



**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
MA DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY 2011/2012
MARGA – THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA COLLABORATIVE
PROGRAMME – LEVEL VII
FINAL EXAMINATION
SSP2130/2104 - CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT & PUBLIC POLICY**

DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 03rd September 2011

Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

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

1. Write a brief comparative analysis of Ralph Dahrendorf's and Karl Marx's theory of conflict.
2. "Hannah Arendt's understanding of the displacement of politics by "the rise of the social" under modernity allows us to develop a critique of the notions of 'development' and 'public policy'. Comment on this statement giving examples.
3. "John Rawls' theory of distributive justice does not establish a clear justification for the right to development". Do you agree? Discuss.
4. "Martha Nussbaum's Capabilities Approach is the most appropriate theoretical framework for ensuring distributive justice in developing societies." Do you agree? Discuss.
5. Define and discuss the concept of Satyagraha as practiced by Gandhi. Describe and evaluate how it was used in the Indian independence movement and comment on its global impact.
6. Discuss the value of Schelling's analysis and use of the prisoner's dilemma for dealing with bargaining situations and making choices. Cite examples.
7. Discuss Judith Butler's concept of "performativity" in her approach to gender issues and her critique of current notions of gender and identity.
8. "Isaiah Berlin's concepts of liberty, equality and pluralism provide a framework of values for multi-ethnic democracy". Discuss.