



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY**

CIRCULAR

All Students, Research Scholars and Faculty Members are
cordially invited to participate in the Special Lecture

by

**Prof. Predrag Cickovacki
Professor of Philosophy
College of the Holycross
Worcester, Massachusetts, USA**

On

“SHOPPING, MONEY, AND HIGHER VALUES”

Date & Time: February 1, 2018, at 11.00 a.m.

and

“TOLSTOY ON NON-POSSESSION AND NON-VIOLENCE”

Date & Time: February 1, 2018, at 02.30 p.m.

Venue: Seminar Hall No. I, SSS&IS

HEAD

Dept. of Politics & Int. Studies

Abstract of Lectures

Lecture I - Shopping, Money, and Higher Values

Dr. Mohanan B Pillai Professor will initiate and moderate the discussion

Abstract: In our consumerist world, our sense of values centers around the possession of money and the possibility of buying things we have never imagined we need. Shopping has become our lifestyle and even our sense of freedom seems to reduce to a choice between the brands. I examine this state of affairs from three perspectives: apologetic, critical, and one attempting to balance our obsession with money with a proper understanding of higher values. Following Nicolai Hartmann, I attempt to explain, defend, and further develop the last of these standpoints and lead the students to think its fallout in Social, national and international orders.

Lecture II - Tolstoy on Non-Possession and Non-Violence

Dr. P. Lazarus Samraj, Professor will initiate the discussion

Abstract: Around the age of fifty, Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) experienced a severe spiritual crisis. Despite being celebrated as one of the world's premier writers (after the publication of his novels, War and Peace [1866-69] and Anna Karenina [1875-77]), and despite being happily married and with numerous children, Tolstoy could not find any meaning to life and became suicidal. In his Confession (1882), he explained how after the life-shattering crisis that lasted for three years, he turned to faith and came to believe that the meaning of life consists in living in accordance with "God's law." Through this lecture I wish to explain what the great philosopher meant as God's law. Whether it has anything to with the religions people profess and also in what way Tolstoy's demonstration an undisputed relevance has in today's Global Politics.