

SIP/NCI Summer Program on Gender and Society in Contemporary India 2025

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The 4-week course on Gender and Society in Contemporary India will be an overview of issues related to gender and sexuality in India from a feminist perspective. The diversity of India will be a lens through which the course will explore issues. Students will do readings, watch films, and have some field trips to understand the reality presented.

Field trips to NGOs working on women and child labour, self-help groups, community media and activist groups such as Hyderabad for Feminism. Seven modules have been chosen and there will be faculty from the university from sociology, political science, women's studies, regional studies, and communication participating in the teaching of the modules. On completion of the course students should demonstrate an interdisciplinary understanding of the diverse gender issues in contemporary India. They should be able to move away from existing stereotypes and critically evaluate patriarchal social practices.

Learning Outcomes and Evaluation:

At the end of the course, the students should have an understanding of the diversity in Indian society and also get a sense of feminisms from different structural standpoints of caste, class, gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity to name a few.

The course will be for 4 or 5 credits depending on the requirement of the student.

1. Presentations and class participation by the students based on the readings and films. **20% of the grade**
2. Ethnographic journal to be submitted every Tuesday on gender issues that they have observed, read about and encountered in India. **30%**
3. Final paper to be submitted at the end of the course and presented on the last day. **40% of the grade**
4. Group projects may be possible depending on the number of students enrolled. They could be based on
5. A field visit of their choice in consultation with the supervisor. **10%**

Teaching will be both classroom lecture based, screening of films and field visits to NGOs and other organizations. Evaluation will be primarily done by the course coordinator. Readings for each module will be given at the start of the course.

I. Integrating Theory and Praxis in Gender Studies: Prof. Aparna Rayaprol and Prof. Manjari Katju

- a. History of Women's Movements in India
- b. Early Women's Movements
- c. The Struggle toward Equality: Women's work and wages
- d. Feminism and its different forms in the Indian context
- e. India and the evolution of gender justice, change from below

f. Feminist Research Methodologies

1. Mary E. John *Women's Studies in India: A Reader*, New Delhi: Penguin, 2008

2. Selected chapters from Radha Kumar, *History of Doing*, Kali, New Delhi 1991 and
3. "From Chipko to Sati" in Nivedita Menon edited *Gender and Politics in India*, New Delhi OUP.

II. Gender Violence Dr. Anurekha Chari Wagh and Prof. Kanchan Malik

- a. Violence in the family
- b. Violence in public spaces
- c. Violence at the workplace
- d. Legal Responses to Violence Against Women
- e. Sexual Harassment and Violence
- f. Media and Gender Violence

"Domestic violence against women in India: a systematic review of a decade of quantitative studies" Ameeta Kalokhe, Carlos Del Rio, Kristin Dunkle, Rob Stephenson, Nicholas Metheny, Anuradha Paranjape

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17441692.2015.1119293?src=recsys>

III. Gender and Development Prof. Sheela Prasad, Dr. Asima Jena and Prof. Kanchan Malik

- a. Education
- b. Health
- c. Economy, work, and labour
- d. Globalization, communication, and gender
- e. Politics of Reproduction

1. Naila Kabeer, "Empowerment from Below: learning from the Grassroots" pp223-265 in Naila Kabeer *Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought*, New Delhi Kali for Women, 1995.

2. *A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (CUP), 1994. CUP South Asian edition, 1995. Reprinted 1996, 1998).

IV. Intersectionality: Caste, Class, and Gender- Prof. Suneetha Rani

- a. Politics of Power and Oppression
- b. The question of reservation for women
- c. Dalit writing in India

Reading: Sharmila Rege "A Dalit Feminist Standpoint" *Seminar* Vol 471, November 1998

V Gender, Religion and Politics Prof. Vasanthi Srinivisan

- Personal laws and the uniform civil code
- Cultural Reproduction and the burdens of tradition

Unequal Citizens: A Study of Muslim Women in India Zoya Hasan and Ritu Menon. New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2004.

20. Tanika Sarkar, "Woman, Community and Nation: A Historical Trajectory for Hindu Identity Politics" in *Appropriating Gender*.

VI. Body, Sexuality and Representations of Gender Prof. Pushpesh Kumar and Dr. Deepa Sreenivas

- a. Body Politics
- b. Sexuality and Society
- c. Homosexuality and Masculinity

Menon, Nivedita *Seeing like a Feminist*, New Delhi, Penguin/Zubaan 2012