The University of Burdwan

Department of Women's Studies

PG NEP2020 Syllabi in Women's Studies

2-Yr. PG Course

(To be effective from the academic session 2026–2027 onwards)

[Finalized in 13.06.26 P G BoS meeting and approved by each of its members]

2-Year PG MA Programme

Semesterwise & Coursewise Distribution of Credits & Marks under CCFPP as per NEP, 2020

Semester	Course Type	Code & Level	Name of the Course	Credit	L – T – P (weekwise)	Marks	Marks Dist. Th. – Pr. - IA
I	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS1011 (400-499)	Fundamentals of Women and Gender Studies	6	5-1-0	75	60– 00 – 15
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS1012 (400-499)	Research Methodology of Gender and Women's Studies	6	5-1-0	75	60– 00 – 15
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS1013 (400-499)	Women, Gender and Education	6	5-1-0	75	60– 00 – 15
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS1014 (400-499)	Women and the Economic Domain	6	5-1-0	75	60 – 00 – 15
	Minor Course	PG2WMNS1021 (300-399)	Basics of Women and Gender Studies	4	3-1-0	75	60 – 00 – 15
	Total			28		375	

Semester	Course Type	Code & Level	Name of the Course	Credit	L – T – P (weekwise)	Marks	Marks Dist. Th. – Pr. - IA
II	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS2011 (400-499)	Women, Gender and Social Movements	6	5-1-0	75	60 – 00 –15
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS2012 (400-499)	Gender, Politics and Policy Making	4	3-1-0	75	60 – 00 –15
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS2013 (400-499)	Women and Gender in Literature	4	3-1-0	75	60 – 00 – 15
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS2014 (400-499)	Gender, Violence and Resistance	4	3-1-0	75	60 – 00 – 15
	Minor Course	PG2WMNS2021 (300-399)	Gender and Value Education	4	3-1-0	75	60 – 00 – 15
	Total			22		375	

For Semesters III & IV

[Here are 3 options. The Department will determine, keeping students' demand in mind, which option is to be given at the beginning of each academic year]

OPTION-I: Course Works in Semester-III & Research Thesis/Project in Semester-IV

Semester	Course Type	Code & Level	Name of the Course	Credit	L – T - P	Marks	Marks Dist. Th. – Pr. - IA
III	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3011 (500-599)	Gender, Law and Justice	4	3-1-0	50	40 – 00 – 10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3012 (500-599)	Women and the Domain of Science and Technology	4	3-1-0	50	40– 00 – 10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3013 (500-599)	Gender and Media	4	3-1-0	50	40–00–10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3014 (500-599)	Indian Knowledge System	4	3-1-0	50	40– 00–10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3015 (500-599)	Women, Gender and Ecology	4	3-1-0	50	40– 00–10

Semester	Course Type	Code & Level	Name of the Course	Credit	L – T - P	Marks	Marks Dist. Th. – Pr. - IA
IV	Research Thesis/ Project	PG2WMNS4031 (500-599)	Research Thesis/ Project	20	0- 0-20	250	0-250-0 Seminar Presentation, Book Review, Preparation & Submission of Research Thesis/ Project Document-150 + Viva-100
	Two-credit Compulsory Course	PG2WMNS4041 (500-599)	Community Engagement Programme	(This shall not be taken into consideration in the calculation of SGPA and CGPA)			
	Total			20		250	

OR

OPTION- II: Only Course Works in both Semester-III & Semester-IV

SEMESTER	Course Type	Code & Level	Name of the Course	Credit	L – T - P	Marks	Marks Dist. Th.– Pr.- IA
III	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3011 (500-599)	Women, Gender and Law	4	3-1-0	50	40–00–10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3012 (500-599)	Women and the Domain of Science & Technology	4	3-1-0	50	40– 00 –10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3013 (500-599)	Gender and Media	4	3-1-0	50	40–00–10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3014 (500-599)	Indian Knowledge System	4	3-1-0	50	40– 00–10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS3015 (500-599)	Women, Gender and Ecology	4	3-1-0	50	40– 00–10
	Total			20		250	

SEMESTER	Course Type	Code & Level	Name of the Course	Credit	L – T - P	Marks	Marks Dist. Th.– Pr.- IA
IV	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS4011 (500-599)	Socio-Psychological and Cultural Issues on Gender Roles	4	3-1-0	50	40 – 00 – 10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS4012 (500-599)	Politics of Gendered Body	4	3-1-0	50	40– 00 – 10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS4013 (500-599)	Masculinity and Queer Studies	4	3-1-0	50	40–00–10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS4014 (500-599)	Marginalized Women	4	3-1-0	50	40– 00–10
	Major/Core Course	PG2WMNS4015 (500-599)	Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting	4	3-1-0	50	40– 00–10
	Two-credit Compulsory Course	PG2WMNS4041 (500-599)	Community Engagement Programme	(This shall not be taken into consideration in the calculation of SGPA and CGPA)			
	Total			20		250	

OR

OPTION- III: Only Research Thesis/ Project in both Semesters-III & IV

Semester	Course Type	Code & Level	Name of the Course	Credit	L – T - P	Marks	Marks Dist. Th. – Pr. - IA
III	Research Thesis/ Project	PG2WMNS3031 (500-599)	Research Thesis/ Project	20	0-0-20	250	0-250-0 Seminar Presentation, Preparation, Book Review & Submission of Research Thesis/ Project Document -1 [150 + Viva-100
IV	Research Thesis/ Project	PG2WMNS4031 (500-599)	Research Thesis/ Project	20	0-0-20	250	0-250-0 Seminar Presentation, Preparation, Book Review & Submission of Research Thesis/ Project Document -2 [150 + Viva-100]
	Two-credit Compulsory Course	PG2WMNS4041 (500-599)	Community Engagement Programme	(This shall not be taken intoconsideration in the calculation of SGPA andCGPA)			
	Total			40		500	
	Grand Total			90		1250	

The University of Burdwan

Department of Women's Studies

NEP-Syllabus for 2-Yr. PG M.A. Course in Women's Studies
(To be effective from the academic session 2026–'27 onwards)

Our Mission:

The present syllabus is prepared with the mission to familiarize and sensitize (already graduated) students, irrespective of sex, with the discipline of Women's Studies. It is a discipline that involves not only its historical, conceptual and theoretical dimensions, but also its political and socio-cultural antecedents, ideologies and movements. The aim is to bring in a deeper understanding of the gender-related issues that concern women, and people of so called Queer group, including the transgenders. It even includes the males who encounter gender-related oppression in some other ways. It will explore the various contexts and concepts that help to identify the sexist, androcentric and/or patriarchal biases. Such an exploration will help us to gain a conceptual and theoretical clarity on this subject, and consequently, will help to frame courses of actions to get rid of this age-old inequity and injustice.

Objectives:

- To help students to get systematic understanding of the discipline of women's studies, along with other gender-related issues.
- To encourage the students to understand the emerging dimensions within these fields.
- To take students to understand the social, economic, political, intellectual or cultural contributions of women, which patriarchal history of thought has often disregarded.
- To compare women and other oppressed groups across cultures and at different contexts, like race, caste, nationality, etc., using the newly commissioned methodology of intersectionality.
- To instil confidence in them to find themselves as an indispensable part of the society.
- To develop an attitude of help and support to other women and oppressed classes to secure equal position in their societies.
- To equip students to apply these modes of knowledge in furthering their careers and in seeking a respectful livelihood at par with males, both in the Government sectors and in the NGOs, and also in research projects.
- And to help them cracking different competitive examinations, like NET/SET, UPSC, WBCS, etc.

Future of Women's Studies:

Women's Studies has by now become a core discipline in the present-day university education. As an academic discipline, the subject is getting popular day by day, as the gender and women's issues getting priority areas of operation in the modern socio-cultural and political spheres, and also from the point of view of policy initiatives. As the subject helps imparting interests among the students, both males, females or persons of queer community, and as such, the students from different disciplines get interested on different types of issues

compiled in this curriculum of Women's Studies for post-graduate education. The increasing popularity of this new discipline has led UGC to encourage establishing Gender and Women's Studies and Research Centres at universities and colleges, so that the so far neglected ideological layers of patriarchy and androcentricity may be taken up to fight for the causes of people who are being oppressed and discriminated due to their sex, and thereby achieve the Millennium Goal of sustainable development.

Detailed Syllabus

M A SEMESTER-I

PG2WMNS 1011: FUNDAMENTALS OF GENDER AND WOMEN STUDIES

[This core paper is the startup basics of the discipline of women's studies including gender issues. It aims at defining the subject, both in the global and Indian perspectives, with its rationale in its Unit-I. It also introduces some very basic concepts/notions, necessary for any further move in understanding women's studies. Unit-II is an exploration of major strands/interpretations of feminist thought, both in the global and local perspectives, since, as we think, without the umbrella discourse of feminism (irrespective of whether we like this terminology or not) the discipline of women's studies can never adequately be understood. This will, consequently, help them to apply this knowledge to their social surroundings and daily lives. As it is not possible to include all different strands/ types of feminist thought, we have to be selective]

Unit 1: Fundamentals of Gender and Women's Studies

- Evolution of Gender and Women's Studies as Academic Discipline: Global and Local Perspectives
- Waves of Feminist Movements and Thoughts
- Basic Notions: Sex, Sexuality and Gender
- Misogyny: Its Different Layers/Levels
- Women's Empowerment: Its Different Dimensions
- Queer and Masculinities Studies: Emerging Trends

Unit 2: Different Strands of Feminism: Global and Local

- Need for Conceptual/Theoretical tools for Understanding Gender issues
- Liberal Feminism and Radical Feminism
- Marxist Feminism and Socialist Feminism
- Psychoanalytic Feminism
- Post-Colonial and Indigenous Feminisms

Suggested Readings:

- Mary E. John. *Women's Studies in India – A Reader*, Penguin Books, New Delhi, 2008
- Vina Mazumdar. *Emergence of Women's Question and Role of Women's Studies, Occasional Papers,* Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi. 1985
- Neera Desai & Maithreyi Krishnaraj. *Women's Studies in India – Some Perspectives*, Ajantha Publications, New Delhi, 1986
- Himanshi Nagpal. "The Evolution of Women's Studies in India*"*. *Feminism in India*, July 26, 2017

- V. Geetha: Gender (Theorizing Feminism series). Stree. 2002
- V. Geetha: Patriarchy, Stree, 2007
- Kamala Bhasin. *Understanding Gender*, Zubaan, New Delhi, 2000
- Mallika Sengupta. *Strilinganirman*, Ananda Publishers, 1998 (in Bengali)
- Sefali Moitra. *Narivad o Naitikata*, New Age Pub, 2003(in Bengali)
- Rajashri Basu & Basabi Chakraborty. *Prasanga Manabividya,* Urbee Prakashan, Kolkata, 2014 (Bangla)
- Basabi Chakraborty ed. *Nariprithibi: Bahuswar*. Urbee Prakashan, Kolkata, 2011(in Bengali)
- Basabi Chakraborty ed. *Women's Studies: Various Aspects*. 3rd edition, Urbee Prakashan, Kolkata, 2022.
- Susie Tharu, A. Suneetha & Uma M. Bhrugubanda (eds). A World of Equals: A Text Book on Gender, Orient Black Swan, Hyderabad, 2022.
- Sadhana Arya & Lata Singh eds. *Feminist Movements in India: Issues, Debates, Strategies*. Delhi: Aakar Books, 2024
- Rosemarie Tong: *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*, 2nd Ed. Westview Press, 1998.
- Sefali Moitra: *Feminist Thought*, Munsiram Monoharlal, Delhi, 2002.
- Rajashri Basu. *Narivad.* Paschimbanga Rajya Pustak Parishad, Kolkata,2012(in Bengali)
- Rinita Mazumder. *A Short Introduction to Feminist Theory*, Anustup, 2001
- Meena *Kelkar* & Deepti Gangavane eds. *Feminism in Search of an Identity: The Indian Context*. Rawat Pub, 2003
- Saswati Ghosh: *Samatar Dike Andolone Nari*. Pratham Parva. Kolkata: Progressive Pub, 2004 (1999) (Bangla)

PG2WMNS 1012: METHODOLOGY OF GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

[Research is deeply connected with studies, and its research that prepare space for fresh learning and advancement. This moving forward is never possible unless and until we get involved in research works. And this can properly be done only when the students get well-equipped in research methodology. A research methodology lends credibility to the study and produces reliable scientific results. A researcher's methodology allows the reader to recognize the strategy and techniques employed to arrive at results. Another point to note, feminist researches are somehow different from conventional research. It is politically oriented in that it tries to improve social inequalities and actively works to eliminate the power gap between research and subject. Hence the students of women's studies must access to a variety of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methodologies. Not only that, its interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary nature compels us to take note of this aspect, along with its intersectional dynamics. This compulsory course work is prepared to help students with the basics of social science research in general, and feminist methodology in particular, so that they can venture into meaningful and systematic research work.]

Unit1: Methodology of Social Research

- Meaning and Objectives of Research; Quantitative Research and Qualitative Research, Mixed Methods, Research Plan and Design, Steps of Executing a Research work
- Survey–Sampling: Types of Sampling–Problems of Survey research
- Data Collection: Primary and Secondary Data. Techniques of Data Collection: Interview, Questionnaire, Observations, Participant Observation, etc.
- Methods: Case Study, Historical, Narrative, Ethnographic and Comparative Methods
- Research and Publication Ethics: Notions of Philosophy and Ethics, Ethics with respect with Science and Research, Academic Misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication and Plagiarism, Restoring Honesty and Integrity; Publication Ethics: COPE guidelines, Identification of Predatory Journals, Open Access publications, Database and Research Metrics.

Unit 2: Feminist Methodology

- Feminist Methods and its Difference from the Traditional Methods,
- Interdisciplinarity, Intersectionality and Visual Methodology
- Feminist Empiricism: Challenging Gender Bias and "Setting the Record Straight"
- Feminist Standpoint Epistemology
- Feminist Postmodernism

Suggested Readings:

- C R Kothari. *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*, New Age International, 2004
- Denzin & Lincoln. *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research.* Sage, 2011
- Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber *ed. Handbook of Feminist Research*. *Theory and Praxis*.2nd ed. Sage, 2006
- Aruna Roy. An Activist's Memoir. Harper Collins, 2024
- Aruna Roy, Baktigotoi Rajnaitik. (tr. in Bangla from her *An Actvist's Memoir* by Rouhin) The Antonym Collections, 2026
- Sandra Harding, ed. *Feminism and Methodology: Social Science Issues*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1987 5. Caroline Ramazanoglu. *Feminist Methodology: Challenges and Choices*. Sage, 2002
- Bula Bhadra & A R Thakur eds. *A New Journey: An Anthology of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research*, Vols. I & II, CIDSR, Sister Nivedita University, Kol, 2026
- Tina, Maxine et al eds. *Ethics in Qualitative Research*. Sage. 2012.
- Rajashri Basu & Basabi Chakraborty. *Prasanga Manabividya,* 3rd Ed. Urbi Prakashan, Kolkata, 2014 (in Bengali)
- Basabi Chakraborty ed. *Nariprithibi: Bahuswar*. Urbi Prakashan, Kolkata, 2011(in Bengali)
- Ravindra K.S. Choudhary, *Integrating Interdisciplinarity through Philosophy* (2021) D K Printworld, New Delhi
- Atashi Chattopadhyay: *Narivadi Gabeshna Paddahati,* Kolkata: Ebang Mushayera, 2023 (Bangla)
- Ritu Sen Chaudhury ed. *Narivader Nana Path,* Kolkata: Ananda Pub., 2021.
- Dr. Upendra Pratap Singh, Ms. Sakshi Ahlawat & Dr. Sushma Sharma. *Research and Publication Ethics*. Delhi: Sutan Chand Sons, 2023.

PG2WMNS 1013: WOMEN, GENDER AND EDUCATION

[The course on gender perspective on education, with special reference to women, outlines some of the contributions and challenges in the history of women in education in India, and in particular, in West Bengal. Gender, class, religion and nationality have always impacted education. Studies on the development of women's conventional education over time allow

readers to comprehend women's educational experiences, the widespread implications of female education in society and gender biases. This course work also looks at the educational experiences of culturally, racially, or ethnically underrepresented women and the queer people. Another issue that draws attention is the recent trends and changing paradigm in formal and non-formal education which raises critical questions about the increasing enrolment to bridge the gender gap.]

Unit 1: Women's Education in India: An Overview

- History of Women's Education in India: Early, Colonial and Modern Periods
- Empowering Women through Education: Objectives, Significance and Scope
- Gender Bias and Orientation in Enrolment and Curricula
- Adult Literacy and Non-Formal Education for Women,
- Women and New Education Policy 2020

Unit 2: Women's Education in West Bengal

- Women's Education in Bengal: An Overview
- Challenges to Women Education–Social, Economic, Cultural and Other Factors
- Primary Education of Girl Child: Problems and Prospects
- Higher Education of Women and the Queer people: Changing Status
- Education of the Less Privileged Sections of Women

Suggested Readings:

- Tracy Penny Light, Jane Nicholas and Renée Bondy eds. *Feminist Pedagogy in Higher Education.* WLU Press, 2015.
- Kathleen Weiler. *Women Teaching for Change*: *Gender, Class and Power*. South Hadley: Bergin & Garvey, 1988.
- J R Martin. "Education" in *A Companion to Feminist Philosophy* (A M Jaggar & I A Young eds.), Blackwell, 2000.
- J Martin. "Sex Equality and Education". In *Femininity, Masculinities and Androgyny*. M. Vetterling-Braggin. Totowa: Littlefield Adams, 1982
- Christine Skelton, Becky Francis & Lisa Smulyan eds. *The SAGE Handbook of Gender and Education*. Sage, 2006.
- Nandini Manjerekar. *Gender and Education in India: A Reader.* Akar Books, 2020.
- S.P. Agarwal and J. C. Agarwal, *Women's Education in India*, Concept Publishing, New Delhi 1994
- Usha Sharma & B. M. Sharma, *Women Education in Ancient and Medieval India*. Commonwealth Publishers, 1995
- Linda Stone ed. *The Education Feminism Reader*. Routledge, 1994
- Rajashri Basu & Basabi Chakraborty. *Prasanga Manabividya,* 3rd Ed. Urbi Prakashan, Kolkata, 2014 (in Bengali)
- Basabi Chakraborty ed. *Nariprithibi: Bahuswar*. Urbi Prakashan, Kolkata, 2011 (in Bengali)

PG2WMNS1014: WOMEN, GENDER AND ECONOMIC DOMAIN

[This course aims to highlight the idea of women's work and household responsibilities from a gender perspective. Women are still underrepresented in several sectors of the economy, even though the wage gap between men and women has now been somewhat narrowed down. The barriers to equal opportunity and sexist workplace practices impede their further moves. In the light of neo-liberal economic changes, recent feminist researches have focused on the need of restructuring the workplace and gender culture. Unless we think and do otherwise, we shall lose the potential of many individuals of the so called 'second sex' and the queer people, and suffer a significant loss in the economy's capacity to produce goods and services at a time when the ageing of the population and slow productivity growth is already putting pressure on economic development. This course also emphasizes the theories related to women's inclusion in the development process, inclusion in the planning or implementation of development, and individual entrepreneurship. Understanding the development discourses that affect men, women and the queer differently in society is essential. Although the practice of 5-Year plans has recently been dropped out, we have included a historical discussion of it, as, we think, without referring to this history we cannot account for the present.]

Unit 1: Women and the Work Sector

- Concept of Work–-Productive & Non-Productive Work, Domestic Labour debate; Women's Participation in Labour Market, Neo-Liberal Globalization and Gendered Labour and Precarity
- Gender and Child Labourers in Rural and Urban Areas: Issues and Remedies
- Women's Employment in Organized and Unorganized Sectors, Feminization of Labour and Poverty
- Government Policies and Programmes for Protection of Women Employees
- Women in Occupations and Professions: Struggle for Acceptance and Equality; Women Entrepreneurship

Unit 2: Women and the Development Perspective

- Theories of Development: Women in Development (WID), Women and Development (WAD) and Gender and Development
- Women's Development under Five Year Plans (I–VIIth Plans): Welfare and Development Perspectives
- Women's Empowerment under Five Year Plans (VIIIth up to XIIth Plans), and its aftermath.
- Micro Enterprise, Self Help Groups and Women Empowerment: Women's Property Rights: Personal Laws *vis-à-vis* UCC
- Women Empowerment through National Committees and Commissions for Women
- Gender Audit

Suggested Readings:

- Maithreyi Krishnaraj. "Women's Work in Indian Census: Beginnings of Change". *Women's Studies in India: A Reader*, ed. by Mary E. John. Penguin, 2008.
- Bina Agarwal, Jane Humphries, and Ingrid Robeyns, eds. *Capabilities, Freedom and Equality: Amartya Sen's Work from a Gender Perspective*. Oxford India Press, 2006

- S. Kaur. *Women and Poverty*. Jaipur: Book Enclave, 2008
- Maitreyi Krishnaraj, ed. *Gender, Food Security and Rural Livelihoods*. Stree, Kolkata, 2007.
- Preet Rustagi. "Significance of Gender-Related Development Indicators: An Analysis of Indian States". *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*. Vol 11(3), 2004.
- Ester Boserup. *Woman's Role in Economic Development*. George Allen and Unwin. London, 1970.
- Lourdes Beneria and Gita Sen. "Accumulation, Reproduction and Women's Role in Economic Development: Boserup Revisited". *Signs*, Vol.7, 279-98. 1981.
- Angela Burton ed. *Hit or Miss: Women's Rights and the Millennium Development Goals*. ActionAid, UK, 2015
- Martha Nussbaum. *Women and Human Development*. Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Mary. E. John. 1996. "Gender and Development in India, 1970s – 1990s: Some Reflections on the Constitutive Roles of Contexts." *Economic and Political Weekly*. 31 (47), 3071 – 3077.
- Uma Kothari. *A Radical History of Development Studies: Individuals, Institutions and Ideologies*, Zed Books, 2005.
- Jane L. Parpart, M. Patricia Connelly, and V. Eudine Barriteau, eds. *Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Development,* International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, 2000
- *A Manual for Gender Audit Facilitators: The ILO Participatory Gender Audit Methodology*, 2nd Edition Geneva, International Labour Office, 2012.
- B. Ratna Kumari & K. Mary Sujatha. *Gender Awareness and Gender Audit*. Uday Publishing House, 2016.

PG2WMNS1021: BASICS OF GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES [**Minor**]

[This Minor course work aims to introduce the fundamental notions and theories of gender and women's studies, along with its umbrella ideology of feminism, to students of other sister departments (except Women's Studies). It is expected to help the students to adequately understand the roles of sex, gender, and patriarchy so that this knowledge could be utilized to improve gender position. Also, it engages the students to comprehend the feminist movements and different strands of feminism in order to make them understand how wider structural forces, in both Indian and global contexts, have been influencing the lives of women. This course is prepared to sensitize students of other disciplines on gender lines.]

Unit-I: Introducing Gender and Women's Studies

- Women Studies as Academic Discipline–Definition, Meaning, Rationale and Scope
- Evolution of Gender and Women's Studies
- Different Phases of Women's Movements: Global and Indian
- Basic Concepts: Sex-Gender Distinction
- Misogyny: Sexism, Patriarchy & Phallogocentrism
- Status of Women in India: Past and Present
- Women's Empowerment: Its Different Dimensions

Unit-2: Different Strands of Feminism

- Liberal Feminism and Radical Feminism
- Marxist Feminism and Socialist Feminism
- Psychoanalytic Feminism
- Post-Modern and Post-Colonial Feminism
- Post-Feminism
- Feminism in Indian Context

Suggested Readings:

- John, Mary E. *Women's Studies in India – A Reader*, Penguin Books, New Delhi, 2008
- Nagpal, Himanshi. "The Evolution of Women's Studies in India*"*. *Feminism in India*, July 26, 2017
- Geetha, V. *Gender* (Theorizing Feminism). Stree. 2002
- Geetha, V: *Patriarchy*, Stree, 2007
- Kamala Bhasin. *Understanding Gender*, Zubaan, New Delhi, 2000
- Sengupta, Mallika. *Strilinganirman*, Ananda Pub, 1998 (in Bengali)
- Basu, Rajashri & Basabi Chakraborty. *Prasanga Manabividya,* 3rd Ed. Urbi Prakashan, Kolkata, 2014(in Bengali)
- Chakraborty, Basabi ed. *Nariprithibi: Bahuswar*. Urbi Prakashan, Kolkata, 2011(in Bengali)
- Tong, Rosemarie: *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*, 2nd Ed. Westview Press, 1998.
- Moitra, Sefali: *Feminist Thought*, Munsiram Monoharlal, Delhi, 2002.
- Pal, Santosh Kumar. *Phalita Nitishastra*. Vol.2, Levant Books, Kolkata, 2020(in Press) (in Bengali)
- Basu, Rajashri. *Narivad.* Paschimbanga Rajya Pustak Parishad, Kolkata,2012(in Bengali)
- Mazumder, Rinita. *A Short Introduction to Feminist Theory*, Anustup, 2001
- *Kelkar,* Meena & Deepti Gangavane eds. *Feminism in Search of an Identity: The Indian Context*. Rawat Pub, 2003
- Crenshaw, Kimberlé. *On Intersectionality: Essential Writings*, New Press, 2017
- Chakraborty, Basabi ed. *Women's Studies: Various Aspects*. 3rd edition, Urbee Prakashan, Kolkata, 2022.
- Tharu, Susie, A. Suneetha & Uma M. Bhrugubanda (eds). *A World of Equals: A Text Book on Gender*, Orient BlackSwan, Hyderabad, 2022.

MA SEMESTER-II

PG2WMNS 2011: WOMEN, GENDER AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

[Although some positive changes are now taking place, women still face sexist challenges and risks fuelled by socio-political factors. Over past few decades we have been seeing a succession of challenges of sex roles in labour force, invisible barriers in the workplace, migration, and trafficking from a global perspective that stops women from further move. Even when women are not explicitly acknowledged or defined, they are connected to very many social and cultural problems like dowry, domestic violence, child marriage, Khap Panchayat, religiosity, untouchability, and marginalization in many cases, especially in the Indian context. These social issues will be studied in this paper, focusing on how women relate to them and how they themselves might be seen as social problems. The inclusion of LGBTQIA+ rights in this course might be a crucial first step in developing fresh perspectives on gender and sexuality in a secure environment.]

Unit-1: Women and Social Issues

- Social Reforms and the Women's Question
- Gender Socialization: Boys, Girls and the Transgenders
- Parenthood, Motherhood and Womanhood
- Women and Migration, Trafficking of Women and Children
- Culture, Religion, and Patriarchy
- Gender, Occupation and Work: Glass Ceiling and Women
- LGBTQIA+ Rights

Unit-2: Women and Social Issues: Indian Context

- Ideologies of the State: Paternalistic and Patriarchal
- Domestic Violence, Marital violence, Inequality and Alimony, Violence against Girls, Tripple Talaq
- Child Marriage, Dowry, Female Foeticide, Conditions of Widows and *Devadasis*
- Sexual Violence, Khap Panchayat

Suggested Readings:

- Sukumari Bhattacharya. *Women and Society in Ancient India*, Basumati, Calcutta, 1994
- Rameswari Pandya. *Women in India: Issues, Perspectives and Solutions*, New Century Pub, 2007
- A M Dahiwale ed. *Understanding Indian Society: A Non-Brahminic Perspective*, Rawat Pub, 2005
- Megha Amrith & Nina Sahraoui, eds. *Gender, Work and Migration: Agency in Gendered Labour Settings*, Routledge, 2018.
- J. Monckton-Smith, A. Williams, & F. Mullane. *Domestic Abuse, Homicide and Gender: Strategies for Policy and Practice*. Springer, 2014
- Sarah Wendt & Lana Zannettino. *Domestic Violence in Diverse Contexts: A Re-Examination of Gender.* Routledge, 2014
- Nancy Lombard & Lesley McMillan, eds. *Violence against Women: Current Theory and Practice in Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Exploitation*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London, 2013
- Geraldine Terry & Joanna Hoare, eds. *Gender-based Violence*. Oxfam Pub., 2007

- Zoe Lowery & Linda Bickerstaff. *Gender-Based Violence and Women's Rights.* Rosen Publishing, 2018
- P. M. Nair & Sankar Sen. *Trafficking in Women and Children in India*. Orient Longman, 2005
- Obi N.I. Ebbe & Dilip K. Das. *Global Trafficking in Women and Children*. CRC Press, 2018
- Alexis A. Aronowitz. *Human Trafficking, Human Misery: The Global Trade in Human Beings*. Greenwood Publication, 2009
- Thanh-Dam Truong, Des Gasper, Jeff Handmaker & Sylvia I. Bergh, eds. *Migration, Gender and Social Justice: Perspectives on Human Insecurity*, Springer, 2013
- *Gendered Bodies, Social Exclusions: Contemporary Issues in Women's Studies* (with Nandita Banerjee Dhawan), Routledge, 2026)
- Kannabiran & Ritu Menon. From Mathura to Manorama: Resisting Violence against Women in India, Women Unlimited Pub, 2007.
- Aishika Chakraborty. *Widows of Colonial Bengal: Gender, Morality, and Cultural Representation*, Primus Books, 2022

PG2WMNS 2012: WOMEN, GENDER, POLITICS AND POLICY MAKING

[This course explores the discourses on women's participation in politics both in the global and Indian contexts, including the policy with regard to queer people. The primary objective of this course is to raise the students' political consciousness and investigate ways to undermine unequal gender and political norms in a more general sense, as participation in decision-making processes is another prime concern for women's political emancipation. This paper will contextualise women's effective participation, leadership in national political parties, the implementation of the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts, and regular election to PRIs and ULBs in India. A few areas of concern include increased political representation of women ensuring the enforcement of women's economic rights, but it also generates patriarchal backlash. An attempt has here been made in Unit-II to discuss Grievance Redressal mechanisms for women and the role of State and National Women's Commissions. All these topics are highly significant issues from the standpoint of the Government's policy implementation by the administrators. Students should have a firm grasp of all these matters.]

Unit 1: Women’s Participation in Politics: Debates and Discussions

- Political Participation of Women: Historical and Global Scenario with spl. reference to India
- Women’s Effective Participation in Decision-makings: Issues, Problems and Remedial Measures
- Low Political Participation of Women in National Legislatures: Reasons and Remedies
- Women Leadership: National and Regional parties
- Challenges Faced by Women for Political Participation

Unit 2: Women and Policy-Making in Indian Context

- Post-Independence era up to 1970, Towards Equality Report: Backdrop and Issues, Role of Women in Decentralized Planning: Impact, Problems and Prospects

- The 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India and Reservation of Seats for Women in Panchayati Raj and in Municipalities– Provisions of Reservation for SC / ST Women
- Women's Participation in Policy-making and NGOs
- Grievance Redressal Mechanisms for Women: National and State Women's Commissions
- Social Inclusion of the LGBTQIA+: Problems and Prospects

Suggested Readings:

- *Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties*, OSCE/ODIHR, 2014
- Barbara C. Burrell. *Women and Political Participation*. ABC-CLIO, 2004
- Niroja Sinhā. *Empowerment of Women Through Political Participation*, Kalpaz Publications, 2007
- Sarah Childs. *Women in British Party Politics: Participation and Representation,* Routledge, 2008
- Fiona Gell & Joanna Hoare. *Women's Leadership and Participation: Case Studies on Learning for Action*, Oxfam, 2009
- Nelson, B. J., & Chowdhury, N. (Eds.). (1994). Women and politics worldwide. Yale University Press.
- Kumar, S. (Ed.). (2021). Women voters in Indian elections: Changing trends and emerging patterns. Routledge India.
- Malhotra, B. K. (2011). Women in politics: Participation and governance. Authors Press.
- Guha, S. (1996). Political participation of women in a changing society. Inter-India Publications.
- Paxton, P., & Hughes, M. M. (2025). Women, politics, and power: A global perspective (5th ed.). Rowman & Littlefield.

PG2WMNS2013: WOMEN IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

[The legacy of women writers has so far received less attention because women have always had a lower status in literary and communicative media, where patriarchal males traditionally predominate. It is therefore necessary to discern gender biases in language and literature, and to see women's social life via their own experiences and writings. The literary creations of Mary Wollstonecraft, Virginia Woolf, and Simone De Beauvoir are significant works that cleared the path for many women to publish their works and participate in the larger critical conversations on women's representation in literature and other media. Indian Women writers, Kamala Das, Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain, Ashapurna Devi, Mahasweta Debi, Mallika Sengupta, South Indian writers, like Bama, Volga, and many others have captured the deep inequities, negligence they lived through, along with their heroic struggle for gender justice. This course aims to examine how women are portrayed in texts, music, movies, and television, as well as the ideological frameworks that support those depictions. The course is expected to help students identify the precise methods to see how the literary media are used to create ways of interpreting the world and gender identities.]

Unit 1: Women in Poetry and Fiction

- Women as Subject in Language and Literature

Interrogating Literature: Poetry

- Adrienne Rich (Selections)
- Tasleema Nasreen (Selections)

Interrogating Literature: Fiction

- Rabindranath Tagore: *Streer Patra*
- Rokeya Shakhawat Hussain: *The Sultana's Dream*
- Ashapurna Devi: *Pratham Pratisruti* (First Promise) & *Subarnalata*
- Mahasweta Devi: *Hazar Chuarshir Ma*
- Mallika Sengupta: *Strilinganirman*
- Banu Mushtaq. *Heart Lamp* (Selections)

Unit 1I: Language; Prose, Autobiography & Biography

- Mary Wollstonecraft: *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (Selections)
- Virginia Woolf: *A Room of One's Own* (Selections)
- Simone De Beauvoir: *The Second Sex* (Selections)
- Julia Kristeva. "Women's Time" [*Revolution in Poetic Language* (Selections)]
- Kamala Das: *My Story* (Selections)
- Bama [also known as Bama Faustina Soosairaj]: Karukku (Selections)
- Rigoberta Menchu*: I, Rigoberta Menchu (Selections)*

Suggested Readings:
(In addition to the above texts prescribed)

Arias, Arturo. "After the Rigoberta Menchu Controversy: Lessons Learned About the Nature of Subalternity and the Specifics of the Indigenous Subject." *MLN*, vol. 117 no. 2, 2002, p. 481-505.
Bagchi, Jasodhara. "Forward" in *The First Promise*, Second Edition, Orient Black Swan, 2009.
Bandyopadhyay, Samik. "Introduction". *Five Plays by Mahasweta Devi*, Seagull Books, 1997 pp. vii–xv.
Bose, Brinda. "The (Ubiquitous) F-Word: Musings on Feminisms and Censorships in South Asia", *Contemporary Women's Writing*, Volume 1, Issue 1-2, December 2007, pp. 14–23.
Butler, Judith. "Sex and Gender in Simone de Beauvoir's *Second Sex." Yale French Studies*, no. 72, 1986, pp. 35–49.
Carvalho, Stanley. "Review of Heart Lamp by Banu Mushtaq." *The Hindu*, 15 May 2025.
Chowdhuri, India. "Translator's Introduction" in *The First Promise*, Second Edition, Orient BlackSwan, 2009.
Dasgupta, Sanjukta. "Mallika Sengupta (1960-2011)." *Indian Literature*, vol. 55, no. 4 (264), 2011, pp. 84–86.
Dasgupta, Sanjukta, et al. *Radical Rabindranath: Nation, Family and Gender in Tagore's Fiction and Films*. Orient Blackswan, 2013.
de Souza, Eunice. "Kamala Das" in *Talking Poems: Conversations with Twelve Contemporary Indian Poets*. OUP, 1999. pp. 29-40.
Fathepure, Anusha. Review of *Heart Lamp: Selected Stories*, by Banu Mushtaq. *World Literature Today*, vol. 99 no. 5, 2025, p. 55-56.

Féral, Josette, et al. “Antigone or The Irony of the Tribe.” *Speculum de L’Autre Femme; Ce Sexe Qui n’en Est Pas Un; Polyloguesby Luce Irigaray and Julia Kristeva*. *Diacritics*, vol. 8, no. 3, 1978, pp. 2–14.
Gelpi, Albert. “The Language of Witness: Adrienne Rich” in *Adrienne Rich: Poetry and Prose: A Norton Critical Edition*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2018. pp. 444-456
Gilbert, Sandra M. ““A Life Written in Invisible Ink”: Adrienne Rich’s Collected Poems” in *Adrienne Rich: Poetry and Prose: A Norton Critical Edition*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2018. pp. 468-474
Gilbert, Sandra M., and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination*. Yale University Press, 1979.
Hashmi, Taj ul-Islam. “Women and Islam: Taslima Nasreen, Society and Politics in Bangladesh.” *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, vol. 18, no. 2, 1995, pp. 23–48.
Holmström, Lakshmi. “Introduction”. *Kurukku*, 2nd Edition. OUP, 2021. pp. xv-xxi
Hossain, Rokeya Sakhawat. *Sultana's Dream and Padmarag*. Penguin, 2005.
Jardine, Alice. “Introduction to Julia Kristeva’s ‘Women’s Time.’” *Signs*, vol. 7, no. 1, 1981, pp. 5–12.
Kuiti, Samadrita. “Decolonizing the Feminist Utopia: Interfaith Sisterhood and Anticolonial Feminist Resistance in Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain’s Sultana’s Dream and Padmarag.” *Utopian Studies* 1 July 2022; 33 (2): pp. 240–256.
Limbale, Sharankumar. *Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature*. Orient BlackSwan, 2004.
Marcus, Jane. *New Feminist Essays on Virginia Woolf*. Palgrave Macmillan, 1981.
Moi, Toril. *Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory*, 2nd ed. Routledge, 2002.
Moi, Toril. *What Is a Woman? and Other Essays*. OUP, 2001. (Alternatively styled as: — *What Is a Woman? and Other Essays*. OUP, 2001.)
Nanda, Mini. “Reclaiming the Self in Imperial Times: Tagore’s ‘Streer Patra’ (A Wife’s Letter).” *Indian Literature*, vol. 64, no. 4 (318), 2020, pp. 138–45. JSTOR
Narayanan, Pavithra. “Transcending Borders in Publishing: The Example of Mallika Sengupta, Bengali Woman Writer” in *Transnationalism and Resistance: Experience and Experiment in Women’s Writing*. Brill, 2013.
Oliver, Kelly. *Ethics, Politics, and Difference in Julia Kristeva's Writing*. Routledge, 1993.
Raveendran, P. P. *Kamala Das*. Sahitya Akademi, 2017.
Sapiro, Virginia. *A Vindication of Political Virtue: The Political Theory of Mary Wollstonecraft*, UCP, 1992.
Showalter, Elaine. “Towards a Feminist Poetics” in *Women Writing about Women*. Routledge, 2014.
Smith, D. "Rigoberta Menchú and David Stoll: Contending Stories." *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, vol. 16, no. 3, 2003, pp. 295–305.
Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. “A Literary Representation of the Subaltern: A Woman’s Text from the Third World.” in *In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics*. Routledge, 2006.
Taylor, Barbara. *Wollstonecraft and the Feminist Imagination*. CUP, 2003.
Yorke, Liz. *Adrienne Rich: Passion, Politics and the Body*. SAGE, 1998.

PG2WMNS 2014: GENDER, VIOLENCE AND RESISTANCE

[This major course investigates the interaction between gender, violence, and the cultural resistances associated with it. It provides students deeper knowledge and skills they need to comprehend the different types and levels of violence we see against women in the private and public spheres and their underlying causes. It can inform and engage peers and other

members of the community in efforts to avoid such violence. On the other hand, the course discusses cultures and traditions, which shapes the ideologies about gender and sexuality. Furthermore, it helps students to explore structural forms of vulnerability that surface due to community and family dignity as well as forms of individual or collective resistance. Substantial insights are drawn from reproductive, human rights, and HIV/AIDS activism for preserving intrinsic dignity of persons of each gender.]

Unit 1: Gender and Violence

- Conceptualizing Violence. Forms of Violence. Violence in Private and Public Spheres. Physical, Sexual and Psychological Violence: Threats of Harm, Emotional Blackmailing and Economic Violence
- Disability and Gender
- Violence in the Domestic Space: Abuse of Children. Marital Rape, Dowry-related Violence.
- Violence on Senior Citizens
- Violence in the Public Spheres: Abuse of Children: Rape and Molestation; Sexual Harassment and Intimidation at Workplaces: Organized and Unorganized Sectors. Trafficking and Prostitution as Extensions of Violence
- Racial, Casteist and Ideological Violence against Women

Unit II: Gender and Cultural Resistance

- Indian Mainstream Culture, Gender and Sexuality, Film and Gender
- Reproductive Rights, Surrogacy, Domestic Violence
- Community/ Family Dignity, Culture, Religious Identity and Women's Rights
- The Social Meaning of Bleeding: From Menarche to Menopause
- Social and Legal Challenges for Survivors–Restorative Justice

Suggested Readings:

- Sarah Wendt, Lana Zannettino. *Domestic Violence in Diverse Contexts: A Re-examination of Gender.* Routledge, 2014
- Nirmala Banerjee, Samita Sen & Nandita Dhawan, eds. *Mapping the Field: Gender Relations in Contemporary India – Selected Readings* (Volume 1), Stree, Kolkata, 2011.
- Bart, Pauline B. & Eileen Geil Moran, eds. *Violence against Women: The Bloody Footprints,* Sage, 1992
- Bula Bhadra. "Contract Pregnancy and Contract Mothers: Partners in Development or Gendered Development", *Social Science Gazetteer*, (2018), Vol.13 Nos.1& 2, pp.21-52.
- Bula Bhadra. "Precarity and Surrogacy: The Invisible Umbilical Cord in the Digital Age", D Kergel and B Heidkamp(eds.) *Precarity within the Digital Age: Media Change and Social Insecurity* (Germany: Springer VS, 2017) pp.31-68.
- Bula Bhadra. "Recent Rape Law Reforms in India: Catalyst to Gender Justice or Modernization in Legal reform?" S. Shahidullah (ed.) *Crime, Criminal Justice, and the Evolving Science of Criminology in South Asia: India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh* (London, UK: Palgrave and Macmillan, 2017) pp. 359-382.
- Alice Edwards. *Violence against Women under International Human Rights Law*, Oxford University, Refugee Studies Centre, 2011

- Rajashri Basu & Basabi Chakraborty. *Prasanga Manabividya,* 3rd Ed. Urbi Prakashan, Kolkata, 2014(in Bengali)
- Basabi Chakraborty ed. *Nariprithibi: Bahuswar*. Urbi Prakashan, Kolkata, 2011(in Bengali)
- Sudarshana Sen ed. *Women in Bengal: In Reality and Through Representations*. Routledge, 2025
- Nandini Ghosh ed. Interrogating Disability in India: Theory and Practice (Dynamics of Asian Development), Springer Verlag, 2016
- *Gendered Bodies, Social Exclusions: Contemporary Issues in Women's Studies* (with Nandita Banerjee Dhawan), Routledge, 2026)
- Kannabiran & Ritu Menon. From Mathura to Manorama: Resisting Violence against Women in India, Women Unlimited Pub, 2007.

PG2WMNS 2021: GENDER AND VALUE EDUCATION [**Minor**]

[This Minor Course is aimed at studying gender as value. Here we like inculcate the different aspects of values related to gender. Legal values, familial values, value of privacy, along with health care and ecology are to be taken into account. All these would sensitize the students, and at the same time will learn how to sensitize other stakeholders.]

Unit-I: Basic Gender Values and Law

- Notions of Value and Dharma
- Patriarchal and Androcentric Values
- Feminist Values: Sex, Sexuality and Gender
- Concept of Care, Formal Care and Care Industry, Care Ethics vis-à-vis Justice ethics
- Personal Laws and UCC-Marriage, Divorce and Maintenance
- Criminal laws and Cyber Crime against Women and Transgenders: Kidnapping and Abduction of Women, Acid Attack & Trafficking, Honour Killing of Women under BNS. Online Violation of Women's Privacy and Dignity in Online Media

Unit-II: Feminist and Queer Values

- Gender, Health and Hygiene
- Women and Ecology
- Objectification of Women’s Body in Media
- Values in Cyberworld: Women and Transgenders
- Queer Feminism and LGBTQAI+

Suggested Readings:

- Sarah Wendt, Lana Zannettino. *Domestic Violence in Diverse Contexts: A Re-examination of Gender.* Routledge, 2014

- Nirmala Banerjee, Samita Sen & Nandita Dhawan, eds. *Mapping the Field: Gender Relations in Contemporary India – Selected Readings* (Volume 1), Stree, Kolkata, 2011.
- Bart, Pauline B. & Eileen Geil Moran, eds. *Violence against Women: The Bloody Footprints,* Sage, 1992
- Dr.Neelam Tyagi. *Women, Matrimonial Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR): Transforming Indian Justice Delivery System for Achieving Gender Justice,* Springer Nature (Singapore) 2021.
- Flavia Agnes. *Women and Law*, OUP, 2021
- Sumi Krishna & Gita Chadha (eds). *Feminists and Science: Critiques and Changing Perspectives in India*. (in 2 Vols). Stree, Kolkata, 2015 &2017
- Shraddha Chatterjee, *Queer Politics in India*.
- Ruth Vanita, *Queer India*, Routledge, 2002
- Kunal Debnath, " LGBGTQ Movement in India: A Post Civil Society Resistance? ", The West Bengal Political Science Review, Vol. 20, No. 1, 2018.
- Douglas A. Vokoch, *Transgender India: Understanding Third Gender Identities and Experience,* Springer, 2022.

Semesters-III & IV

Option-1 (Course works in Semester-III & Research Thesis/ Projects in Semester-IV)

Semester-III

PG2WMNS 3011: GENDER, LAW AND JUSTICE

[With the adaptation of the CEDAW India is legally bound to take necessary steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination and structural inequities suffered by women under conventional patriarchal institutions. As a matter of human rights and the condition of social justice, the Indian Constitution calls for equality for all people, regardless of gender. To protect women from exploitation, assault, discrimination, and sexual harassment, a variety of laws have been passed. This paper is expected to critically explore constitutional and legal provisions and various enforcement mechanisms that can help women and the so called third-gender people to attain their desired goal of equity and justice at par with males.]

Unit-I: Gender Justice: Global and National Perspective

- Gender Justice through UDHR, Sameness of Liberal Human Rights of Women and Critique on Its Universality Claim. CEDAW- Otherness of Women's Human Rights and its Enframing through Liberal Feminism.
- Gender Justice and the Indian Constitution. Fundamental Rights, DPSP and Gender Sensitive Judicial Interpretation in Relation to Patriarchy, Affirmative Action with Feminist Critique of Equality Including Power Sharing of Women in Public Decision Making under Articles 243D &253T and Intersectionality Critique.

Unit II: Gender Justice in Civil and Criminal Laws

- Personal Laws and Indian women-Marriage, Divorce, Maintenance. Feminist Critique of Heterosexual Marriage, Recognition of Live-In Relationship including Inequality in Personal Laws & the UCC debate.
- Module IV: Criminal Offences Affecting Women under BNS, IT and POCSO Act, Rape, Dowry Death, Kidnapping, Abduction, Honour Killing, Acid Attack, Voyeurism and Stalking with Feminist views on Patriarchy Violence, Consent and Marital Rape.
- Protective Legislations for women: Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Institutional Mechanisms for Women Justice, Fast Track Court & ADR for Women. National Commission for Women, Family Courts, Loke Adalat and PMLA Constituted under Different Statutes.
- Reproductive Rights, Surrogacy Rights of Women and Abortion for Bodily Autonomy and Privacy.
- Queer feminism and Indian women's Law- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act,2019 and Judicial Exposition of Rights with Queer Feminist Critique

Suggested Readings:

- K.C.Joshi. *International Law& Human Rights*. EBC, 2006.
- Dr.KailashRai. *Constitutional Law of India.* Central Law Publication, 2015.
- B.M.Gandhi. *Family Law*. Eastern Book Company 2012.
- KD.Gaur. *Textbook On Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita*. Lexis Nexis, 2024.
- Bula Bhadra. "Gender Justice or Gendered Justice? A Sociological Exploration or Revelation", in N.K.Chakrabarti and S.Chakraborty (eds.) *Gender Justice*, Calcutta University LL.B.Honours Curriculum Development Programme, Vol. II, Kolkata, R. Cambray & Co.
- Josephine Kipgen. *Reproductive Politics in India*: *The Case of Sex-Selective Abortion*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.
- Dr Jasbir Singh. *Judicial Process and Judicial Administration in India*. Lexis Nexis, 2014.
- Dr. S.K. Kapoor. *Human Rights of Women*. Central Law Agency, 2021.
- Dr.Neelam Tyagi. *Women, Matrimonial Litigation and ADR*., Springer: Nature (Singapore) 2021.
- Flavia Agnes. *Women and Law in India*, Oxford Univ. Press, 2021.
- Pratiksa Baxi. *Public Secrets of Law: Rape Trials of Rape in India*, Oxford Univ. Press, 2014.

PG2WMNS3012: HEALTH, GENDER AND DOMAIN OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

[This course focuses health issue from gender perspective to identify the information, attitudes, behaviours, medicinal practices and beliefs regarding puberty, menstruation, pregnancy, and reproductive health to guide the development of future programmes and policies for women and transgenders. It explores the gendered history of women's healthcare, starting from midwifery to professional gynaecology. Simultaneously, this course takes up the feminist criticism of science and technology. In many cases underlying disparities in the practices of science and uses of technology hinder access to resources and decision-making opportunities for women and queer people, creating challenges to sustainable development and livelihoods. The issue of science and technology is thus viewed from gender perspective.]

Unit-1: Women and Transgender: Health

- Interrogating Women's Body: Puberty, Menstruation, Pregnancy and Reproductive Health
- Women and Traditional Medicine in India and Elsewhere
- Women and Western Medicines in Colonial Indian
- Women Doctors in History: Journey from Midwifery to Gynaecology
- Women Workers/ Caregivers in Organized and Unorganized Sectors
- Health Issues of Queer and Transgenders

Unit 2: Women and Gender: Science and Technology

- Women and Science: The Feminist Critique of Science: Socially Responsible Science
- Gender in Science and Technology
- Science and Technology for Sustainable and Inclusive Development
- Gender and Artificial Intelligence (IA)

Suggested Readings:

- Arnold David. *Colonizing the Body, State Medicine and Epidemic Diseases in Nineteenth Century India*. University of California Press, 1993.
- Cecilia Van Hollen, *Birth on the Threshold: Childbirth and Modernity in South India, Zubaan, New Delhi, 2003.*
- Geraldine Forbes, *Women in Colonial India Essays on Politics, Medicine and Historiography*, Chronicle Books, New Dehli, 2005
- Geraldine Forbes, *Women in Modern India,* Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Bhaswati Chatterjee & Aparna Bandyopadhyay eds. *Her Story: Essays on Women's History in Honour of Professor Geraldine Forbes*. Kolkata: Samparka, 2022
- Neelam Kumar ed, *Women and Science in India: A Reader*, OUP, New Delhi, 2009.
- David Arnold ed. *Imperial Medicine and Indigenous Societies.* Manchester University Press, 1988
- Patricia Jeffery, Roger Jeffery & Andrew Lyon, *Labour Pains and Labour Power, Women and Child Bearing in India*, Zed Books, New Delhi, 1989
- Sujata Mukherjee. *Gender, Medicine and Society in Colonial India Women's Health Care in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Bengal*, OUP, New Delhi, 2017
- Bula Bhadra. "New Visage of Gendering in Hey-day of Globalization and ICTs: Archetypal Case of India" (2021), *Samaj Jijnasa*, Vol.14, Nos.1& 2, pp.139-153.
- Bula Bhadra. "Unequal Exchange: A Tale of Surrogacy and Indian Women's Health" in *Health System Strengthening: Country Experiences* (eds.), R.K. Mishra, P. Geeta and P. Garimella (New Delhi: Academic Foundation, 2016).
- Bula Bhadra. "Dangers of Living in a Connected World", *Social Science Gazetteer*, (2023-24), Vol.18, Nos.1& 2, pp.61-100.
- Sumi Krishna & Gita Chadha (eds). *Feminists and Science: Critiques and Changing Perspectives in India*. (in 2 Vols). Stree, Kolkata, 2015 &2017
- Sarah Hodges. *Reproductive Health in India. History, Politics and Controversies*, Orient Longman, New Delhi,2006
- Charu Gupta. *Sexuality, Obscenity, Community Women, Muslims and the Hindu Public in Colonial India*, Permanent Black, Delhi, 2001
- Meredith Borthwick, *The Changing Role of Women in Bengal 1849-1905,* New Jersey, 1984.
- Sharman, Zena. *The Remedy: Queer and Trans Voices on Health and Health Care,* Arsenal Pulp Press, 2016.
- Lees, Katy. *The Trans Guide to Mental Health and Well-Being*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2022.
- Ernst, Waltraud & Ilona Horwath. *Gender in Science and Technology: Interdisciplinary Approaches* Transcript Publishing, 2013.
- Barnett, Amri. *Artificial Intelligence for Women*. 2024.
- Goswami, Niyati & Chahak Goswami. *Empowering Women in AI: A Guide to Thriving in the Future of Technology*, 2024.
- Douglas A. Vokoch, *Transgender India: Understanding Third Gender Identities and Experience*, Springer, 2022.

PG2WMNS3013: INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

[Indian Knowledge System (IKS), under the so called spell of colonialism, has often been overlooked. To get rid of this colonial hangover we need to review and cultivate our indigenous knowledge for our present-day problems. Our students must get aware of the rich heritage of Indian culture. From this course our students will get acquainted with IKS in general and women's contribution in it in particular.]

Unit-I: Meaning and Scope of Indian Knowledge System

- Indian Knowledge System and Decolonization of Knowledge
- Four Puruṣārthas-Dharma, Artha, Kāma and Mokṣa
- The Vedas and the Upanishads
- Rajdharama in pre-colonial India
- Ayurveda and Health Science
- Women Intellectuals in the Vedic period: The Role of Science: Gargi, Maitreyi, Khana, Lilavati, Sulabha, Lopamudra, Viswambhara, Ghosha
- Maitreyi's Philosophy of Self-knowledge
- Gargi's Brahmatattva
- Khana's Prophesy for auspicious moments and for agriculture
- Vedic mathematics

Unit-II: The Feminist Encounters: Past and Present

- Feminism in South India
- Durgabai Deshmukh: Andhra Mahila Sabha
- Devaki Jain: South India Feminist Activism,
- Breast tax *(Mulakkaram)* and The Legend of Nangeli
- Gender Fluidity in Indian Culture
- IKS and Feminism

Suggested Readings:

- Dr. N.M. Khandelwal& Dr. Pratapsinh Chauhan: *Indian Knowledge System (Bhartiya Gyan Parampara*), Nagpur: Himalaya Publishing, 2026
- Rao, A. (2013). *Women, Knowledge, and Representation: From Colonialism to Contemporary India*. Cambridge University Press.
- Desai, S. (2008). *Gender and the Knowledge of the Self: Women's Spiritual and Intellectual Contributions in Ancient India*. Oxford University Press.
- Vishwanathan, G. (1990). *The Other Side of the Story: Women in Indian Knowledge Systems*. Penguin
- Sarma, K. (1992). *The Role of Women in Ancient Indian Science and Medicine*. Routledge.
- Bhattacharyya-Panda, Nandini. Women in the *Śāstric* Tradition: Colonialism, Law and Violence, *The Palgrave Handbook on Decoloniality in Asia* (eds. Phoebe Zoe Maria U. Sanchez et al), Palgrave Macmillan, 2025.
- Bula Bhadra. "(De)Colonization of Knowledge: Classic Conceptual Follies with Special Reference to India", *The Palgrave Handbook on Decoloniality in Asia* (eds. Phoebe Zoe Maria U. Sanchez et al), Palgrave Macmillan, 2025.

- S*rinivasan*, P. (2010). *The Shaping of Modern Indian Feminism: From the 19th Century to the Present*. Harvard University Press. Bhattacharya, K. (2004)
- G N Devy. *Citizen under Siege (2014-25*). Context: 2025.
- *Eminent Indian Women from the Vedic Age to the Present*, Kolkata: Advaita Ashram, 2005
- Jaya Kapoor and Gurpinder Kumar. "Indian Knowledge System in the Contemporary World: Women, Power and Empowerment," Centre for Women's Studies at the University of Allahabad, 2026.
- Uma Chakraborty. *Prachin Bharater Itihas: Bratyajaner Chokhe*. Kolkata: SETU, 2024 (2011) (Bangla)
- Buddhadeb Garai. *Bharatiya Jnantantrer Parichay*. Kolkata: Avenel Press, 2025
- Rajarshi Chakraborty. "Denying Manhood and Becoming Women: Case Studies from India's Past and Present," in Sudarshana Sen (ed.) *Women in Bengal: In Reality and Through Representations*. Routledge, 2025.
- Rajarshi Chakraborty. "Imprisoned in 'Other Body'. *Contextualizing the Body* (eds. S K Kumar & Sunderata Sarkar), Monohar Publishers, 2021.
- Suhas Pradeep Kamalakar."Indian Knowledge Systems and Women's Empowerment: A Critical Inquiry into Tradition, Reform, and Social Transformation", https://gurukuljournal.com/indian-knowledge-systems-and-womens-empowerment-a-critical-inquiry-into-tradition-reform-and-social-transformation

PG2WMNS3014: GENDER AND MEDIA

Unit-I: Theoretical Perspective

- Historical Account of Development of Media
- Feminist Media Theories
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Digital Media
- Cultural Constructions of Gender: Media Representations

Unit-II: Gender and Media Industry

- Control of Media
- Depiction of Women in News, Courses and Magazines
- Portrayal of Women in Radio, Television and Films
- Representation of Women in Advertisements
- Clips from Films for Case Studies: Mother India/ Aurat/ Bandini, English Vinglish, Dangal, Chandigarh Kare Ashiqui, Darlings, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, Chennai Express, Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui (Selections)

Suggested Readings:

- Eagleton, Mary, ed. *Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader*. Wiley-Blackwell. 2010
- K. Prasad. *Communication and Empowerment of Women*, The Women's Press, 2004
- K. Prasad. *Women, Globalization and Mass Media: International Facets of Emancipation.* B. R. Publishing, New Delhi, 2003
- K. Prasad. *Women and Media*, The Women's Press, 2005
- Bula Bhadra. "New Visage of Gendering in Hey-day of Globalization and ICTs: Archetypal Case of India" (2021), *Samaj Jijnasa*, vol.14, Nos.1& 2, pp.139-153.

- Bula Bhadra. "Globalisation and Information Technology: Partners in the Gendering of Cyberspace" in *Development, Displacement and Marginalisation* (Ed) Ranjana Ray, Seminar and Public Lecture series (Kolkata: Asiatic Society, 2011), pp. 143-160
- S. Munshi. *Images of Modern Women in Asia*, Curzon Press, 2001
- S. Bathla. *Women, Democracy and Media*, Sage, 1998
- P. Krishnan & A. Dighe. *Affirmation & Denial –Construction of Femininity on Indian Television*, Sage 1990
- David R. Croteau & William D. Hoynes. *Media/Society: Industries, Images, and Audiences*. Sage, 2002
- S. Joshi & K. Prasad. *Feminist Development Communication: Empowering Women in the Information Era,* New Delhi: The Women Press. 2009

PG2WMNS3015: WOMEN, GENDER AND ECOLOGY

[Women are the ones most impacted by environmental degradation and play a crucial role in managing natural resources at the home and community levels. Women manage woods and agricultural land, as well as water, food, and fuel supplies in communities all over the world. In developing nations particularly, women produce food, yet inheritance rules and regional norms sometimes restrict them from owning or leasing property, obtaining credit, or receiving insurance. Different environmental movements, like Narmada Banchao movement in India, emphasized the importance of women's voices and perspectives in sustainable development at all levels. Side by side, it engages itself in searching for the feminine, nay feminist principle to save the planet. This major elective course discussed patriarchy and environment, eco-feminism, and feminist environmentalism from both theoretical and practical standpoints, and from global and regional perspectives.]

Unit-1: Discovering the Feminist Ecological Principle
- Different Approaches to Environmental Crisis
- Patriarchy and Environment: Eco-Feminism
- Climate Change and Women
- Biodiversity and New Forest Laws

Unit-II: Feminist Environmentalism in India
- Resources, Livelihoods and Conflicts
- Navadanya Movement: Vandana Siva
- Indigenous Movement: Bishnoi Movement
- Forest and Water Resources: Contesting Claims
- Environmental Movements: Chipko, Appaiko, Narmada Banchao, Ganga Action Plan

Suggested Readings:
- Dale Jamieson ed. *A Companion to Environmental Philosophy*, Blackwell, 2003
- Val Plumwood. *Feminism and the Mastery of Nature*. Routledge, 1993
- Juliet Flower MacCannell. *The Regime of the Brother: After the Patriarchy (Opening Out: Feminism for Today).* Routledge, 1991
- A M Jaggar & I A Young eds. *A Companion to Feminist Philosophy*, Blackwell, 2000

- Vandhana Shiva. *Staying Alive: Women Ecology and Survival in India*. Kali for Women, 1988
- Vandana Shiva and Maria Mies. *Eco-Feminism*. Rawat, New Delhi, 2010
- Martin Goodman. My Head for a Tree: The Extraordinary Story of the Bishnoi, the World's First Eco-Warriors Publisher. Profile Books, 2025
- Anu Lall. *Bishnois and the Blackbuck. Can Dharma Save Environment?* New Delhi:Vitasta Publishing, 2026
- Krishna Mallick. Environmental Movements of India: Chipko, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Navdanya, Amsterdam University Press, 2021

Semester-IV

PG2WMNS4031

In this Semester-IV the students will have to execute a research project and write a report on that for submission as examination paper, following Research Methodology. They also have to go by the following directions:

1. The Project report must be on women's issue.
2. It should be of about 50 pages (20,000 words approx.).
3. The report should pass the plagiarism test before submission.
4. Advised to prepare its endnotes and bibliography following either MLA or APA format exclusively.
5. The writing style should include 1.5 spacing, 12-14 font size and left border 1.5 inches and the right 1 inch.
6. Before final submission the students submit a book review of 10 pages (4,000 words approx.)

Option-II (Only Course Works in both Semesters-III & IV)

PG2WMNS 3011: GENDER, LAW AND JUSTICE

[With the adaptation of the CEDAW India is legally bound to take necessary steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination and structural inequities suffered by women under conventional patriarchal institutions. As a matter of human rights and the condition of social justice, the Indian Constitution calls for equality for all people, regardless of gender. To protect women from exploitation, assault, discrimination, and sexual harassment, a variety of laws have been passed. This paper is expected to critically explore constitutional and legal provisions and various enforcement mechanisms that can help women and the so called third-gender people to attain their desired goal of equity and justice at par with males.]

Unit-I: Gender Justice: Global and National Perspective

- Gender Justice through UDHR, Sameness of Liberal Human Rights of Women and Critique on Its Universality Claim. CEDAW- Otherness of Women's Human Rights and its Enframing through Liberal Feminism.
- Gender Justice and the Indian Constitution. Fundamental Rights, DPSP and Gender Sensitive Judicial Interpretation in Relation to Patriarchy, Affirmative Action with Feminist Critique of Equality Including Power Sharing of Women in Public Decision Making under Articles 243D &253T and Intersectionality Critique.

Unit II: Gender Justice in Civil and Criminal Laws

- Personal Laws and Indian women-Marriage, Divorce, Maintenance. Feminist Critique of Heterosexual Marriage, Recognition of Live-In Relationship including Inequality in Personal Laws & the UCC debate.

- Module IV: Criminal Offences Affecting Women under BNS, IT and POCSO Act, Rape, Dowry Death, Kidnapping, Abduction, Honour Killing, Acid Attack, Voyeurism and Stalking with Feminist views on Patriarchy Violence, Consent and Marital Rape.
- Protective Legislations for women: Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Institutional Mechanisms for Women Justice, Fast Track Court & ADR for Women. National Commission for Women, Family Courts, Loke Adalat and PMLA Constituted under Different Statutes.
- Reproductive Rights, Surrogacy Rights of Women and Abortion for Bodily Autonomy and Privacy.
- Queer feminism and Indian women's Law- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act,2019 and Judicial Exposition of Rights with Queer Feminist Critique

Suggested Readings:

- K.C.Joshi. *International Law& Human Rights*. EBC, 2006.
- Dr.KailashRai. *Constitutional Law of India.* Central Law Publication, 2015.
- B.M.Gandhi. *Family Law*. Eastern Book Company 2012.
- KD.Gaur. *Textbook On Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita*. Lexis Nexis, 2024.
- Bula Bhadra. "Gender Justice or Gendered Justice? A Sociological Exploration or Revelation", in N.K.Chakrabarti and S.Chakraborty (eds.) *Gender Justice*, Calcutta University LL.B.Honours Curriculum Development Programme, Vol. II, Kolkata, R. Cambray & Co.
- Josephine Kipgen. *Reproductive Politics in India*: *The Case of Sex-Selective Abortion*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.
- Dr Jasbir Singh. *Judicial Process and Judicial Administration in India*. Lexis Nexis, 2014.
- Dr. S.K. Kapoor. *Human Rights of Women*. Central Law Agency, 2021.
- Dr.Neelam Tyagi. *Women, Matrimonial Litigation and ADR*., Springer: Nature (Singapore) 2021.
- Flavia Agnes. *Women and Law in India*, Oxford Univ. Press, 2021.
- Pratiksa Baxi. *Public Secrets of Law: Rape Trials of Rape in India*, Oxford Univ. Press, 2014.

PG2WMNS3012: HEALTH, GENDER AND DOMAIN OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

[This course focuses health issue from gender perspective to identify the information, attitudes, behaviours, medicinal practices and beliefs regarding puberty, menstruation, pregnancy, and reproductive health to guide the development of future programmes and policies for women and transgenders. It explores the gendered history of women's healthcare, starting from midwifery to professional gynaecology. Simultaneously, this course takes up the feminist criticism of science and technology. In many cases underlying disparities in the practices of science and uses of technology hinder access to resources and decision-making opportunities for women and queer people, creating challenges to sustainable development and livelihoods. The issue of science and technology is thus viewed from gender perspective.]

Unit-1: Women and Transgender: Health

- Interrogating Women's Body: Puberty, Menstruation, Pregnancy and Reproductive Health
- Women and Traditional Medicine in India and Elsewhere
- Women and Western Medicines in Colonial Indian
- Women Doctors in History: Journey from Midwifery to Gynaecology
- Women Workers/ Caregivers in Organized and Unorganized Sectors
- Health Issues of Queer and Transgenders

Unit 2: Women and Gender: Science and Technology

- Women and Science: The Feminist Critique of Science: Socially Responsible Science
- Gender in Science and Technology
- Science and Technology for Sustainable and Inclusive Development
- Gender and Artificial Intelligence (IA)

Suggested Readings:

- Arnold David. *Colonizing the Body, State Medicine and Epidemic Diseases in Nineteenth Century India*. University of California Press, 1993.
- Cecilia Van Hollen, *Birth on the Threshold: Childbirth and Modernity in South India, Zubaan, New Delhi, 2003.*
- Geraldine Forbes, *Women in Colonial India Essays on Politics, Medicine and Historiography*, Chronicle Books, New Dehli, 2005
- Geraldine Forbes, *Women in Modern India,* Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Bhaswati Chatterjee & Aparna Bandyopadhyay eds. *Her Story: Essays on Women's History in Honour of Professor Geraldine Forbes*. Kolkata: Samparka, 2022
- Neelam Kumar ed, *Women and Science in India: A Reader*, OUP, New Delhi, 2009.
- David Arnold ed. *Imperial Medicine and Indigenous Societies.* Manchester University Press, 1988
- Patricia Jeffery, Roger Jeffery & Andrew Lyon, *Labour Pains and Labour Power, Women and Child Bearing in India*, Zed Books, New Delhi, 1989
- Sujata Mukherjee. *Gender, Medicine and Society in Colonial India Women's Health Care in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Bengal*, OUP, New Delhi, 2017
- Bula Bhadra. "New Visage of Gendering in Hey-day of Globalization and ICTs: Archetypal Case of India" (2021), *Samaj Jijnasa*, Vol.14, Nos.1& 2, pp.139-153.
- Bula Bhadra. "Unequal Exchange: A Tale of Surrogacy and Indian Women's Health" in *Health System Strengthening: Country Experiences* (eds.), R.K. Mishra, P. Geeta and P. Garimella (New Delhi: Academic Foundation, 2016).
- Bula Bhadra. "Dangers of Living in a Connected World", *Social Science Gazetteer*, (2023-24), Vol.18, Nos.1& 2, pp.61-100.
- Sumi Krishna & Gita Chadha (eds). *Feminists and Science: Critiques and Changing Perspectives in India*. (in 2 Vols). Stree, Kolkata, 2015 &2017
- Sarah Hodges. *Reproductive Health in India. History, Politics and Controversies*, Orient Longman, New Delhi,2006
- Charu Gupta. *Sexuality, Obscenity, Community Women, Muslims and the Hindu Public in Colonial India*, Permanent Black, Delhi, 2001
- Meredith Borthwick, *The Changing Role of Women in Bengal 1849-1905,* New Jersey, 1984.

- Sharman, Zena. *The Remedy: Queer and Trans Voices on Health and Health Care,* Arsenal Pulp Press, 2016.
- Lees, Katy. *The Trans Guide to Mental Health and Well-Being*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2022.
- Ernst, Waltraud & Ilona Horwath. *Gender in Science and Technology: Interdisciplinary Approaches* Transcript Publishing, 2013.
- Barnett, Amri. *Artificial Intelligence for Women*. 2024.
- Goswami, Niyati & Chahak Goswami. *Empowering Women in AI: A Guide to Thriving in the Future of Technology*, 2024.
- Douglas A. Vokoch, *Transgender India: Understanding Third Gender Identities and Experience*, Springer, 2022.

PG2WMNS3013: INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

[Indian Knowledge System (IKS), under the so called spell of colonialism, has often been overlooked. To get rid of this colonial hangover we need to review and cultivate our indigenous knowledge for our present-day problems. Our students must get aware of the rich heritage of Indian culture. From this course our students will get acquainted with IKS in general and women's contribution in it in particular.]

Unit-I: Meaning and Scope of Indian Knowledge System

- Indian Knowledge System and Decolonization of Knowledge
- Four Puruṣārthas-Dharma, Artha, Kāma and Mokṣa
- The Vedas and the Upanishads
- Rajdharama in pre-colonial India
- Ayurveda and Health Science
- Women Intellectuals in the Vedic period: The Role of Science: Gargi, Maitreyi, Khana, Lilavati, Sulabha, Lopamudra, Viswambhara, Ghosha
- Maitreyi's Philosophy of Self-knowledge
- Gargi's Brahmatattva
- Khana's Prophesy for auspicious moments and for agriculture
- Vedic mathematics

Unit-II: The Feminist Encounters: Past and Present

- Feminism in South India
- Durgabai Deshmukh: Andhra Mahila Sabha
- Devaki Jain: South India Feminist Activism,
- Breast tax *(Mulakkaram)* and The Legend of Nangeli
- Gender Fluidity in Indian Culture
- IKS and Feminism

Suggested Readings:

- Dr. N.M. Khandelwal& Dr. Pratapsinh Chauhan: *Indian Knowledge System (Bhartiya Gyan Parampara*), Nagpur: Himalaya Publishing, 2026
- Rao, A. (2013). *Women, Knowledge, and Representation: From Colonialism to Contemporary India*. Cambridge University Press.

- Desai, S. (2008). *Gender and the Knowledge of the Self: Women's Spiritual and Intellectual Contributions in Ancient India*. Oxford University Press.
- Vishwanathan, G. (1990). *The Other Side of the Story: Women in Indian Knowledge Systems*. Penguin
- Sarma, K. (1992). *The Role of Women in Ancient Indian Science and Medicine*. Routledge.
- Bhattacharyya-Panda, Nandini. Women in the *Śāstric* Tradition: Colonialism, Law and Violence, *The Palgrave Handbook on Decoloniality in Asia* (eds. Phoebe Zoe Maria U. Sanchez et al), Palgrave Macmillan, 2025.
- Bula Bhadra. "(De)Colonization of Knowledge: Classic Conceptual Follies with Special Reference to India", *The Palgrave Handbook on Decoloniality in Asia* (eds. Phoebe Zoe Maria U. Sanchez et al), Palgrave Macmillan, 2025.
- S*rinivas*an, P. (2010). *The Shaping of Modern Indian Feminism: From the 19th Century to the Present*. Harvard University Press. Bhattacharya, K. (2004)
- G N Devy. *Citizen under Siege (2014-25*). Context: 2025.
- *Eminent Indian Women from the Vedic Age to the Present*, Kolkata: Advaita Ashram, 2005
- Jaya Kapoor and Gurpinder Kumar. "Indian Knowledge System in the Contemporary World: Women, Power and Empowerment," Centre for Women's Studies at the University of Allahabad, 2026.
- Uma Chakraborty. *Prachin Bharater Itihas: Bratyajaner Chokhe*. Kolkata: SETU, 2024 (2011) (Bangla)
- Buddhadeb Garai. *Bharatiya Jnantantrer Parichay*. Kolkata: Avenel Press, 2025
- Rajarshi Chakraborty. "Denying Manhood and Becoming Women: Case Studies from India's Past and Present," in Sudarshana Sen (ed.) *Women in Bengal: In Reality and Through Representations*. Routledge, 2025.
- Rajarshi Chakraborty. "Imprisoned in 'Other Body'. *Contextualizing the Body* (eds. S K Kumar & Sunderata Sarkar), Monohar Publishers, 2021.
- Suhas Pradeep Kamalakar. "Indian Knowledge Systems and Women's Empowerment: A Critical Inquiry into Tradition, Reform, and Social Transformation", https://gurukuljournal.com/indian-knowledge-systems-and-womens-empowerment-a-critical-inquiry-into-tradition-reform-and-social-transformation

PG2WMNS3014: GENDER AND MEDIA

Unit-I: Theoretical Perspective

- Historical Account of Development of Media
- Feminist Media Theories
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Digital Media
- Cultural Constructions of Gender: Media Representations

Unit-II: Gender and Media Industry

- Control of Media
- Depiction of Women in News, Courses and Magazines

- Portrayal of Women in Radio, Television and Films
- Representation of Women in Advertisements
- Clips from Films for Case Studies: Mother India/ Aurat/ Bandini, English Vinglish, Dangal, Chandigarh Kare Ashiqui, Darlings, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, Chennai Express, Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui (Selections)

Suggested Readings:

- Eagleton, Mary, ed. *Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader*. Wiley-Blackwell. 2010
- K. Prasad. *Communication and Empowerment of Women*, The Women's Press, 2004
- K. Prasad. *Women, Globalization and Mass Media: International Facets of Emancipation.* B. R. Publishing, New Delhi, 2003
- K. Prasad. *Women and Media*, The Women's Press, 2005
- Bula Bhadra. "New Visage of Gendering in Hey-day of Globalization and ICTs: Archetypal Case of India" (2021), *Samaj Jijnasa*, vol.14, Nos.1& 2, pp.139-153.
- Bula Bhadra. "Globalisation and Information Technology: Partners in the Gendering of Cyberspace" in *Development, Displacement and Marginalisation* (Ed) Ranjana Ray, Seminar and Public Lecture series (Kolkata: Asiatic Society, 2011), pp. 143-160
- S. Munshi. *Images of Modern Women in Asia*, Curzon Press, 2001
- S. Bathla. *Women, Democracy and Media*, Sage, 1998
- P. Krishnan & A. Dighe. *Affirmation & Denial –Construction of Femininity on Indian Television*, Sage 1990
- David R. Croteau & William D. Hoynes. *Media/Society: Industries, Images, and Audiences*. Sage, 2002
- S. Joshi & K. Prasad. *Feminist Development Communication: Empowering Women in the Information Era,* New Delhi: The Women Press. 2009

PG2WMNS3015: WOMEN, GENDER AND ECOLOGY

[Women are the ones most impacted by environmental degradation and play a crucial role in managing natural resources at the home and community levels. Women manage woods and agricultural land, as well as water, food, and fuel supplies in communities all over the world. In developing nations particularly, women produce food, yet inheritance rules and regional norms sometimes restrict them from owning or leasing property, obtaining credit, or receiving insurance. Different environmental movements, like Narmada Banchao movement in India, emphasized the importance of women's voices and perspectives in sustainable development at all levels. Side by side, it engages itself in searching for the feminine, nay feminist principle to save the planet. This major elective course discussed patriarchy and environment, eco-feminism, and feminist environmentalism from both theoretical and practical standpoints, and from global and regional perspectives.]

Unit-1: Discovering the Feminist Ecological Principle

- Different Approaches to Environmental Crisis
- Patriarchy and Environment: Eco-Feminism
- Climate Change and Women
- Biodiversity and New Forest Laws

Unit-II: Feminist Environmentalism in India

- Resources, Livelihoods and Conflicts
- Navadanya Movement: Vandana Siva
- Indigenous Movement: Bishnoi Movement
- Forest and Water Resources: Contesting Claims
- Environmental Movements: Chipko, Appaiko, Narmada Banchao, Ganga Action Plan

Suggested Readings:

- Dale Jamieson ed. *A Companion to Environmental Philosophy*, Blackwell, 2003
- Val Plumwood. *Feminism and the Mastery of Nature*. Routledge, 1993
- Juliet Flower MacCannell. *The Regime of the Brother: After the Patriarchy (Opening Out: Feminism for Today).* Routledge, 1991
- A M Jaggar & I A Young eds. *A Companion to Feminist Philosophy*, Blackwell, 2000
- Vandhana Shiva. *Staying Alive: Women Ecology and Survival in India*. Kali for Women, 1988
- Vandana Shiva and Maria Mies. *Eco-Feminism*. Rawat, New Delhi, 2010
- Martin Goodman. My Head for a Tree: The Extraordinary Story of the Bishnoi, the World's First Eco-Warriors Publisher. Profile Books, 2025
- Anu Lall. *Bishnois and the Blackbuck. Can Dharma Save Environment?* New Delhi:Vitasta Publishing, 2026
- Krishna Mallick. Environmental Movements of India: Chipko, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Navdanya, Amsterdam University Press, 2021

Semester-IV

PG2WMNS4011: GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND BUDGETING

[To emphasis on the need to target government policies and unravel the role of mainstreaming gender equality in the transformation of unequal social and institutional structures into equal and just structures for both men and women.]

Unit 1: Gender Mainstreaming

- Definition and Strategies of Gender Mainstreaming
- Feminist Approaches to Gender Mainstreaming
- Developing Gender Equality Action Plan: ILO and UNO
- Gender Analysis, Engendering Policy and Programmes: Analysing developmental agenda, networking, lobbying and advocacy, Gender sensitive planning, Gender training and management support, Gender mainstreaming in programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Handbook on gender mainstreaming for gender equality results: Discourses on Deficiencies and Implementations

Unit-1I: Gender Budgeting

- Introduction and objectives of Gender Budgeting
- Gender Budgeting initiatives in India
- Gender Budgeting Initiatives: Need and importance of Gender Budgeting

- Initiatives of Gender Budgeting at International Level
- Initiatives of Gender Budgeting at National Level
- Linkages between Budgeting and Gender
- Institutional Mechanisms and Implementations

Suggested Readings:

- Alexander, P. and Baden, S., (2000) "Glossary on Macroeconomics from a Gender Perspective", BRIDGE Report No 47, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies
- AIILSG (2007) “Gender Budgeting”, RCUES, National Resource Centre on Urban Poverty, GOI and UNDP, Mumbai
- Budlender, Debbie, Diane Elson, Guy Hewitt, Tanni Mukhopadhyay, (2002), “Gender
- Budgets Make Cents, Commonwealth Secretariat”, IDRC CRDI, UNIFEM
- Borges Sugiyama, N. (2002) *Gendered Budget Work in the Americas: Selected Country Experiences,* Austin: University of Texas.
- Carolyn Moser, (1993) *Gender Planning and Development, London*: Routledge
- Sharp, Rhonda, (2003*) Budgeting for Equity: Gender Budget Initiatives Within a Framework of Performance Oriented Budgeting*. New York, UNIFEM.
- Reetu Dewan and Seeta Prabhu, (2009) *Macroeconomics and Gender*, New Delhi: Zubaan.
- Kabeer, N. (2003) “Gender Mainstreaming in Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals”, London (Commonwealth Secretariat)
- Patel, V. (2004) “Gender Budget: Media Concerns and Policy for India” in Kiran Prasad (ed.) *Communication and Empowerment of Women: Strategies and Policy Insights from India*, The Women Press, Delhi
- UNDP (2001), *Decentralisation in India- Challenges and Opportunities, United Nations Development Programme*, New Delhi.
- Ranjani K Murthy (Ed.), (2001*) Building Women’s Capacities: Interventions in Gender Transformation,* New Delhi: Sage Publications
- Karl, Marile. (1995), *Women and Empowerment, Participation and Decision-Making,* London: Zed Books.
- Jahan, Rounaq (1995). *The Elusive Agenda: Mainstreaming Women in Development,* London: Zed Books, 1995
- Carolyn Hannan. *Handbook on Gender Mainstreaming for Gender Equality Results,*UNO, 2022

PG2WMNS4012: POLITICS OF BODY

[The phrase "politics of body" refers to two concepts: the first idea, "politics" that refers to the exercise of power or the relationship between different forms of power, and the second "body" referring to the physical body of the individual. Together, they simply refer to the construction, control, and regulation of the human body by the many levels of authority, whether cultural, social or anything else. Thus this major elective course seeks to understand the politics of human body which can be both colonized and socially constructed. Special efforts are made to understand the theories of the body and embodiment and representation of female body. This course also examines the ways and reasons that certain bodies are

endangered, marginalized, or excluded. Discussions about racial body politics strongly emphasizes the attribution of ethical, moral, behavioral, and social attributes to people or communities based on skin tone, facial features, body types, and sexual orientation. The understanding of interaction between feminist perspective and motherhood could benefit students a lot.]

Unit 1: Social Construction of Gendered Bodies

- Social Theories of the Body and Embodiment
- The Body Politics, Social Construction and Gender
- Commodification of Female Body
- Race, Ethnicity and Class Dimensions of the Body Politics
- Bodies without Fixed Gender and their Social Construction

Unit-II: Living the Female Body

- Becoming a Woman: Social Construction of Women's Bodies and Sexuality
- Body Image, Self-Presentation and Search for Identity within Society
- Sexual Objectification of Women Bodies
- The Social Meaning of Bleeding: From Menarche to Menopause
- Feminist Perspectives on Motherhood, Disability Studies

Suggested Readings:

- Katrak, Ketu H. *Politics of the Female Body*: *Postcolonial Women Writers of the Third World.* Rutgers University Press, 2006
- Buladi Social Science Gezettier??
- Katie Conboy, Nadia Medina, Sarah Stanbury. *Writing on the Body: Female Embodiment and Feminist Theory*. Columbia University Press, 1997
- Judith Butler. *Gender Trouble, Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, London: Routledge, 1990.
- Gail Weiss. *Body Images: Embodiment as Intercorporeality*, New York and London: Routledge, 1999.
- Iris Marion Young. "Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality" *Human Studies* 3(2).1980 [2005],
- Ros Diprose. *The Bodies of Women: Ethics, Embodiment and Sexual Difference*, London: Routledge, 1994.
- Luna Dolezal. *The Body and Shame: Phenomenology, Feminism, and the Socially Shaped Body*, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2015.
- Janet Price & Margrit Shildrick (eds). *Feminist Theory and The Body: A Reader*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1999.
- Elizabeth Grosz. *Volatile Bodies: Towards a Corporeal Feminism*, London: Routledge, 1994.
- Clara Fischer & Luna Dolezal, eds. *New Feminist Perspectives on Embodiment*, Palgrave Macmillan. 2018
- *The Dancing Body: Labour, Livelihood and Leisure* (with Urmimala Sarkar Munsi, Routledge, 2025)

[This Major Course is concerned with the psychological dimensions of women's subordination. A detailed discussion on psychology of gender roles and sex difference, along with traumas related to rape, sexual abuse and domestic violence, and the like. Likewise, it aims at preparing students for counselling and guidance skills so that they can get out of the psychological pressure and make themselves empowered. This will also help in opening up some counselling centre as a profession, or get a job in similar professional jobs.]

Unit 1: Psychology of Gender Roles and Sex-Difference

- Conceptualization of Gender Roles and Gender Role Attitudes
- Gender: Aggression, Achievement, Communication, Friendship and Romantic Relationships
- Sex Differences in Mental Health.
- Women and Distress
- Trauma relating to Rape, Sexual Abuse, Domestic Violence, etc.

Unit-2: Counselling and Guidance Skills

- Gender Counselling/Feminist Therapy
- Essential Elements and Process of Counselling
- Introduction to Communication: Attending Skill, Listening Skills: Barriers to
- Listening; Responding Skills
- Values and Ethics in Counselling
- Counselling Women in Distress

Suggested Readings:

- Bhargavi Davar. *Mental Health from a Gender Perspective*. SAGE Publications. 2001
- Bhargavi Davar. *Mental Health of Indian Women*. SAGE Publications, 1999
- Richard Nelson-Jones. *Basic Counseling Skills: A Helper's Manual*. Sage. 2016
- Steven D. Brown, Robert W Lent, eds. *Handbook of Counseling Psychology*. 2000
- M. Jacobs. *Psychodynamic Counseling in Action*. Sage Publications, 1998
- H C Mishra and K Varadwaj K. *Counseling Psychology: Theories, Issues and Application*. Divya Prakashri, Bhubaneswar, 2009
- Richard Nelson. *Basic Counseling Skills: A Helper's Manual*. Sage Publications, 2002
- Perry Wayne. *Basic Counseling Techniques: A Beginning Therapist's Toolkit*. Author House, 2002

PG2WMNS 4014 MASCULINITY AND QUEER STUDIES

Unit-I: Masculinity & Masculism

- Masculinity and Femininity
- Meaning and History of Masculism
- Balancing Gender Studies
- Violence and Oppressions against Men
- Integrating all sorts of Violence: A General Theory of Oppression
- Backlashing/ Straining Feminism?

Unit II: Queer Studies

- Meaning and evolution of Queer as a Concept, and as a Queer Theory. (Key thinkers: Judith Butler, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick).
- Understanding LGBTQIA+ Spectrum of sexual orientation and gender identity, Social stigma, discrimination, and identity politics.
- History of Queer Movements: Global milestones: Stonewall Riots; Development of Pride movements, Queer activism in India: Legal Fight; Role of NGOs and community organizations.
- Third Gender in Cultural Context: Traditional communities: Hijra community in India, Religious and cultural representations, Legal recognition: NALSA v. Union of India.
- Transgender Identity and Issues: Definition and distinction between transgender and transsexual, Gender dysphoria and social identity, Challenges: Discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, Rights and policies: Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and recent controversy on the amendment in the Act in India.
- Contemporary Issues and Representation: Media representation of LGBTQIA+ identities: Role of cinema, literature, and digital media, Mental health concerns and support systems, Inclusivity and policy frameworks.

Suggested Readings

- Crenshaw, Kimberlé. *On Intersectionality: Essential Writings*, New Press, 2017
- Gardiner, Judith K. ed. *Masculinity Studies & Feminist Theory – New Directions*. Columbia University Press, 2002
- Kimmel, Michael S. & Jeff Hearn eds. *Handbook of Studies on Men and Masculinities.* SAGE Pub. 2004
- Gottzen, Lucas, Ulf Mellstrom & Tamara Shefer, eds. *Routledge International Handbook of Masculinity Studies.* Routledge, 2019
- Samanta, Supriya. *Conceptualizing Masculinity*. Kolkata: The Shee Book Agency, 2018
- Michel Foucault. *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction.* New York: Vintage Books, 1978.
- Susan Stryker. *Transgender History: The Roots of Today's Revolution.* New York: Seal Press, 2017.
- Arvind Narrain, and Gautam Bhan, eds. *Because I Have a Voice: Queer Politics in India*. New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2005.
- Laxmi Narayan Tripathi. *Me Hijra, Me Laxmi*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Meg-John Barker and Julia Scheele. *Queer: A Graphic History*. London: Icon Books, 2016
- Vanita, Ruth. *Love's Rite: Same-Sex Marriage in India and the West*. New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 2005.
- Dave, Naisargi N. *Queer Activism in India: A Story in the Anthropology of Ethics.* Durham: Duke University Press, 2012
- Devi, Shakuntala. *The World of Homosexuals*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House, 1977.
- Shahani, Parmesh. *Queeristan: LGBTQ Inclusion in the Indian Workplace*. New Delhi: Westland Books, 2020.
- Ajay Majumdaar and Niloy Basu*, Bharater Hijra Samaj*, Dip Prakashan, 2022.

- Ajay Majumdaar and Niloy Basu*, Samaprem*, Dip Prakashan.
- Rajarshi Chakraborti. “Imprisoned in the ‘Other Body’”. *Contexualizing the Body: An Indian Experience*. Monohar Publishers, 2021
- Faderman, Lillian. *The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015
- Savage, Jon. *The Secret Public: How LGBTQ Resistance Shaped Popular Culture (1955–1979)*. London: Faber & Faber, 2024.
- Mary Bernstein, "Identities and Politics: Toward a Historical Understanding of the Lesbian and Gay Movement ", *Social Science History*, vol. 26, No. 3, p. 531-581
- Rishabh Gahlot, " LBGT in India: A Social Understanding ", *Journal of Intellectual Property and Human Rights,* Vol. 2, No. 7, 2023, p. 9-27.
- Jyoti Puri, *Women, Body and Desire in Post Colonial India: Narratives of Gender and Sexuality*, Routledge
- Shraddha Chatterjee, *Queer Politics in India*.
- Ruth Vanita, *Queer India*, Routledge, 2002
- Kunal Debnath, "LGBGTQ Movement in India: A Post Civil Society Resistance?", *The West Bengal Political Science Review*, Vol. 20, No. 1, 2018.
- Douglas A. Vokoch, *Transgender India: Understanding Third Gender Identities and Experience,* Springer, 2022.
- Serena Nanda, *Neither Man Nor Woman: The Hijras of India*, 1990.
- Jessica Hinchy, *Governing Gender and Sexuality in Colonial India*, OUP, 2021.
- Amar Das W. *Tritiya-Prakriti: People of the Third Sex: Understanding Homosexuality, Transgender Identity and Intersex Conditions Through Hinduism*, Xlibris, 2004.

PG2WMNS 4015: DISCOURSES ON MARGINALIZED WOMEN

[The Dalit minorities in South Asia have been bearing with century-old of prejudices, marginalisation, shame, and violence, somehow in seclusion from the so called mainstream. In India the marginalized and the Dalit, sometimes taken to be "untouchables," suffer a life of marginalisation, exclusion, and human rights abuses. This Major Elective paper aims to provide the intersection between gender and marginalization. Given these goals, a major objective of the course is to highlight the intellectual and political action of marginalized groups in order to change the history of women’s life. As the topics below suggest, the different legal provisions of the state power, including affirmative actions, are here explored. Side by side, some of the prevalent ideologies like those of Jyotirao Phule, B R Ambedkar, M K Gandhi are here taken into consideration.]

Unit 1: Law, Justice and Democratic Rights
- Human Rights of the Dalit and Marginalized Women
- Mechanisms for the Protection of their Rights
- Special Development Schemes/Policies for Dalit and Marginalized Women

Unit 2: Socio-Political Movements: Issues on *Dalit* and other Marginalized Women
- Ideologies of Gandhi, Phule and Ambedkar on Dalit Politics
- Dalit Women’s and other Marginalized Women’s Movements
- Development of Political Consciousness & Electoral Mobilization

Suggested Readings:

- Chatterjee, Baishali. “Political Theory and Citizenship Discourses: Cast(e) in the Periphery: Understanding Representation of Dalit Women and Politics in India”. *Asien* 114-115 (April 2010), S. 50-67
- Govinda, Radhika (2006) ‘The politics of the marginalised: Dalits and women's activism in India’, *Gender & Development,* 14:2, 181–190
- Govinda, Radhika (2008) ‘Re-inventing Dalit women's identity? Dynamics of social activism and electoral politics in rural north India’*, Contemporary South Asia*, 16:4, 427-440
- Rege, Sharmila (1998). “Dalit Women Talk Differently: A Critique of ‘Difference’ and Towards a Dalit Feminist Standpoint Position”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 33 (44)
- Rowshan, Rabeya & Riaz Uddin Khan eds. *Bringing Dalit Women to the Forefront: Realities and Challenges.* Nagorik Uddyog & Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement, 2016
- Sabharwal, Nidhi Sadana & Wandana Sonalkar. “Dalit Women in India: At the Crossroads of Gender, Class, and Caste.” *Global Justice: Theory Practice Rhetoric*. (8/1) 2015.
- Haque, Shafey Anwarul & Bhawesh Pant. “India's Dalit Muslims, Marginalised Historically and in the Present Day, Find Scant Mention in Mainstream Discourse”. *First Post.* October 08, 2020.

Option-III (Only Research Thesis/Project in both Semesters-III & IV)

PG2WMNS3031 & PG2WMNS4031

As per this option the students will have to execute a research project and write a report on that for submission as examination paper, following Research Methodology in **each Semester**. They also have to go by the following directions:

1. The Project report must be on women’s issue.
2. It should be of about 50 pages (20,000 words approx.).
3. The report should pass the plagiarism test before submission.
4. Advised to prepare its endnotes and bibliography following either MLA or APA format exclusively.
5. The writing style should include 1.5 spacing, 12-14 font size and left border 1.5 inches and the right 1 inch.
6. Before final submission the students submit a book review of 10 pages (4,000 words approx.)

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