



Course Title: Literature and Gender Studies

Course Code: ENGL623

Credit Units: 6

Level: M.Phil

L	T	P/ S	SW/F W	TOTAL CREDIT UNITS
5	0	0	2	6

Course Objective: The course gives an Introduction to the field of gender, sexuality, and women's studies, and to a range of interdisciplinary tools and methods for understanding and analyzing sex, gender, and sexuality in culture. It entails the development of a rich understanding of both feminist and queer approaches to the social and cultural construction of gender and sexuality. The course explores issues of sexuality, power, marginalized populations, woman as other in literature and culture. It will also discuss the ideological agenda of specific gay, lesbian or queer works and how are these politics revealed in literature and culture. It will also focus on the problems of sexuality and sexual identity. It will also deepen our understanding of how the construction of gender and sexualities relate to the oppression of women and minorities. It will open new paths of inquiry and offer fresh approaches to questions of gender, gender inequality, masculinity, transgender, sexual-orientation, myths of male body, gender play in cultural otherness.

Prerequisites: Students are expected to understand the basic concepts of literature and culture.

Course Contents / Syllabus:

	Weight age (%)
Module I	30%
Topics/Descriptors Liberal feminism - Rationality, Freedom, Education Marxist feminism - Production, reproduction, Class, Alienation, Marriage and family Socialist feminism - Class and gender, Division of Labor, Unified and Dual System, Exploitation Radical Feminism - Gender, patriarchy, reproductive Technology, Motherhood Feminism in India – Gender, Tradition and Culture	
Module II	25%
Topics/Descriptors Myth of Gender Politics of Difference Politics of Experience Politics of Performance Politics of Intersectionality	
Module III	20%
Topics/Descriptors	

What is queer? The Formation of Queer Theory and Practice.	
Module: IV	25%
Topics/Descriptors Constructing normative Sexuality Femininities and masculinities Transgender/sexual Identities and the Significance of Embodiment Bisexuality Identities	

Student Learning Outcomes: The students should be able to:

- Define the difference between gender and sex.
- Explain the meaning of transgender and representations of body changing over time.
- Learn theoretical concepts in queer theory
- Analyze the role of gender play in perceptions of cultural Otherness.
- Evaluate the concepts of sexuality and identity.
- Analyze gender inequality based on biological differences between men and women.

Pedagogy for Course Delivery: The methodology followed for course delivery will be as follows:

- Comprehensive lectures on key concepts of sex, gender and politics
- Interactive sessions on transformation of sexuality and identity
- Discussions on theoretical concepts of advanced feminism and transgender
- Periodical non credit assessments and group presentations

Assessment/ Examination Scheme:

Theory L/T (%)	Lab/Practical/Studio (%)	End Term Examination	Total
30%	NA	70%	100 %

Theory Assessment (L&T):

Components	Continuous Assessment			End Term Examination	Total
	CT	S	A	EE	
Weightage (%)	15	10	05	70	100

References:

Weedon, Chris (1999): *The Question of Difference*. In *Feminism, Theory and the Politics of Difference*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade (1992): *Feminist Encounters: Locating the Politics of Experience*. In *Destabilizing Theory: Contemporary Feminist Debates*, eds. Michele Barrett and Anne Phillips. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

- Hooks, Bell. *Feminism is for Everybody*, chapters 1-9.
- Butler, Judith. "Subjects of Sex" (excerpt from *Gender Trouble*)
- Menon Nivedita (2007) 'Introduction' in *Sexualities : Issues in Contemporary Indian Feminism*, New Delhi: Women Unlimited.
- V. Geetha (2002) *Gender*, Kolkotta: Stree (pp 38-51).

Chandra Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes Revisited" (Bb) (and "Under Western Eyes" if you have never read it before; in *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, ed. Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ann Russo, and Lourdes Torres. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991. 51-80 – available in the library as an e-book)

Judith Butler: "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory." Pdf

Video: Sut Jhally: "The Codes of Gender": http://www.mediaed.org/cgi-bin/commerce.cgi?preadd=action&key=238&template=PDGCommTemplates/HTN/Item_Preview.html

Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*

- David Halperin, "Is There a History of Sexuality?"
- Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 1(excerpt)
- Judith Butler, "Critically Queer"
- Riki Wilchins "Homosexuality: Foucault and the Politics of Self"(47-57) in *Queer Theory, Gender Theory*.
- Riki Wilchins "Butler and the Problem of Identity"(123-139) in *Queer Theory, Gender Theory*.
- Jagose, A. *Queer Theory: An Introduction*, NY: New York U. Press, 1996. (Chapters 1-5).

Butler, J. "Imitation and Gender Insubordination," in *Inside/Out: Lesbian Theory*, D. Fuss (ed.), Routledge, 1991.

Feinberg, Leslie " To be or Not to Be" in *The Columbia Reader on Lesbians & Gay Men in the Media, Society and Politics*, Larry Gross & James Woods (eds.), NY: Columbia U. Press, (1999):112-117. Reprinted from *Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Rupaul* by Leslie Feinberg, Boston: Beacon, (1996): 101-107, 192 (notes).

Prosser, Jay "Judith Butler: Queer Feminism, Transgender, and the Transubstantiation of Sex" in *A Skin of One's Own*, New York: Columbia University Press, (1998): 21-60, 238-342 (notes).

Daumer, Elizabeth "Queer ethics, or, the challenge of bisexuality to lesbian ethics" in *Hypathia Special Issue: Lesbian Philosophy*, Claudia Card (ed.), vol.7, no. 4, Fall (1992): 45-58.

Bower, Tamara "Bisexual Women, Feminist Politics" in *Bisexual Politics: Theories, Queries & Visions*, Naomi Tucker with Liz Highleyman and Rebecca Kaplan (eds.), New York: Harrington Park Press, (1995): 99-107.

Myths of Gender, 2nd Ed. (MOG), by Anne Fausto-Sterling. Basic Books, 1992. Available at *A Room of One's Own*.

Anne Fausto-Sterling (1994): "The Five Sexes: Why males and females are not enough." *The Sciences*, 33 (2): 20-25 . _

<http://www.neiu.edu/~lsfuller/fivesexes.htm>

- Beauvoir, Simone de. *The Second Sex*. Trans. H. M. Parshley. New York: Vintage, 1989. Trans. of *Le deuxième sexe*. 2 vols. Paris: Gallimard, 1949.
- Moi, Toril. *Sex, Gender and the Body: The Student Edition of What Is a Woman?* Oxford: Oxford UP, 2005.