

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Winter Semester (January-May 2018)

School: School of Human Sciences

Programme with title: MA Gender Studies

Semester to which offered: IV

Course Title: Reading Feminist Texts

Credits: 2

Course Code (new):

Course Code (old): SHS202807

Type of Course: Core

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective

Course Coordinator and Team:

Email of course coordinator:

Pre-requisites: Any Post graduate student in AUD, IVth Semester if M.A. Gender Studies

Aim: This course aims to familiarize students with the politics of reading- who reads and what is being read? What are the ways in which a text might be read- is there a universal approach or method of reading? Following this would be the debate on what constitutes a text- is there a privileged canon of texts- even feminist texts? The other significant question the first module would discuss is 'what is a text'?

The second section of the course would focus on certain themes. This thematic exposition would be done through some sample feminist texts.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Module 3

On Science and Technology

Module 4

On Religion

Module 1

The Politics of Reading

- Mary Eagleton edited A Concise Companion to Feminist Theory. Blackwell Publishing. 2003. Chapters 8- Literature by Mary Eagleton and Chapter 10- Feminist Philosophies by Rosi Braidotti.
- Catherine Belsey, Jane Moore-The Feminist Reader- Essays in Gender and the Politics of Literary Criticism. Palgrave. 1997.
- Edward W. Said- The Text, the World, and the Critic by. The Bulletin of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Volume 8, No. 2 (Autumn 1975) pages 1-23.
- Karin Littau - Theories of Reading. Polity. Chapter 8- Sexual Politics of Reading
- M. A.R. Habib- Modern Literary Criticism and Theory. Blackwell. 2008. Pages 42-54, 113- 145.
- Richard Whatmore and Brian Young ed. Palgrave Advances in Intellectual History. 2006. Chapter 11- Gender and Intellectual History. Chapter 12- Politics of Intellectual History in Twentieth Century Europe.
- Reinhart Kosellek- The Practice of Conceptual History- Timing History, Spacing Concepts. Stanford. 2002.

Module 2

On Education

- Mary Wollstonecraft- From A Vindication of the Rights of Women (chapter 3).
- Krupa Sattianandan- from Saguna (Women's Writing in India Volume I edited by Susie Tharu and K. Lalitha) Oxford University Press. 1993. 277-280.
- Adrienne Rich Valedictory Speech “Claiming An Education” The Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English By Lorna Sage, Germaine Greer, Elaine Showalter. 1999.
- Film- Mona Lisa Smile, 2003

Module 3

On Science and Technology

- Angela Y. Davis- Outcast Mothers and Surrogates: Racism and Reproductive Politics in the Nineties.
- Evelyn Fox Keller- Making Gender Visible in the Pursuit of Nature's Secrets.
- Vandana Shiva- Democratizing Biology: Reinventing Biology from a Feminist, Ecological and Third World Perspective. From Gender and Science Reader. Edited by Muriel Lederman and Ingrid Bartsch. Routledge. 2001.
- Documentary -CODE- Debugging the Gender Gap
- Science it's A Girl Thing- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj--FFzngUk>

Module 4

On Religion

- Fatima Mernissi- From Beyond the Veil: Male –Female Dynamics in Modern Muslim Society.
- Mutta and Sumgalamata – From the Therigatha.
- Avvaiyar, Karaikal Ammiyar and Andal- Bhakti Poetry.
- Sister Mary Bengina (Mary John Thottam) - Lokame Yatra.

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

Weightage	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Assessment	S.No
20%	January-April 2017	Attendance and class participation	1

40%	February 15th, 2017	Book summary	2
40%	March 1st, 2017	Class test	3