

Category II
BA (P) with Sociology as Major
Semester VIII

B.A. (P) Sociology
Discipline Specific Core (DSC) 14
Gender and Society

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE -14 (DSC 14): Gender And Society

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 (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
DSC 14 Gender and Society	4	3	1	0	12th Class Pass	Nil

Learning Objectives:

1. To introduce students to foundational and contemporary feminist approaches within the discipline of sociology.
2. To examine how gender is produced and reproduced through social institutions such as family, caste, community, and labour.
3. To foster critical thinking about everyday social practices and norms that shape gendered experiences.
4. To explore the ways in which gender roles are maintained, negotiated, and challenged within different social contexts.
5. To enhance understanding of key issues in pursuit of **SDG 5 – Gender Equality**.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of gender as a social construct embedded in power relations.
2. Critically analyze how gender operates within institutions such as family, marriage, caste, class, and work.
3. Reflect on their own social positioning and develop sensitivity to the everyday experiences shaped by gendered norms.

4. Engage with feminist theories to understand processes of social reproduction, inequality, and resistance in society.
5. Demonstrate understanding of key issues in pursuit of **SDG 5 – Gender Equality**

SYLLABUS OF DSC:

Unit I. Understanding Gender (15 Hours)

This unit introduces key theoretical concepts of gender and examines how gender is constructed, maintained, and experienced within everyday social life.

- a. Gender as a social construct
- b. Masculinity and Femininity

Unit II. Institutions and Intersections (12 Hours)

Focusing on institutions such as caste, family, and labour, this unit explores how gender intersects with other social hierarchies to shape inequality and exclusion.

- a. Gender Regimes
- b. Gender and other axes of social inequalities

Unit III. Gender and Work (9 Hours)

This unit examines how gender shapes the organisation of work within households and labour markets, focusing on issues around women's workforce participation, inequalities in access, and the hierarchies within gendered workspaces.

- a. Household Division of Labour
- b. Women and Work

Unit IV. Politics of Gender (9 Hours)

This unit focuses on women's movements to examine how political struggles have challenged and reshaped gendered power relations.

- a. Feminism
- b. Women's Movements

Practical Component:

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit I. Understanding Gender

- a. Gender as a social construct

Jackson, Stevi and Sue Scott, S. (Eds.) (2002). *Gender: A Sociological Reader*, London: Routledge, pp. 1–26.

Ortner, Sherry. (1974). "Is Male to Female as Nature is to Culture?" In Rosaldo and Lamphere (Eds.) *Women, Culture and Society*. Stanford University Press, pp. 67–87.

West, Candace and Zimmerman, Don. (2002). "Doing Gender." In Jackson and Scott (Eds.), *Gender: A Sociological Reader*, pp. 42–47.

b. Masculinity and Femininity

Johnson, Allan. *The Gender Knot*. United States: Temple University Press, 2014. Ch. 4. Femininity, Masculinity, and 'Gender Roles'. Pp. 73-91

Narrain, Arvind and Chandra, Vinay (Eds.) (2015). *Nothing to Fix: Medicalization of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*, Ch. 3, pp. 90–123.

Chopra, Radhika. (2006). "Invisible Men: Masculinity, Sexuality and Male Domestic Labor." *Men and Masculinities*, Vol. 9(2), pp. 152–167.

Unit II. Institutions and Intersections

a. Gender Regimes

Connell, Raewyn. *Gender and power: Society, the person and sexual politics*. John Wiley & Sons, 2013, Chapter 6 (pp. 114-141)

Walby, Sylvia. "Varieties of gender regimes." *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society* 27.3 (2020): 414-431.

b. Gender and other axes of social inequalities

Dube, Leela. (1996). "Caste and Women." In M.N. Srinivas (Ed.) *Caste: Its Twentieth Century Avatar*, Penguin, pp. 1–27.

Davis, Angela Y. *Women, Race, & Class*. Vintage, 2011, Chapter 3. Pp. 46-69

Unit III. Gender and Work

a. Household Division of Labour

Oakley, Ann. *The Sociology of housework*. Policy Press, 2018., Chapter 6 Standards and Routines. Pp. 94-106.

Bernard, Jessie. (2002). "The Husband's Marriage and the Wife's Marriage." In Jackson and Scott (Eds.) *Gender: A Sociological Reader*, pp. 207–210.

b. Women and Work

Sharma, Ursula. *Women, work and property in North-West India*. London: Tavistock, 1980, chapter 5.

Mencher, Joan P., and K. Saradamoni. "Muddy Feet, Dirty Hands: Rice Production and Female Agricultural Labour." *Economic and Political Weekly* 17, no. 52, 1982

Unit IV. Politics of Gender

a. Feminism

Delmar, Rosalind. "What is feminism? In Herrmann, Anne C. *Theorizing Feminism: Parallel Trends in The Humanities and Social Sciences*, Taylor & Francis, 2018. Pp. 5-28.

Chaudhuri, Maitrayee. "Feminism in India: The tale and its telling." *Revue Tiers Monde* 209.1 (2012): 19-36.

b. Women's Movements

Mazumdar, Vina. 1994. Women's studies and the women's movement in India: An overview. *Women's Studies Quarterly* 22.3/4 (1994): 42-54.

Kumar, Radha. (1999). "From Chipko to Sati: The Contemporary Indian Women's Movement." In Menon, N. (Ed.) *Gender and Politics in India*, pp. 342–369.

Suggested Readings:

Ghosh, A. (Ed.). 2007. *Behind the Veil: Resistance, Women and the Everyday in Colonial South Asia*. Ranikhet: Permanent Black

Gough, B. 2001. 'Biting your Tongue': Negotiating Masculinities in Contemporary Britain', in *Journal of Gender Studies*. 10(2): 169-185.

Jackson, S. 1998. 'Telling Stories: Memory, Narrative and Experience in Feminist Theory and Research'. In: C. Griffin, K. Henwood and A. Phoenix (eds.) *Standpoints and Differences*. London: Sage. (Pages 45-64)

Kandiyoti, D. 1988. 'Bargaining with Patriarchy', in *Gender and Society*. 2(3): 274-290.

Rege, S. 2013. *Writing Caste/ Writing Gender: Narrating Dalit Women's Testimonies*. Delhi: Zubaan Publisher.

Weeks, J., Donovan, C. and Heaphy, B. 1999. 'Everyday Experiments: Narratives of Non-heterosexual Relationships', in E. B. Silva and C. Smart (eds.) *The New Family?* London: Sage. (Pages 83-99)

West, Candace and Zimmerman, Don. (2002). "Doing Gender." In Jackson and Scott (Eds.), *Gender: A Sociological Reader*, pp. 42–47.

Kandiyoti, Deniz. (1991). "Bargaining with Patriarchy." In Lorber and Farrell (Eds.), *The Social Construction of Gender*, pp. 104–118.

Connell, R.W. and Messerschmidt, J. W. 2005. Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept, in *Gender and Society*. 19: 829-859.

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