

**Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.**

**GENERIC ELECTIVES (GE-9): Women and Politics in India: Concepts and Debates**

**Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course**

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
<b>Women and Politics in India: Concepts and Debates GE-9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Passed Class XII</b>	<b>NIL</b>

**Learning Objectives**

The course attempts to bring together feminist theory and praxis by focussing on conceptual categories theorized by feminism and the mobilization of the feminist epistemology to focus on key concerns surrounding the everyday existence of women. This course would serve as the fundamental introduction to the history of women's movement with particular emphasis on the women's movement in India. The course opens up the question of women's agency, taking it beyond the question of women empowerment and locates women as radical social agents. It attempts to question the complicity of social structures and relations in preserving gender inequality. This is extended to cover new forms of precarious work and labour under the new economy.

**Learning outcomes**

After completing this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the concept of patriarchy, feminism, gender, etc.
- Understand the intersection between family, community and state in feminist debates
- Demonstrate awareness of the history of the women's movement in India
- Show familiarity with and awareness of the key issues taken up by the women's movement

**SYLLABUS OF GE-9**

**UNIT – I (8 Hours)**

**Patriarchy and Feminism**

- a. Sex-Gender Debates
- b. Public and Private Dichotomy
- c. Power

**UNIT – II (7 Hours)**

**Family and Community**

**UNIT – III (7 Hours)**

## **Law, State and Women**

### **UNIT – IV (8 Hours)**

#### **History of the Women's Movement in India**

### **UNIT – V (7 Hours)**

#### **Violence against women**

### **UNIT – VI (8 Hours)**

#### **Women and Labour: Unpaid labour, Reproductive and care work, Sex work**

## **Essential/recommended readings**

### **Patriarchy and Feminism**

N. Menon (2008) 'Gender', in R. Bhargava and A. Acharya (eds), *Political Theory: An Introduction*, Delhi: Pearson

V Geetha (2002) *Gender*, Kolkata, Stree, pp. 1-20.

M. Kosambi (2007) *Crossing the Threshold*, New Delhi, Permanent Black, pp. 3-10; 40-46.

N. Menon (2008) 'Power', in R. Bhargava and A. Acharya (eds), *Political Theory: An Introduction*, Delhi: Pearson, pp.148-157

B. Hooks (2010) 'Feminism: A Movement to End Sexism', in C. McCann and S. Kim (eds), *The Feminist Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*, New York: Routledge, pp. 51-57.

R. Delmar (2005) 'What is Feminism?', in W. Kolmar & F. Bartkowski (eds) *Feminist Theory: A Reader*, pp. 27-37

N. Menon (2015), Is Feminism about 'Women'? A Critical View on Intersectionality from India, *International Viewpoint*,  
[http://www.internationalviewpoint.org/IMG/article\\_PDF/article\\_a4038.pdf](http://www.internationalviewpoint.org/IMG/article_PDF/article_a4038.pdf).

T. Shinde (1993) 'Stree Purusha Tulna', in K. Lalitha and Susie Tharu (eds), *Women Writing in India*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, pp. 221-234

U. Chakravarti (2001) 'Pitrasatta Par ek Note', in S. Arya, N. Menon & J. Lokneeta (eds.) *Naarivaadi Rajneeti: Sangharsh evam Muddey*, University of Delhi: Hindi Medium Implementation Board, pp.1-7

### **Family and Community**

R. Palriwala (2008) 'Economics and Patriliney: Consumption and Authority within the Household' in M. John. (ed) *Women's Studies in India*, New Delhi: Penguin, pp. 414-423

Saheli Women's Centre (2007) *Talking Marriage, Caste and Community: Women's Voices from Within*, New Delhi: monograph 114

U. Chakravarti (2003) *Gendering Caste through a Feminist Lens*, Kolkata, Stree, pp. 139- 159.

S. Rege (2005), A Dalit Feminist Standpoint, in Gender and Caste, in Anupama Rao (ed) *Gender and Caste*, Zed Books, pp. 90-101

Kumkum Sangari (1995) Politics of Diversity: Religious Communities and Multiple Patriarchies, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 30, No. 52,, pp. 3381-3389

## **Law, State and Women**

C. MacKinnon, 'The Liberal State' from *Towards a Feminist Theory of State*, Available at <http://fair-use.org/catharine-mackinnon/toward-a-feminist-theory-of-the-state/chapter-8>

R. Kapur & B. Cossman (1999) 'On Women, Equality and the Constitution: Through the Looking Glass of Feminism' in Nivedita Menon (ed) *Gender and Politics in India*, Oxford University Press

C MacKinnon (2006) 'Sex Equality under the Constitution of India: Problems, Prospects and Personal Laws', *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, Volume 4, Issue 2, 181–202.

Ved Kumari (1999) 'Gender Analyses of Indian Penal Code' in Amita Dhanda, Archana Parashar(eds) *Engendering Law - Essays in Honour of Lotika Sarkar*, Eastern Book Company, 139-160

### **History of the Women's Movement in India**

Radha Kumar (1993), The History of Doing: An Illustrated Account of Movements for Women's Rights and Feminism in India, 1800-1990, Zubaan

Anupama Roy (2010) Women's Movement in N.G. Jayal and P.B. Mehta (Ed.) *Oxford Companion to Indian Politics*, New Delhi, Oxford

I. Agnihotri and V. Mazumdar (1997) 'Changing the Terms of Political Discourse: Women's Movement in India, 1970s-1990s', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 30 (29), pp. 1869-1878.

R. Kapur (2012) 'Hecklers to Power? The Waning of Liberal Rights and Challenges to Feminism in India', in A. Loomba *South Asian Feminisms*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, pp. 333-355

### **Violence against women**

N. Menon (2004) 'Sexual Violence: Escaping the Body', in *Recovering Subversion*, New Delhi: Permanent Black, pp. 106-165

F. Agnes (1992), Protecting Women Against Violence – Review of a Decade of Legislation 1980-89, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 27, Issue No. 17, Apr. 25.

Sunita V S Bandewar, Amita Pitre & Lakshmi Lingam (2018) Five Years Post Nirbhaya: Critical Insights into the Status of Response to Sexual Assault, in *Indian Journal Of Medical Ethics*, available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29650498/>

A. Verma, H. Qureshi & J.Y. Kim (2017) Exploring the trend of violence against women in India, *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, 41:1-2, 3-18

### **Women and Labour**

P Swaminathan (2014) Outside the Realm of Protective Legislation: The Saga of Unpaid Work in India, in *Women and Law: Critical Feminist Perspective*: New Delhi: Sage, pp. 115-143

P. Swaminathan (2012) 'Introduction', in *Women and Work*, Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, pp.1-17

J. Tronto (1996) 'Care as a Political Concept', in N. Hirschmann and C. Stephano, *Revisioning the Political*, Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 139-156.

Darbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, Kolkata (2011) 'Why the so-called Immoral Traffic (Preventive) Act of India Should be Repealed', in P. Kotiswaran, *Sex Work*, New Delhi, Women Unlimited, pp. 259-262

N. Jameela (2011) 'Autobiography of a Sex Worker', in P. Kotiswaran, *Sex Work*, New Delhi: Women Unlimited, pp. 225-241

### **Suggestive readings**

K. Millet (1968) *Sexual Politics*, <http://www.marxists.org/subject/women/authors/millettkate/sexualpolitics.htm>

S. de Beauvoir (1997) *Second Sex*, London: Vintage.

F. Engles, *Family, Private Property and State*, <http://readingfromthyleft.com/PDF/EngelsOrigin.pdf>

S. Brownmiller (1975) *Against our Wills*, New York: Ballantine.

R. Hussain (1988) 'Sultana's Dream', in *Sultana's Dream and Selections from the Secluded Ones – translated by Roushan Jahan*, New York: The Feminist Press.

S. Ray 'Understanding Patriarchy',  
[http://www.du.ac.in/fileadmin/DU/Academics/course\\_material/hrge\\_06.pdf](http://www.du.ac.in/fileadmin/DU/Academics/course_material/hrge_06.pdf),

C. Zetkin, 'Proletarian Woman', <http://www.marxists.org/archive/zetkin/1896/10/women.htm>

J. Ghosh (2009) *Never Done and Poorly Paid: Women's Work in Globalising India*, Delhi: Women Unlimited

*Justice Verma Committee Report*, <http://nild.org/womensrightsinitiative/justiceverma-committee-report-download-full-report>

N. Gandhi and N. Shah (1992) *Issues at Stake – Theory and Practice in the Women's Movement*, New Delhi: Kali for Women.

V. Bryson (1992) *Feminist Political Theory*, London: Palgrave-MacMillan, pp. 175-180; 196-200

M. Mies (1986) 'Colonisation and Housewifisation', in *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale* London: Zed, pp. 74-111, <http://caringlabor.wordpress.com/2010/12/29/maria-mies-colonizationand-housewifization/>

R. Ghadially (2007) *Urban Women in Contemporary India*, Delhi: Sage Publications.

Saheli Women's Centre (2001) 'Reproductive Health and Women's Rights, Sex Selection and feminist response' in S Arya, N. Menon, J. Lokneeta (eds), *NariwadiRajneeti*, Delhi, pp. 284-306

V. Bryson (2007) *Gender and the Politics of Time*, Bristol: Polity Press

**Readings in Hindi:**

D. Mehrotra (2001) *Bhartiya Mahila Andolan: Kal, Aaj aur Kal*, Delhi: Books for Change

G. Joshi (2004) *Bharat Mein Stree Asmaanta: Ek Vimars*, University of Delhi: Hindi Medium Implementation Board

N. Menon (2008) 'Power', in R. Bhargava and A. Acharya (eds) *Political Theory: An Introduction*, New Delhi: Pearson

N. Menon (2008) 'Gender', in R. Bhargava and A. Acharya (eds) *Political Theory: An Introduction*, New Delhi, Pearson

R. Upadhyay and S. Upadhyay (eds.) (2004) *Aajka Stree Andolan*, Delhi: Shabd Sandhan.

मेनन, निवेदिता, साधना आर्या और जिनी लोकनीता (ed.) नारीवादी राजनीति: संघर्ष एवं मुद्दे, दिल्ली: हिंदी माध्यम कार्यन्वय निदेशालय, 2001.

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