

2018

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7. Feminism: Theory and Practice

Course Objective: The aim of the course is to explain contemporary debates on feminism and the history of feminist struggles. The course begins with a discussion on construction of gender and an understanding of complexity of patriarchy and goes on to analyze theoretical debates within feminism. Part II of the paper covers history of feminism in the west, socialist societies and in anti-colonial struggles. Part III focuses a gendered analysis of Indian society, economy and polity with a view to understanding the structures of gender inequalities. And the last section aims to understand the issues with which contemporary Indian women's movements are engaged with.

I. Approaches to understanding Patriarchy (22 Lectures)

- Feminist theorising of the sex/gender distinction. Biologism versus social constructivism
- Understanding Patriarchy and Feminism
- Liberal, Socialist, Marxist, Radical feminism, New Feminist Schools/Traditions

II. History of Feminism (22 Lectures)

- Origins of Feminism in the West: France, Britain and United States of America
- Feminism in the Socialist Countries: China, Cuba and erstwhile USSR
- Feminist issues and women's participation in anti-colonial and national liberation movements with special focus on India

III. The Indian Experience (16 Lectures)

- Traditional Historiography and Feminist critiques. Social Reforms Movement and position of women in India. History of Women's struggle in India
- Family in contemporary India - patrilineal and matrilineal practices. Gender Relations in the Family, Patterns of Consumption: Intra Household Divisions, entitlements and bargaining, Property Rights
- Understanding Woman's Work and Labour – Sexual Division of Labour, Productive and Reproductive labour, Visible - invisible work – Unpaid (reproductive and care) Underpaid and Paid work, - Methods of computing women's work, Female headed households

Essential Readings

I. Approaches to understanding Patriarchy

Geetha, V. (2002) *Gender*. Calcutta: Stree.

Geetha, V. (2007) *Patriarchy*. Calcutta: Stree.

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(This paper has been swapped by the paper titled 'Feminism: Theory and Practice', a copy of the course on 'Feminism: Theory and Practice' follows this paper)

7. Women, Power and Politics

Course objective: This course opens up the question of women's agency, taking it beyond 'women's empowerment' and focusing on women as radical social agents. It attempts to question the complicity of social structures and relations in gender inequality. This is extended to cover new forms of precarious work and labour under the new economy. Special attention will be paid to feminism as an approach and outlook. The course is divided into broad units, each of which is divided into three sub-units.

I. Groundings (6 weeks)

4. Patriarchy (2 weeks)
a. Sex-Gender Debates
b. Public and Private
c. Power

5. Feminism (2 weeks)

6. Family, Community, State (2 weeks)
a. Family
b. Community
c. State

II. Movements and Issues (6 weeks)

4. History of the Women's Movement in India (2 weeks)

5. Violence against women (2 weeks)

6. Work and Labour (2 weeks)
d. Visible and Invisible work
e. Reproductive and care work
f. Sex work

Reading List

I. Groundings

1. Patriarchy

Essential Readings:

V. Shinde, (1993) 'Stree Purusha Tulna', in K. Lalitha and Susie Tharu (eds), *Women Writing in India*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, pp. 221-234

W. Chakravarti, (2001) 'Pitrasatta Par ek Note', in S. Arya, N. Menon & J. Lo (eds.)

Naarivaadi Rajneeti: Sangharsh evam Muddey, University of Delhi: Hindi Medium Implementation Board, pp.1-7

a. Sex Gender Debates

Essential Reading:

W. Geetha, (2002) *Gender*, Kolkata, Stree, pp. 1-20
b. Public and Private

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BA (Prog) IIIrd yr
2) Human Rights Gender and Environment

Course Objective: This course aims at enabling the students to understand the issue concerning the rights of citizens in general and the marginalized groups in particular, and assess the institutional and policy measures which have been taken in response to the demands of various movements. Conceptual dimensions, international trends and the Indian experience form the contents of the course.

Expected Learning Outcome: The study of the course will equip the students with theoretical and conceptual understanding of socio – economic and political problems of marginalized groups in society such as women, dalits, minorities and adivasis and repercussions of contemporary developments on globalization on them.

I Understanding Social Inequality

- Caste, Gender, Ethnicity and Class as distinct categories and their interconnection.
- Globalisation and its impact on workers, peasants, dalits, adivasis and women.

II Human Rights

- Human Rights: Various Meanings
- UN Declarations and Covenants
- Human Rights and Citizenship Rights
- Human Rights and the Indian Constitution
- Human Rights, Laws and Institutions in India; the role of the National Human Rights Commission.
- Human Rights of Marginalized Groups: Dalits, Adivasis, Women, Minorities and Unorganized Workers.
- Consumer Rights: The Consumer Protection Act and grievance redressal mechanisms.
- Human Rights Movement in India.

III Gender

- Analysing Structures of Patriarchy
- Gender, Culture and History
- Economic Development and Women
- The issue of Women's Political Participation and Representation in India
- Laws, Institutions and Women's Rights in India
- Women's Movements in India

IV Environment

- Environmental and Sustainable Development
- UN Environment Programme: Rio, Johannesburg and after.
- Issues of Industrial Pollution, Global Warming and threats to Bio – diversity

- Environment Policy in India
- Environmental Movement in India

Essential Readings

Agarwal, Anil and Sunita Narain (1991), *Global Warming and Unequal World: A Case for Environmental Colonialism*, Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi.

Baxi, Upendra (2002), *The Future of Human Rights*, Oxford University Press, Delhi.

Beteille, Andre (2003), *Antinomies of Society: Essays on Ideology and Institutions*, Oxford University Press, Delhi.

Geetha, V. (2002) *Gender*, Stree Publications, Kolkata.

Ghanshyam Shah, (1991) *Social Movements in India*, Sage Publications, Delhi.

Guha, Ramachandra and Madhav Gadgil, (1993) *Environmental History of India*, University of California Press, Berkeley.

Haragopal, G. (1997) *The Political Economy of Human Rights*, Himachal Pradesh Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai.

Menon, Nivedita (ed) (2000) *Gender and Politics in India*, Oxford University Press, Delhi.

Patel, Sujata et al (eds) (2003) *Gender and Caste: Issues in Contemporary India*, Kali for Women, Delhi.

Shah, Nandita and Nandita Gandhi (1992) *Issues at Stake: Theory and Practice of Contemporary Women's Movement in India*, Kali for Women, Delhi.