

GENERIC ELECTIVES (GE-12) CONTEMPORARY INDIA: WOMEN AND EMPOWERMENT

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		
GE-13 Contemporary India: Women and Empowerment	4	3	1	0	Passed Class XII	NIL

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- To familiarize students with the basic theories about gender, be it feminism, queer studies or masculinity studies.
- To introduce students to literary texts that prioritise issues of gender in India.

Learning outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- By studying this course, students will be able to identify and contextualize gender politics at work within a text and read social change through the lens of gender.
- Students will be able to use the knowledge of gender theory and its evolution in their everyday life.

SYLLABUS OF GE- 13

UNIT – I (15 Hours)

Concepts

- Sex and Gender -- social construction of gender; socialisation into gender
- Femininities and masculinities -- normative gender privilege; heteronormativity

- Patriarchy -- history of the efforts to undo feminism

ESSENTIAL READINGS:

1. Kamble, Baby. 'Our Wretched Lives', *Women Writing in India: 600 BC to the Early Twentieth Century*. Eds. Susie Tharu and K Lalitha, Delhi: OUP, 1997. pp 307-311
2. Rassundari Devi, Excerpts from *Amar Jiban*, *Women Writing in India: 600 BC to the Early Twentieth Century*. Eds. Susie Tharu and K Lalitha, Delhi: OUP, 1997. pp 190-202
3. Begum Rokeya Shekhawat Hossain, 'Sultana's Dream', *Women Writing in India: 600 BC to the Early Twentieth Century*. Eds. Susie Tharu and K Lalitha, Delhi: OUP, 1997. pp 340-351
4. Geetha, V. *Patriarchy*. Kolkata: Stree, 2007. pp 3-61

UNIT – II (15 Hours)

Intersections

- Women and caste, religion, class, sexualities, race, disability
- Women and environment, technology, development
- Women and access to resources: employment, health, nutrition, education
- Women and reproductive work: singleness, marriage, motherhood, symbolical biological surrogacy and parenting, abortion, and other rights over own body

ESSENTIAL READINGS:

5. Devi, Mahasweta. 'Bayen', *Five Plays*. trans. Samik Bandyopadhyay, Calcutta: Seagull, 2009.
6. John, Mary. 'Feminism Poverty and the Emergent Social Order', *Handbook of Gender*. ed. Raka Ray, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012.
7. Kasturi, Leela. 'Report of the Sub-Committee Women's Role in Planned Economy National Planning Committee (1947)', *Feminism in India*. ed. Maitrayee Chaudhuri, Delhi: Zed, 2005. pp 136-155
8. Shiva, Vandana. Chapters 2 & 4, *Staying Alive: Women Ecology and Development*. Delhi: Kali for Women, 1989.

9. Vinodini, M.M. 'The Parable of the Lost Daughter', *The Exercise of Freedom*. eds. K. Satyanarayana and Susie Tharu, Delhi: Navayana, 2013. pp 164-77

UNIT – III (15 Hours)

Histories

- The women's question pre-Independence -- sati-reform, widow remarriage, debates around age of consent
- Women in the Independence movement, Partition
- Post-Independence campaigns -- against sexual harassment and rape, dowry, violence, debates around the Uniform Civil Code
- Public sphere participation of women -- in politics, in the workplace, in the economy, creating educational inclusion

ESSENTIAL READINGS:

10. Kumar, Radha. Chapters 2; 3; 7; 8; 11, *A History of Doing: An Illustrated Account of Movements for Women's Rights and Feminism in India 1800—1990*. Delhi: Zubaan, 1993.

11. Sangari, Kumkum. 'Politics of Diversity: Religious Communities and Multiple Patriarchies', *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 3052, 1995.

12. Sarkar, Tanika. 'Rhetoric against Age of Consent: Resisting Colonial Reason and Death of a Child-Wife', *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 2836, April, 1993.

13. Moon, Meenakshi and Urmila Pawar. Chapters 1; 5; 6, *We also made history: Women in the Ambedkarite Movement*. Delhi: Zubaan, 2008.

Practical component (if any) –

Students to examine the bare text of 4 laws (as set out in the Gazette of India) followed by discussion and analysis -- laws against dowry (The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961), against sex determination (Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostics Act 1994), against domestic violence (Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005), against sexual harassment at the workplace (The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Prevention Prohibition and Redressal Act 2013).

Essential/recommended readings- as listed in the units

Suggestive readings:

1. Nair, Janaki. 'The Foundations of Modern Legal Structures in India', *Handbook of Gender*. ed. Raka Ray, Delhi: OUP, 2012.
2. Agnes, Flavia. 'Conjugal Property, Morality and Maintenance', *Handbook of Gender*. ed. Raka Ray, Delhi: OUP, 2012.
3. *Indian Literature: An Introduction*. Delhi: University of Delhi, 2005.

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

GENERIC ELECTIVES (GE-13) CULTURE & THEORY

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		
GE-14 Culture & Theory	4	3	1	0	Passed Class XII	NIL

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- To familiarize students with the basic theories which they might fruitfully deploy when engaging with problems related to culture.
- To introduce students to critical texts that deal with the central problems in the analysis of modern culture.

Learning outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- By studying this course, students will be able to deal with the methodological breakthroughs that enable them to decipher culture.
- Students will be introduced to the possibilities of semiotic analyses of culture as it moves across differing often non-linguistic media.

SYLLABUS OF GE- 14