

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE (DSE): Gender in Indian History, c.1500-1950

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Prerequisites of the Course

Course title & Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
	Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
Gender in Indian History, c.1500-1950	4	3	1	0	Class XII

Learning Objectives

The module will delineate gendered constructs in Early Modern and Modern India. It contextualizes the participation and contribution of women in courtly culture and domestic spaces. While examining questions and debates on law, education, social differentiation and partition, it questions patriarchy and the nuances of historical gender dynamics. The course tries to historicize and analyse institutions of family and norms of manhood. The course also tries to give students a critical overview of the tangled paradigms that labels women as victims and agents, and objects and subjects.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student shall be able to:

- Critically assess popularly held notions about women in Islamic empires.
- Examine critical issues of gender and power in the context of Early Modern and Modern Indian history.
- Examine the issues around the ‘women’s question’ in the modern period of Indian history.
- Discuss issues of gender in the context of partition and the post-partition period of the construction of the independent state.

SYLLABUS OF DSE – 1

Unit I: Women in Early Modern India: 1500 to 1750’s

Rethinking Courtly and Domestic Spaces: Power, Household and Family
Constructing Gender Identities: Behaviour and Practices

Unit II: Women, Colonialism and Modernity: 1750’s to 1950’s

The Women’s Question: Social Reform, Law and Education
Women, Work and Social Differentiation
Gender and Print Culture

Unit III: Partition and Women: Family, Community and State

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit I: Women in Early Modern India: 1500 to 1750's

The learning outcome of this unit is to question gender stereotypes about women in Early Modern India. It provides for a more contextual and nuanced understanding of how historical and gendered constructions of spaces, institutions and norms helped create sensibilities in Early Modern India. (Teaching time: 18 hours)

- Joshi, Varsha, Polygamy and Purdah: Women and Society among Rajputs. Jaipur: Rawat Publications, 1995.
- Lal, Ruby, Domesticity and Power in the Early Mughal World. Cambridge: Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization, 2005, pp. 1-49, 212-226.
- O'Hanlon, Rosalind, "Kingdom, Household and Body: History, Gender and Imperial Service under Akbar", Modern Asian Studies, 2007, vol. 41/5, pp. 889-923.
- Peirce, Leslie, Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire. New York: Oxford University of Press, 1993. (Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1, pp vi-27 Conclusion, pp 267-285).
- Sarkar, Nilanjan, "Forbidden Privileges and History-Writing in Medieval India". The Medieval History Journal, 2013, 16 (1), pp. 21-62.
- Sreenivasan, Ramya, "Honouring the Family: Narratives and Politics of Kinship in Pre-Colonial Rajasthan" in Indrani Chatterjee, ed., Unfamiliar Relations: Family and History in South Asia. Delhi: Permanent Black, 2004, pp. 46-72.

Unit II: Women, Colonialism and Modernity: 1750's to 1950's

This segment enquires into questions of law and education in terms of the women's question. It explores the linkages of gender with various social identities. It further investigates gender histories of print and popular culture. (Teaching time: 21 hours)

- Anandi, S. "Women's Question in the Dravidian Movement c. 1925-1948", Social Scientist, 1991, vol. 19/5, pp. 24-41.
- Carroll, Lucy, "Law, Custom and Statutory Social Reform: The Widows' Remarriage Act of 1856" in Tanika Sarkar & Sumit Sarkar, ed., Women and Social Reform movement in Modern India, Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2007, pp. 113-144.
- Forbes, Geraldine, Women in Modern India, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp. 32-63.
- Gupta, Charu, "Introduction", in Gendering Colonial India, ed., Charu Gupta, New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2012, pp.1-36.
- Orsini, Francesca, The Hindi Public Sphere, 1920-1940, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2002. (Chapter 4, pp.241-308).
- Warrier, Shobhana, "Women and Workplace", Shakti Kak and Biswamoy Pati, ed., Exploring Gender Equations. Colonial and Post-Colonial India. New Delhi: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, 2005, pp. 231-265.

Unit III: Partition and Women: State, Community and Family

This section explores and reflects on the relationship between women and partition, and the role of state, community and family. (Teaching time: 9 hours)

- Butalia, Urvashi, The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India. Delhi: Penguin, 2003. (Chapter 4, pp.109-71).
- Menon, Ritu, Borders and Boundaries: Women in India's Partition. New Brunswick:

Rutgers University Press, 1998, pp.3-29.

Suggestive readings (if any)

- Anooshahr, Ali, "The King Who Would Be Man: The Gender Roles of the Warrior King in Early Mughal History". *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Third Series*, 2008, vol. 18/3, pp. 327-340.
- Faruqui, Munis D., *Princes of the Mughal Empire*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. (Chapter 3 – The Princely Household)
- Flavia, Agnes, *Law and Gender Inequality: The Politics of Women's rights in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2001. (Chapter 4, 5 & 6, pp. 41-90).
- Gupta, Charu, *Streetva se Hindutva Tak*, Delhi: Rajkamal Prakashan, 2012. (Chapters 4, 7, 10 & 11).
- Gupta, Charu, ed., *Gendering Colonial India: Reforms, Print, Caste and Communalism*, Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2012.
- Hambly, Gavin R.G., (ed). *Women in Medieval Islamic Empires*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998. (Introduction, Chapters 10, 16, 19, 20).
- Kumar, Radha, *The History of Doing. An Illustrated Account of Movements for Women's Rights and Feminism in India 1800-1960*, New Delhi: Kali for Women, 1993, pp. 7-26. (Available in Hindi)
- O'Hanlon, Rosalind, "Manliness and Imperial Service in Mughal North India", *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 1999, vol. 42/1, pp. 47-93.
- Malhotra, Anshu, "The Pativrata and Domestic Ideologies in Early Twentieth Century Punjab", Shakti Kak & Biswamoy Pati, ed., *Exploring Gender Equations. Colonial and Post-Colonial India*, New Delhi: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, 2005, pp.1-27.
- Mishra, Yuthika, *Hindu Woman and Legislative Reforms: A Discourse on Marriage*, Delhi: Indu Prakashan, 2016.
- Mukhia, Harbans, *Bhartiya Mughal*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004. (Chapter 3).
- Nair, Janaki, *Women and Law in Colonial India: A Social History*, New Delhi: Kali for Women, 1996. (Chapters 3 & 6).
- Petievich, Carla, "Gender Politics and the Urdu Ghazal", *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 2001, vol.38, (3), pp. 223-248.
- Ruggles, D. Fairchild, (ed). *Women, Patronage and Self-Representation in Islamic Societies*, New York: State University of New York Press, 2000. (Introduction & Chapter 6).
- Sangari, Kumkum and Sudesh Vaid, *Recasting Women: Essays in Colonial History*, New Delhi: Kali for Women, 1989.
- Singh, Dilbagh. "Regulating the Domestic: Notes in the Pre-colonial States and the Family", *Studies in History*, 2003, vol.19/1, pp. 69-86.

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