



Bharati College



(University of Delhi)
Janak Puri, Delhi- 100058
www.bharaticollege.du.ac.in

Lesson Plan (Semester III, July to November 2022)

Name of Teacher	Dr. Anavisha Banerjee	Department	English_____
Course	GE	Semester	III
Paper	Contemporary India: Women and Empowerment	Academic Year	2022

Learning Objectives

This course engages with contemporary representations of women femininities, gender-parity and power. The course aims to help students from non-English literature backgrounds to develop a robust understanding of how discourses of gender underlie and shape our very lives, experiences, emotions and choices. The course exposes students to a broad range of literary and textual materials from various historical periods and contexts, so that they are able to examine the socially-constructed nature of gendering. Through the analysis of literary texts humanities and social sciences scholarship students will develop a nuanced understanding of how to perceive, read, understand, interpret and intervene ethically in debates on the subject.

Learning Outcomes

The course will help students

- read, understand and examine closely narratives that seek to represent women, femininities and, by extension, gendering itself;
- understand how gender norms intersect with other norms, such as those of caste, race, religion and community to create further specific forms of privilege and oppression;
- identify how gendered practices influence and shape knowledge production and circulation of such knowledges, including legal, sociological, and scientific discourses;

Lesson Plan

Week No.	Theme/Curriculum	Any Additional Information
1-3	<p>Unit 1</p> <p>Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sex and Gender -- social construction of gender; socialisation into gender o Femininities and masculinities -- normative gender privilege; heteronormativity o Patriarchy -- history of the efforts to undo feminism <p>Readings</p> <p>Baby Kamble, 'Our Wretched Lives', <i>Women Writing in India: 600 BC to the early twentieth century</i>, eds Susie Tharu and K Lalitha (Delhi: OUP, 1997) pp. 307-11.</p> <p>Rassundari Devi, From <i>Amar Jiban</i>, in <i>Women Writing in India: 600 BC to the early twentieth century</i>, eds Susie Tharu and K Lalitha (Delhi: OUP, 1997) pp. 190-202.</p> <p>Rokeya Shekhawat Hossain, 'Sultana's Dream', in <i>Women Writing in India: 600 BC to the early twentieth century</i>, eds Susie Tharu and K Lalitha (Delhi: OUP, 1997) pp. 340-51.</p> <p>V Geetha, <i>Patriarchy</i>, Theorizing Gender Series (Kolkata: Stree, 2007) pp. 3-61.</p>	<p>Assignment and Test- week 4, 7</p> <p>Group Presentation- week 12</p>
4-6	<p>Unit 2</p> <p>Intersections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Women and caste, religion, class, sexualities, race, disability o Women and environment, technology, development o Women and access to resources: employment, health, nutrition, education o Women and reproductive work: singleness, marriage, motherhood, symbolical biological surrogacy and ART, parenting, abortion, and other rights over own body <p>Readings</p> <p>Mahaweta Devi, 'Bayen', <i>Five Plays</i>, trans. Samik Bandyopadhyaya (Calcutta: Seagull, 2009).</p> <p>Mary John, 'Feminism Poverty and the Emergent Social Order', in <i>Handbook of Gender</i>, ed. Raka Ray (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012).</p>	

<p>7-9</p>	<p>Leela Kasturi, 'Report of the Sub-Committee Women's Role in Planned Economy National Planning Committee (1947), in <i>Feminism in India</i>, ed. Maitrayee Chaudhuri (Delhi: Zed, 2005) pp. 136-55.</p> <p>Vandana Shiva, <i>Staying Alive: Women Ecology and Development</i>, Chapters 2&4 (Delhi: Kali for Women, 1989).</p> <p>M. M. Vinodini, 'The Parable of the Lost Daughter', in <i>The Exercise of Freedom</i>, eds K. Satyanarayana and Susie Tharu (Delhi: Navayana, 2013) pp 164-77.</p> <p>25</p> <p>Unit 3</p> <p>Histories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The women's question pre-Independence -- sati-reform, widow remarriage, debates around age of consent o Women in the Independence movement, Partition o Post-Independence campaigns -- against sexual harassment and rape, dowry, violence, debates around the Uniform Civil Code o Public sphere participation of women -- in politics, in the workplace, in the economy, creating educational inclusion <p>Readings</p> <p>Radha Kumar, <i>A History of Doing: An Illustrated Account of Movements for Women's Rights and Feminism in India 1800—1990</i>, Chapters 2, 3, 7, 8, 11 (Delhi: Zubaan, 1993).</p> <p>Kumkum Sangari, 'Politics of Diversity: Religious Communities and Multiple Patriarchies', <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> 3052 (1995).</p> <p>Tanika Sarkar, 'Rhetoric against Age of Consent: Resisting Colonial Reason and Death of a Child-Wife', <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> 2836 (1993 April).</p> <p>Urvashi Butalia, Chapter 2 'Blood', in <i>The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India</i> (Delhi: Penguin Books, 1998)</p> <p>Urmila Pawar and Meenakshi Moon, <i>We also made history: Women in the Ambedkarite Movement</i>, Chs 1, 5, 6 (Delhi: Zubaan, 2008).</p>	
<p>10-12</p>	<p>Unit 4</p> <p>Women, the Law, the State</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Constitutional remedies and rights against gender-based violence o The history of constitutional protections for women (Hindu Code Bill, right to property, personal laws) o State interventions and feminist engagements with the law o IPC sections relevant to rape protection, of the ‘modesty’ of women, obscenity o The concept of ‘woman’ in these frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
13-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision 	
<p>References</p> <p><i>Women and Empowerment in Contemporary India</i>. Ed. Brati Biswas and Ranjana Kaul, Worldview, New Delhi, 2018.</p> <p><i>Indian Literature: An Introduction</i>. Delhi: University of Delhi, 2005</p> <p>Additional Resources</p> <p>1. Janaki Nair, ‘The Foundations of Modern Legal Structures in India’, in <i>Handbook of Gender</i>, ed Raka Ray (Delhi: OUP, 2012).</p> <p>2. Flavia Agnes, ‘Conjugal Property, Morality and Maintenance’, in <i>Handbook of Gender</i>, ed Raka Ray (Delhi: OUP, 2012).</p>		
Online Resources (If Any)		
Assignment and Class Test Schedule for Semester	Link the assignment and Test (optional)	

