THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
MA IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY
(A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE OUSL AND MARGA INSTITUTE)
SSP2130/2104 - CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT AND PUBLIC POLICY
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2010

DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 26 September, 2010   **Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm**

Answer four (04) questions. Each question carries 25 marks.

1. Write a brief essay on the Ralph Dahrendorf's theory on conflict formation, management and resolution.

2. Describe Gandhi's philosophy on truth and Non-Violence.

3. Evaluate Isaiah Berlin's contribution to contemporary political thought with particular reference to his concepts of equality, freedom and pluralism of values.

4. "John Rawls' theory of distributive justice does not apply to the inequalities between the developed and Third World countries". Do you agree? Discuss.

5. Martha Nussbaum argues that traditional contractarian theory fails to address areas in which symmetrical (or equal) advantage does not exist. How does her theory on the Capabilities Approach address this issue? Discuss.

6. Gender is Performative - it is what you do at particular times rather than a universal who you are. Explain how this approach by Judith Butler opened up possibilities for a person to form and choose his/her own individual identity.

7. Schelling identifies the core of strategic analysis as, "The art of looking at the problem from the other person's point of view, identifying his (or her) opportunities and interests, an art that has been traditionally practiced by diplomats, lawyers and chess players"

   Discuss the above with specific examples that required/require the use of strategic analysis, drawn from literature, history or current affairs.

8. What is the essence of, "The Tragedy of the Commons"?
   Discuss in relation to the following:
   Chena cultivation, Garbage disposal, Pollution of water bodies, Air pollution, Excessive use of agrochemicals, Over-extraction of non-renewable resources, Global warming, etc