

School of Undergraduate Studies

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Time Slot-_____

Course Code:

Title: Gender and Psychology

Type of Course: Elective (Psychosocial Clinical Studies)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: N/A

Cohort for which it is elective: All MA Programs

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: 4th Semester (Winter Semester 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team: Mamatha Karollil

Email of course coordinator: mamatha@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: None

Aim:

This course will look at the interface between gender *and* psychology. What is gender when looked at through the lens of *psychology*? What is gender, what are its origins and sites of reproduction, what possibilities for a politics, when looked at through the lens of *psychoanalysis*?

The course will take a *critical* perspective to the question of gender and psychology. How can we understand our gendered selves in a way oriented to the aims of gender justice, to the aims of feminism, to the aims of black feminism and dalit feminism, to the aims of a queer politics that seeks to destabilize received understanding of the relation between sex, gender and sexuality/desire?

From a critical perspective, how has the discipline of psychology fared in its accommodation (or its failure to accommodate) questions of genders and sexualities outside the hetero-normative? What new grounds does a cultural, social constructionist and/ or post-structuralist approach to our gendered and erotic subjectivities open up?

The course will examine the possibilities and limitations of a perspective that puts to dialogue feminism, queer theory and psychology/psychoanalysis. These questions will be taken up both through texts that directly address these questions but a major thrust of the course invites these questions through work that theorizes and reveals the politics of our everyday experiences – of love, intimacy and marriage, of desire, of the violence therein, of gender wars – in the streets, home, school and the workplace. And finally of

madness- the politics in the construction of female madness as associated with the feminine body (anorexia nervosa, premenstrual syndrome).

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Unit 1: Sex, Gender and Psychoanalysis

Classical psychoanalytic approaches to sex, gender, sexuality- feminist critiques of psychoanalysis- feminist appropriations..

Readings:

Mitchell (1974) *Psychoanalysis and Women*

Chodorow (1985) *Gender, Relation, and Difference in Psychoanalytic Perspective*

Irigaray (1980) *This Sex Which is Not One*

Suggested Readings:

Freud (1925) *Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction Between the Sexes* Freud, S. (1905). *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. In *Freud- Complete Works* (p. 617-663). Ivan Smith.

Freud (1933) *Femininity*

Freud (1931) *Female Sexuality*

Unit 2 : Gender Identity and everyday performance:

The feminine and masculine identities- power, discourse and negotiation- sexuality and identity- psychoanalysis and masculine identity construction

Readings:

Kimmel, M.S. (1999) "Masculinity as Homophobia: Fear, Shame and Silence in the Construction of Gender Identity. In Kupers, J.A. (ed.) *Men and Power*. New York: Prometheus.

Walkerdine, V (1997). *Femininity as Performance*. In Gergen and Davis (ed) *Toward a New Psychology of Gender (A Reader)*.

Odeh, Lama Abu. 1993. *Post-colonial feminism and the veil: Thinking the difference*. *Feminist Review* 43:26-37.

Chopra, Radhika. 2007. *Invisible Men: Masculinity, Sexuality and Male Domestic Labour*.

Unit 3 : Queering sex, gender and desire

Destablizing the sex-gender-desire relation- radical feminism versus queer politics

Readings:

Rich, Adrienne. 1983. Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence

Halberstam, Judith.(1998) Female Masculinity (Introduction)

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick (1992) "Gender Criticism: What Isn't Gender".

Kitzinger, Celia; Wilkinson, Sue (1994), "Virgins and Queers: Rehabilitating Heterosexuality?", *Gender & Society* 8 (Vol. 23): 444–462,

Unit 4 : Love, Sex and Politics: The Sex Wars

Gender relations in the interpersonal realm- men and women, power and positioning in romantic discourse- Queer politics and psychology- violence and gender

Readings

Goldner, V et al (1990) Love and Violence: Gender Paradoxes in Volatile Attachments. *Family Process*, 29, No (4): 343-364

Benjamin, J (1986) The Alienation of Desire: Women's Masochism and Ideal Love.

Kakar, Sudhir (1980) 'Scenes from Marriages' and ' The Sex Wars'

Fernando., F Macwan, J., Ramanathan, S. Marriage, Sexuality and Motherhood (and Caste).

Wetherell, M. (1995) 'Romantic discourse and feminist analysis: interrogating investment, power and desire' in Sue Wilkinson and Celia Kitzinger (Eds) *Feminism and Discourse* London: Sage.

Sharmila Rege, 'The hegemonic appropriation of sexuality: the case of the lavani performers of Maharashtra, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, vol. 29, nos 1&2 (1995): 23–37.

Prem Choudhry 2007 Lustful Women, Elusive Lovers: Identifying Males as Objects of Female Desire

Unit 5: Gender and Mental Illness: The Monstrous/ Impure/ Pathologized Body

Construction of the female body- power, discourse and women's bodies- psychopathology and the female body.

Readings:

Ussher, J. M. (2003b). The role of premenstrual dysphoric disorder in the subjectification of women. *Journal of Medical Humanities*, 24(1/2), 131–146.

Ussher, J.M. (1991) *Women's Madness: Misogyny or Mental Illness?* Amherst, MA, US: University of Massachusetts Press.

Susan Bordo (1996). "*Anorexia nervosa: psychopathology as the crystallization of culture*". In Mary M. Gergen, Sara N. Davis. *Toward a new psychology of gender*. Routledge

Hare-Mustin, R. (1994). Discourses in the mirrored room: A postmodern analysis of therapy. *Family Process*, 33, 19-35.

Ram, K. (2001). *The Female Body of Possession: A Feminist Perspective on Rural Tamil Women's Experience*. In Davar, B.V. (Ed), *Mental Health from a Gender Perspective*, Sage Publications: London.

Unit 7: Gender, Psychoanalysis and Representation

Readings:

Laura Mulvey (1975) *Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema*

Creed, Barbara (1990) *The Monstrous Feminine: Film, Psychoanalysis and Feminism*

Kaplan, Ann (1983) *Is the Gaze Male?*

Assessment Details with weights (tentative):

Attendance: 15

Class participation: 10

Ongoing Presentations: 35%

Open-book Exam: 40%