Master of Arts in Gender, Culture and Development Studies

Eligibility

- Graduate degree
- The intake capacity being limited, candidates will be selected through an Admission Test (Written and Interview) conducted by the KSP Women’s Studies Centre.

Course Description

This Degree Course (64 credits) is spread over four semesters in two years including four papers of 100 marks each (4 credits) in each semester. For each paper, there will be internal evaluation for 50 marks and the external evaluation for 50 marks. Special workshops, films and visits will be organized as part of the course. Each student is required to complete supervised dissertation (with viva voce) as part of this course. In each semester, students can opt for 4 credits outside the Department.

- Total marks for evaluation are 1600.

Objectives

This Degree Course is launched with the following aims:
It seeks to provide the participants the knowledge, skills and information in the field of gender, culture and development so as to enable them-

- to engage in research nationally and internationally in gender studies at the levels of policy and practice,
- to work as gender experts in the fields of media- print and electronic- and that of information and communication technology,
- to work in the development sector in various capacities, and
- to pursue career in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility.

This Course intends to engage participants in the following:

- Mapping and analyzing perspectives, issues and debates in the field of development from gender perspectives,
- Examining through a gender lens, the inter-linkages between cultural practices, social processes and development approaches,
- Understanding feminisms in global and local contexts and mapping feminist interventions in knowledge,
- Doing a dissertation and presenting and defending its major arguments.
Core Courses

WS 1: Feminist Thought and Feminist Theory (*Semester I*)
WS 2: Development: Gender Perspectives (*Semester I*)
WS 6: Feminisms: Global and Local (*Semester II*)
WS 7: Gender, Culture and Development: Theoretical Perspectives (*Semester II*)

Optional Courses

*Semester I:*
WS 3: Gendering Social History
WS 4: Legal Terrains: Gender Concerns
WS 5: Open Course

*Semester II:*
WS 8: Culture: Gender Perspectives
WS 9: Gender and Dalit Studies
WS 10: Open Course
Semester I

WS 1: Feminist Thought and Feminist Theory

Module I
Introduction to Concepts in Feminisms: Feminism, Woman/Gender, Sexual Division of Labour, Patriarchy

Module II
Feminist Thought: An Introduction to Vintage Feminisms

Module III
Feminist Classics: Key Thinkers, Introduction to Classics in the Third World

Module IV
Second Wave Feminist Theory: Liberal, Radical, Marxist-Socialist Foundations of Feminist Theories

Module V
Challenges to Feminist Theory: Black Feminist Theories, Third World-Centered Feminist Theories

Readings:

WS 2: Development: Gender Perspectives

Module I
Feminism and Development: Emergence of Women as a Constituency in Development: WID, WAD And GAD

Module II
Gender, Development and the Indian Nation State: Landmark Policies, Plans, Reports and Commissions
Module III
Women’s Movements in India: Post-1975 Campaigns, Issues, Challenges

Module IV
Gender and Institutions: Labour, Politics, Family and Household

Module V
Gender and Institutions: Health and Sexuality, Law, Education

Readings:
- Rao, N., Rurup, L and R Sudarshan (eds), Sites of Changes, New Delhi, UNDP and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 1995.

WS 3: Gendering Social History

Module I
In Search of Our Pasts: The Significance of History: Why Social History, Different Perspectives, Debates in Feminist Historiography (Feminist Engagements with Left/Non-Brahmin/Subaltern/Post Colonial)

Module II
Rewriting Histories: Feminist Interrogation of Periodization of Indian History: Who Was the Vedic Dasi?, The ‘Saint Poetesses of Medieval India’, ‘The Prostitute’ in Colonial India, Locating Women in Social Movements in Colonial India

Module III
Recasting of Women in Modern Social Institutions in India: Reconstitution of Marriage and Family, Formation of Classes, Caste Reformulations, Rise of Nation and Nationalisms, Reconstitutions of Communities

Module IV
Doing Social History: From Gender and Caste Perspective
Readings From Mahatma Phule, Tarabai Shinde, Pandita Ramabai, E.V. Ramaswamy Periyar, Mahatama Gandhi, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar
Module V
Rewriting Social History: History, Memory and Gender
Reading from Women’s Voices and Writings of Women in Satyashodhak, Self Respect Movement, Gandhian and Ambedkarite Movement

Readings:
- Pardeshi P., Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Women’s Question in India, Pune, KSP Women’s Studies Centre, 1998.

WS 4: Legal Terrains: Gender Concerns

Module I
Introduction to Feminist Theory and Their Perspectives on Law, Turning the Gaze back on Itself: Race and Gender in International Human Rights Law

Module II
Feminist Terrains in Legal Domain: Introduction to Legal Campaigns and Legal Studies in India, Law as a Subversive Site: Feminist Perspectives

Module III
Women and Law in Colonial India: A Feminist Social History (Labour Legislation, Personal Laws), Social Reform, Sexuality and the State

Module IV
Sexual Violence and the Binary Logic of Law (Rape, Sexual Harassment)
Women, Citizenship, Law and the Indian State (Ameena Case)
Outlaw Women (Phoolan Case)

Module V
Enforcing Cultural Codes (Case of ‘Honour Killings’)
Women between Community and the State: Uniform Civil Code Debate

Readings:
WS 5: Open Course
An open course would be designed by a faculty member and passed through the departmental committee. It will focus on the thrust area of on-going research at the Department.

Semester II

WS 6: Feminisms: Global and Local

Module I
Feminisms and Internationalisms, Gender and UN Conferences, Conventions, Committees

Module II
Third World Feminism and the Dislocation of Cultures

Module III
Global Feminism Since 1945: Debate over local/global feminisms

Module IV
Feminisms in South Asia: Contexts, Issues and Perspectives

Module V
Feminisms in India: Perspectives and debates

Readings:
- Sharma R. (ed), Representations of Gender, Democracy and Identity Politics in Relation to South Asia, New Delhi, Satguru, 1996.

WS 7: Gender, Culture and Development: Theoretical Perspectives

Module I
Trends in Development Theory and the Cultural Turn

Module II
Alternative Development, Post-Development and Supply Side Approaches

Module III
Women, Development and Feminist Development Theory

Module IV
Feminist Post-Development Approaches and their Critiques: Review of Shiva, Datar, Dietrich, Agarwal and Nanda

Module V
The Science and Body Question in Development

Readings:

WS 8: Culture: Gender Perspectives

Module I
Gender and Culture: Basic Concepts, Approaches to the Study of Culture
Feminist Renderings of Representation, Ideology, Hegemony, Folk- Popular- Public Culture
Module II
Studying Cultural Practices: A Gender, Caste And Class Perspective: Indian Television, Cinema, and Oral Traditions

Module III
Studying Cultural Practices: A Gender, Caste And Class Perspective: Women Writing in India, Print media

Module IV
Myths/Mythology, Religious Practices: Gender Concerns:
Mother Goddess, Reading ‘Sita’, Engaging with Women in Sufism, Buddhist Bhikunis and Therigathas

Module V

Readings:
- Mankekar P., Screening Culture, Viewing Politics: Television, Womanhood and Nation in Modern India, New Delhi, 2005.

WS 9: Gender and Dalit Studies

Module I
Emergence of Dalit Studies and Relationship to Gender Studies in India

Module II
Nation, Caste and Gender: Reviewing Classics on Woman’s Question and Caste Question in Colonial India
**Module III**  
Caste, Class and Community (Debates on Violence of Brahmanical Patriarchy, Caste and Marxism, Caste and Hindutva, Conversion, Caste and Woman’s Question)

**Module IV**  
Gender, Caste and the Public Sphere: Reading Dalit Literatures, Researching Jalsas, Gayan Parties, Testimonials, Pamphlets, Manifestos, Blogs, Performance Cultures.

**Module V**  
Caste, Gender and Democracy in India  
Questions of Citizenship, Political Representation, Internationalization of the Caste Question, Reservation Debate

**Readings:**
- Bandopadhyaya S., Caste, Culture and Hegemony, Sage, New Delhi, 2003.
- Narayan Badri, Documenting Dissent, IIAS, Shimla.

**WS 10: Open Course**  
An open course would be designed by a faculty member and passed through the departmental committee. It will focus on the thrust area of ongoing research at the Department.
Through these four semesters, an attempt will be made to build following skills among course participants through internal assignments and special workshops.

- Concretizing and locating a theoretical perspective in material conditions, Analyzing contemporary issues/ legal cases using feminist perspectives, Tracing many paths to feminism, Mapping feminist scholarship emerging from women’s movement, academy and NGOs

- Reading and analyzing statistical reports, Summarizing reports, policy recommendations, Preparing resource list, Writing press notes, Newspaper features, blogs etc.

- Analysing structures, strategies and semiotic codes in film/ television serial/ any cultural practice, Collating and collecting visual, oral, literary documents, Audio-visual presentation of cultural practices

- Using primary sources- archives, literary texts, oral narratives, Revisiting secondary sources to rewrite feminist history, Mapping feminist tour of sites in villages, cities and towns

- Critical review of the research reports of ngos, research institutes and fact finding reports of the movement, Rereading texts: Making critical notes (drawing information from the available research), Documenting development alternatives, Documenting inequalities through quantitative methods and local surveys

- Understanding processes and procedures of campaign building, Preparing small handbills, speeches, posters, skits, role-plays to democratize knowledge of law to diverse groups