions on kinship and marriage. Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.

2. Discuss descent and alliance theories of kinship focussing specifically on how each theory explains the purpose and function of marriage to human society.

3. Discuss the shift to companionate or 'love' marriages in contemporary society. To what extent is this shift a reflection of increasing agency, especially for women?

4. Critically examine notions regarding the 'family' in popular discourse. Discuss why certain ideas of the family have become more dominant than others.

5. Evaluate the contribution of feminist anthropology to kinship studies.

6. Carsten (2004) has argued that technological interventions challenge our assumptions that kinship relations are 'given' rather than 'produced'. What does this mean? How do new reproductive technologies challenge our assumptions of kinship relations?

7. "The notion of the 'nuclear family' as the basic unit for nurturing children in society is based on a biological construction of kinship relations which ignores other factors which define kinship relations that are *not* biologically based". Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Discuss.

8. Write short notes on the following:
    (a)   Marriage Residence Rules (6 marks)
    (b)   Cognatic descent systems (6 marks)
    (c)   The Oedipus Complex (6 marks)
    (d)   The Functionalist theory of Incest (7 marks)

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