

Inter-Disciplinary Course (IDC)
Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach

Semester	Credit
I	2
II	4
III	4 + 2

Course objective:

The objective of this course is to introduce the students to the field of women's studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. The students will be familiarized with the notions of patriarchy, gender and sexuality to enable them to conceptualize the interdisciplinary nature of women's studies. The institutionalization of patriarchy through social institutions will be covered. The theories of feminism will also be introduced to students to provide the various perspectives which underpin the field of women's studies. The implications of gender hierarchies in various spheres of life- class, caste, ethnicity, work, law and violence- will be studied. The course will trace the women's movement in India with special attention to the Northeast. Women's experiences and women's socialization in Assam and Northeast will be specifically addressed in the course from the prism of history, culture, security and ecology. The interdisciplinary thrust of this course will be underscored through a discussion on women's issues pertaining to emerging fields such as science and sustainable development.

Course teachers: Dr. Lakhipriya Gogoi, Department of English

Dr. Upasona Sarmah, Department of Sociology

Dr. Obja Borah Hazarika, Department of Political Science

Dr. Kakoli Gogoi, Department of History

COURSE-OVERVIEW:

Semester I: 2 credits

Title	Conceptualising Women's Studies
Unit I	Understanding Patriarchy
Unit II	Gender and Sexuality
Unit III	Theories of feminism

Semester II: 4 credits

Title	Understanding Intersectionalities
Unit I	Caste, Class, Ethnicity
Unit II	Women and Work
Unit III	Women, Violence and Law
Unit IV	Women's movement in India and Northeast India

Semester III: 4 Credits

Title	Situating Women's Studies in a Regional Context
Unit I	Status of Women in Northeast India: A Historical Perspective
Unit II	Women and culture in Northeast India- Folk, popular, media
Unit III	Women, security and peace in Northeast India
Unit IV	Women and ecology in Northeast India

Semester III: 2 Credits

Title	Contextualising Women's Studies: Emerging Issues
Unit I	Women in Science and Technology (Challenges and Prospects)
Unit II	Women and Health (reproductive health, sexual health, mental health)
Unit III	Women and Sustainability (Sustainable Development Goals)

SYLLABUS WITH READING LIST:

Semester I: 2 credits

Title	Conceptualising Women's Studies
Unit I	Understanding Patriarchy
Unit II	Gender and Sexuality
Unit III	Theories of Feminism

Readings:

Unit I

- Lerner, G. (1986). *The Creation of Patriarchy*. New York : Oxford University Press.
- Beauvoir, Simone De. (1949) *The Second Sex*. Trans Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier, Random House, 2009.
- Wolstonecraft, Mary. (1792). *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Ed. Deidre Shauna Lynch. 3rd ed. New York: W.W Norton and Company. 2009
- Millett, Kate. (1970). *Sexual Politics*. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016)
- Mies, M. (1980). *Indian Women and Patriarchy*. S. K.Sarkar, Trans. Rajdhani Press.
- V Geetha (2002) *Patriarchy* Bhaktal and Sen Press.
- Walby, Sylvia. (1990) . “Introduction/Patriarchy”; and “From Private to Public Patriarchy,” in *Theorizing Patriarchy*. Oxford, UK and Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell
- K. Bhasin- *What is patriarchy?*
- K. Bhasin- *Understanding Gender*
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Unit II

- S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) 2002 *Gender: A Sociological Reader*, London: Routledge. Introduction, (pp. 1-26).
- Liz Stanley. 2002. Should Sex Really be Gender or Gender Really be Sex in S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) *Gender: A Sociological Reader*, London: Routledge (pp. 31-41)
- Strathern, Marilyn. 1987. "An Awkward Relationship: The Case of Feminism and Anthropology." *Signs* 12(2):276-292.
- Sherry Ortner. 1974. "Is male to female as nature is to culture?" M.Z. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere (eds.) *Women, culture and society*. Stanford: Stanford University Press (pp. 67- 87).
- Rubin, Gayle. 1984. "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality" in Carole Vance, ed., *Pleasure and anger*. London: Routledge (pp 143-179).
- Halberstam, Judith. 1998. "An Introduction to Female Masculinity: Masculinity without Men" in *Female Masculinity*. London: Duke University Press (Also Delhi: Zubaan 2012 Reprint) (pp 1-43).
- Harrison, Wendy Cealey.(2006). "The Shadow and the Substance: The Sex/Gender Debate." in *Handbook of Gender and Women's Studies*, edited by Kathy Davis, Mary Evans, and Judith Lorber. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Butler, J. (1993). *Bodies that matter: On the discursive limits of "sex"*. New York: Routledge.
- Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble*. New York: Routledge, 1990. (2015 Third Indian Reprint)
- Butler, Judith. *Giving an Account of Oneself*. New York: Fordham University Press ,2005
- Thapan, M. (2009). *Living the Body: Embodiment, Womanhood and Identity in Contemporary India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
- Fausto-Sterling Anne (2002) 'The five sexes: Why male and female are not enough' Christine L Williams and Arlene Stein eds., *Sexuality and Gender*, Blackwell
- V Geetha (2002) *Gender Bhaktal* and Sen Press

Unit III

- Nivedita Menon(2012) “Feminist and Women” in *Seeing Like a Feminist*. Zubaan: New Delhi
- John, M. (2005). *Feminism in India and the West: Recasting a Relationship*. In M. Chaudhari (Ed.), *Feminism in India*. New Delhi: Zubaan.
- Kalpagam, U. (2002). Perspectives of Grassroot Feminist Theory. *Economic and Political Weekly, Vol.37* (47), pp. 4686-4693.
- McCann, C. R., & Kim, S.-K. (2003). *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*. New York: Routledge .
- Rich, J. (2007). *An Introduction to Modern Feminist Theory*. Humanities E-books.
- R. Delmar, (2005) ‘What is Feminism?’, in W. Kolmar & F. Bartkowski (eds) *Feminist Theory: A Reader*, pp. 27-37.
- Rowbotham, Shiela. (1993) *Women in Movements*. New York and London: Routledge, Section I, pp. 27-74 and 178-218.
- Jayawardene, Kumari. (1986) *Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World*. London: Zed Books, pp. 1-24, 71-108, and Conclusion. Forbes, Geraldine (1998) *Women in Modern India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-150.
- Mary E John- *Women’s Studies in India-A Reader*, Penguin, 2008.
- Radha Kumar- *A history of Doing : An illustrated account of movements for women’s rights and feminism in India 1800-1990*

Semester II-4 credit

Title	Understanding Intersectionalities
Unit I	Caste, Class, Ethnicity
Unit II	Women and Work
Unit III	Women, Violence and Law
Unit IV	Women’s movement in India and Northeast India

Readings:

- Chakravati, U. (2003). *Gendering Caste through a Feminist Lens*. Kolkata : Stree.
- Dube, L. (1995). Caste and Women. In M. Srinivas (Ed.), *Caste: Its Twentieth Century Avatar*. New Delhi: Penguin Books.
- Dietrich, Gabriel(1995) Women's Movement in Religion Excerpted in Mary E John (ed.) *Women's Studies in India: A Reader*, Penguin 2008.
- Sangari, Kumkum.(1995) "Politics of Diversity: Religious Community and Multiple Patriarchies." *Economic and Political Weekly* 30, no. 52: 3287-3310.
- Kabeer, Naila. 2015. "Gender, poverty and inequality: a brief history of feminist contributions in the field of international development." *Gender & Development* 23(2): 189-205.
- Banerjee, N. (2012). A note on Women as Workers. In N. Banerjee, S. Sen, & N. Dhawan (Eds.), *Mapping The field : Gender Relations in Contemporay India*. Kolkata: Stree.Banerjee, N., & Jain, D. (2008). *The Tyranny of the Household*. In M. John (Ed.), *Women Studies in India: A Reader*. New Delhi : Penguin
- Lourdes Beneria and Gita Sen(1988) "Accumulation, Reproduction and Women's role in Economic Development: Boserup Revisited" in R.E. Pahl (ed.) *On Work: Historical, Comparative and Theoretical Approaches*, New York: Basil Blackwell.
- Bina Agarwal,(2008) "Why do women need independent rights in Land?" in *Women's Studies in India: A Reader* (ed.) Mary E. John, New Delhi: Penguin.
- Rajni Palriwala and Neetha N., (2011)"The Political and Social Economy of Care in India" in Shahra Razavi and Silke Staab (eds.) *The Political and Social Economy of Care*, New York: Routledge,.
- Agnes, F. et. al. (2004). *Women and Law in India*. New Delhi : OUP.

- Kapur, R., & Crossman, B. (eds.). (1996). *Subversive Sites: Feminist Engagements with Law in India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
- Menon, N. (2004). *Recovering Subversion: Feminist Politics Beyond Law*. University of Illinois Press. Omvedt, G. (1990). *Violence against Women: New Movements and New Theories in India*. New Delhi : Kali for Women.
- Chowdhry, Prem(2008) “Enforcing Cultural Codes: Gender and Violence in North India” Excerpted in Mary E John (ed.) *Women’s Studies in India: A Reader*, Penguin.
- Kannabiran, Kalpana (2008) “ Rape and the Construction of Communal Identity” Excerpted in Mary E John (ed.) *Women’s Studies in India: A Reader*, Penguin
- Chopra, Radhika(2003) ‘From Violence to supportive Practice. Family gender and Maculinities’ *Economic and Political Weekly*,26 April.
- Nivedita Menon(2012) “Sexual Violence” in *Seeing Like a Feminist*. Zubaan: New Delhi
- John, M. (2007). Women in Power? Gender, Caste and the Politics of Local Urban Governance. *Economic and Political Weekly* , Vol.42 (3), pp.3986-3993.
- Kanter, R. M. (1977). Some Effects of Proportions on Group Life: Skewed Sex Ratios and Responses to Token Women. *American Journal of Sociology* , Vol.82 (1), pp.956-990.
- Kasturi, L. (1995). *Development, Patriarchy, and Politics: Indian Women in the Political Process, 1947-1992*. New Delhi : CWDS.
- Menon, Nivedita (2008) “Elusive ‘Women’: Feminism and the Women’s reservation Bill “in Excerpted in Mary E John (ed.) *Women’s Studies in India: A Reader*, Penguin.
- Lovenduski, J., & Norris, P. (2003). Westminster Women: The Politics of Presence. *Political Studies* , Vol.51 (1), pp.84-102.
- Phillips, A. (1995). *The Politics of Presence*. New York: Oxford University

Press.

- Pitkin, H. F. (1967). *The Concept of Representation*. Berkley: University of California Press, 1967. Berkley: University of California Press.
- Hasan, Zoya. "The Politics of Presence and Legislative Reservations for Women." In *India's Living Constitution: Ideas, Practices and controversies*, edited by Zoya Hasan, E. Sridharan and R. Sudarshan. New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2005.
- Walby, Sylvia. 2002. "Gender, Class and Stratification: Towards a new approach" in S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) *Gender: A Sociological reader*. London: Routledge (pp 93-96).
- Leela Dube 1996 "Caste and Women" in M.N.Srinivas (ed.) *Caste: Its twentieth century avatar*, New Delhi: Penguin (pp 1-27).
- Rege, S. 1998. "Dalit Women Talk Differently: A Critique of 'Difference' and Towards a Dalit Feminist Standpoint Position." *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 33, No. 44 (Oct.31-Nov. 6, 1998)(pp 39-48).
- Whitehead, A. 1981, "„I'm Hungry Mum": The Politics of Domestic Budgeting" in K. Young et al. (eds.) *Of Marriage and the Market: Women's Subordination Internationally and its Lessons*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul (pp. 93-116).
- Palriwala, Rajni. 1999. "Negotiating Patriliney: Intra-household Consumption and Authority in Rajasthan (India)", in Rajni Palriwala and Carla Risseuw (eds.), *Shifting Circles of Support: Contextualising kinship and gender relations in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa*. Delhi: Sage Publications [pp.190-220]
- Kandiyoti, Deniz. 1991 "Bargaining with Patriarchy" in Judith Lorber and Susan A. Farrell (eds.) *The Social Construction of Gender*, New Delhi: Sage Publications [pp.104-118].
- Hill-Collins, Patricia. 2002. "Learning from the outsider within" in S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) *Gender: A Sociological Reader*. London: Routledge [pp 69-78].
- Kumar, Radha. 1999. "From Chipko to Sati: The Contemporary Indian

Women's Movement" In Nivedita Menon (ed.) Gender and Politics in India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press [pp342-369].

- R. Palriwala, (2008) 'Economics and Patriliney: Consumption and Authority within the Household' in M. John. (ed) Women's Studies in India, New Delhi: Penguin, pp. 414-423
- U. Chakravarti, (2003) Gendering Caste through a Feminist Lens, Kolkata, Stree, pp. 139- 159. c. State
- C. MacKinnon, 'The Liberal State' from Towards a Feminist Theory of State, Available at <http://fair-use.org/catharine-mackinnon/toward-a-feminist-theory-of-the-state/chapter-8>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.
- K. Millet, (1968) Sexual Politics, Available at <http://www.marxists.org/subject/women/authors/millett-kate/sexualpolitics.htm>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.
- N. Menon (2008) 'Gender', in R. Bhargava and A. Acharya (eds), Political Theory: An Introduction, New Delhi: Pearson, pp. 224-233
- T. Hussain, (1988) 'Sultana's Dream', in Sultana's Dream and Selections from the Secluded Ones – translated by Roushan Jahan, New York: The Feminist Press
- Agnihotri and V. Mazumdar, (1997) 'Changing the Terms of Political Discourse: Women's Movement in India, 1970s-1990s', Economic and Political Weekly, 30 (29), pp. 1869-1878.
- R. Kapur, (2012) 'Hecklers to Power? The Waning of Liberal Rights and Challenges to Feminism in India', in A. Loomba South Asian Feminisms, Durham and London: Duke University Press, pp. 333-355
- N. Menon, (2004) 'Sexual Violence: Escaping the Body', in Recovering Subversion, New Delhi: Permanent Black, pp. 106-165
- P. Swaminathan, (2012) 'Introduction', in Women and Work, Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, pp.1-17

- J. Tronto, (1996) 'Care as a Political Concept', in N. Hirschmann and C. Stephano, *Revisioning the Political*, Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 139-156
- Roy, Kumkum. (1995) 'Where Women are Worshipped, There Gods Rejoice: The Mirage of the Ancestress of the Hindu Women', in Sarkar, Tanika & Butalia, Urvashi. (eds.) *Women and the Hindu Right*. Delhi: Kali for Women, pp. 10-28.
- Chakravarti, Uma. (1988) 'Beyond the Altekarian Paradigm: Towards a New Understanding of Gender Relations in Early Indian History', *Social Scientist*, Volume 16, No. 8.
- Banerjee, Nirmala. (1999) 'Analysing Women's work under Patriarchy' in Sangari, Kumkum & Chakravarty, Uma. (eds.) *From Myths to Markets: Essays on Gender*. Delhi: Manohar.

Semester III -4 Credits

Title	Situating Women's Studies in a Regional Context
Unit I	Status of Women in Northeast India: A Historical Perspective
Unit II	Women and Culture in Northeast India- Folk, popular, media
Unit III	Women security and peace in Northeast India
Unit IV	Women and ecology in Northeast India

Readings:

- Gandhi, Nandita & Shah, Nandita. (1991) *The Issues at Stake – Theory and Practice in Contemporary Women's Movement in India*. Delhi: Zubaan, pp. 7-72.

- Shinde, Tarabai (1993) 'Stri-Purush Tulna', in Tharu, Susie & Lalita, K. (eds.) Women Writing in India, 600 BC to the Present. Vol. I. New York: Feminist Press.
- Desai, Neera & Thakkar, Usha. (2001) Women in Indian Society. New Delhi: National Book Trust.
- C. Hooks, (2010) 'Feminism: A Movement to End Sexism', in C. Mc Cann and S. Kim (eds), The Feminist Reader: Local and Global Perspectives, New York: Routledge, pp. 51-57
- Chatterjee, P *The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993.
- Chatterjee, P. "Colonialism, Nationalism, and Colonialized Women: The Contest in India", *American Ethnologist*, 16.4 (1989):622-633
- Mahanta, Aparna.(2008) *Journey of Assamese Women 1836-1937*. Guwahati: Publication Board Assam.
- Barman, Sibanath, Devi, Sandhya and Majumdar, Paramananda (2002)eds. *Asamiya Nari: Oitihya aru Uttaran*. Guwahati: Students' Stores.
- Barpujari, H.K. (1983) *American Missonarisokol Aru Unabinxa Satikar Assam*, Sahitya Sabha
- Chowdhury, Prasenjit. (1994) *Socio-Cultural Aspects of Assam in the Nineteenth Century*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House.
- Barpujari, H.K. *The American Missionaries and North East India (1836-1900 A.D):A Documentary Study*. Guwahati: Spectrum Publications
- Burton, Antoinette. (2003) *Dwelling in the Archive: Women Writing House, Home and History in Late Colonial India*. New Delhi: OUP.

- Deka, Alpana Sarkar.(2016) *Unabimsa Satikar Patabhumit Asamiya Nari*. Guwahati: Assam Publishing Company, 2016
- Downs, Federick S. (1996) *The Christian Impact on the Status of Women In North East India*. Shillong: North-Eastern Hill University Publications.
- Forbes, Geraldine. (1996). *Women in Modern India* (The New Cambridge History of India IV.2) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Indian Reprint 2015)
- Dutta, Nandana (2016) (ed.) *Communities of Women in Assam: Being, Doing and Thinking Together*, Routledge, London.
- Ghosh, Anindita. (2007) (ed.). *Behind the Veil: Resistance, Women and the Everyday in Colonial South Asia* . New Delhi: Permanent Black.
- Sarkar, Tanika. (2001). *Hindu Wife, Hindu Nation: Community, Religion and Cultural Nationalism*. New Delhi: Permanent Black.

Semester III-2 Credits

Title	Contextualising Women’s Studies: Emerging Issues
Unit I	Women in Science and Technology (Challenges and Prospects)
Unit II	Women and Health (reproductive health, sexual health, mental health)
Unit III	Women and Sustainability (sustainable development goals)

Readings:

- Madhumita Mazumdar, “Science and the Making of a New Nationalist Masculinity in colonial Bengal” in Sumi Krishna and Gita Chadha eds.

Feminists and Science, Vol.2: Critiques and Changing Perspectives in India.
Los Angeles, Sage, 2017. 175-206

- Erika L. Milam and Robert A. Nye ‘ An Introduction to Scientific Masculinities’ *Osiris* 30, no. 1(2015): 1-14.
- D’ Ignazio, Catherine and Lauren F. Klein. (2020) . Data Feminism. The MIT press.
- Feast, J (2019, November, 20) 4 Ways to address Gender Bias in AI. Harvard Business Review.
- Kaur, D. (2021, August 11) Can we please do more about gender bias in AI? The wire
- Makhortykh, M. et.al. Detecting Race and Gender Bias in Visual Representation of AI on web search engines. In L. Boratto, S. Faralli, M. Maras and G. Stilo (eds) *Advances in Bias and Fairness in Information Retrieval*. Springer, pp 36-50.
- Schwemmer, C. et.al.(2020) Diagnosing Gender Bias in Image Recognition Systems. *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 1-17.
- UNESCO (2020, April 07) Gender Biases in AI and emerging technologies.
- Stuart, Elizabeth and Jessica Woodroffe “Leaving no one behind: can the Sustainable Development Goals succeed where the Millennium Development goals lacked? *Gender and Development*, vol.24, no.1 69-81. 2016