

B.A (H) Sociology
Core Course 07
Sociology of Gender

Course Objective:

The course introduces gender as a critical sociological lens of enquiry in relation to various social fields. It also interrogates the categories of gender, sex, and sexuality.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. An understanding of concepts such as sex and gender by problematising common-sensical notions of gender.
2. Raising key issues of power and subordination within the purview of gender and the need for and solutions resorted to as measures to initiate change through gender-based movements.
3. Understanding issues relating to gender both at a national and global level.
4. Places gender in juxtaposition with other forms of stratification and identity such as caste, class, family and work.

Course Content:

Unit 1. Gendering Sociology

Unit 2. Gender as a Social Construct

- 2.1. Gender, Sex, Sexuality
- 2.2. Production of Masculinity and Femininity

Unit 3. Gender: Differences and Inequalities

- 3.1. Class, Caste
- 3.2. Family, Work

Unit 4. Gender, Power and Resistance

- 4.1. Power and Subordination
- 4.2. Resistance and Movements

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Unit 1. Gendering Sociology: [Week 1]

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.

Menon, Nivedita .2012. *Seeing like a Feminist*. India: Penguin. Introduction.

Unit 2. Gender as a Social Construct

2.1 Gender, Sex, Sexuality [Weeks 2-3]

Black Brian. 2007. “Brahmins and Women: Subjectivity and Gender Construction in the Upanishads” in *The Character of Self in Ancient India*. State University of New York Press. Albany. Chapter 4.

Dube, Leela.1988. “On the Construction of Gender: Hindu Girls in Patrilineal India.” *Economic and Political Weekly*. 23(18). WS11-WS19.

Ortner, Sherry. 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).

Narrain, Arvind and Vinay Chandra. (eds). 2015. *Nothing to Fix: Medicalization of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*. New Delhi Sage Publications. Chapter 3.

2.2 Production of Masculinity and Femininity [Weeks 4-6]

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).

Cornwall, Andrea and Nancy Lindisfarne (ed.). 1994 *Dislocating Masculinity: Comparative Ethnographies*. Routledge. Chapter 1.

Uberoi, Patricia “Feminine Identity and National Ethos in Indian Calendar Art” In *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol. 25, No. 17 (Apr. 28, 1990), (pp. WS41-WS48).

Unit 3. Differences and Inequalities

3.1 Class, Caste [Weeks 7-8]

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)

3.2 Family, Work [Weeks 9-10]

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]

Unit 4. Gender, Power and Resistance

4.1. Power and Subordination [Weeks 11-12]

Candace West and Don H. Zimmerman. 2002. "Doing Gender" in S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) *Gender: A Sociological Reader*. London: Routledge [pp 42-47].

Susie, Tharu and Tejaswini Niranjana. 1999. "Problems for a Contemporary theory of Gender" in Nivedita Menon (ed.) *Gender and Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press [pp 494-525].

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others." *American Anthropologist* 104 (3) [pp 783-790].

4.2. Resistance and Movements (Weeks 13-14)

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].

References:

Compulsory Readings

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others." *American Anthropologist* 104 (3) [pp 783-790].

Black Brian. 2007. "Brahmins and Women: Subjectivity and Gender Construction in the Upanishads" in *The Character of Self in Ancient India*. State University of New York Press. Albany. Chapter 4.

Candace West and Don H. Zimmerman. 2002. "Doing Gender" in S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) *Gender: A Sociological Reader*. London: Routledge [pp 42-47].

Dube, Leela.1988. "On the Construction of Gender: Hindu Girls in Patrilineal India." *Economic and Political Weekly*. 23(18). WS11-WS19.

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].

Jackson S. and S. Scott (eds.) 2002 *Gender: A Sociological Reader*, London: Routledge. Introduction, (pp. 1-26).

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].

Leela Dube 1996 "Caste and Women" in M.N. Srinivas (ed.) *Caste: Its twentieth century avatar*, New Delhi: Penguin (pp 1-27).

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).

Menon, Nivedita .2012. *Seeing like a Feminist*. India: Penguin. Introduction. Ortner, Sherry. 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).

Narrain, Arvind and Vinay Chandra. (eds). 2015. *Nothing to Fix: Medicalization of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*. New Delhi Sage Publications. Chapter 3. 1 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).

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].

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).

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).

Susie, Tharu and Tejaswini Niranjana. 1999. "Problems for a Contemporary theory of Gender" in Nivedita Menon (ed.) *Gender and Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press [pp 494-525].

Strathern, Marilyn. 1987. "An Awkward Relationship: The Case of Feminism and Anthropology." *Signs* 12(2):276-292.

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).

Additional Resources:

a) Books

Barrett, Michele. (1980). *Women's Oppression Today*. London. Verso.

Beauvoir, S. de (1992). *The Second Sex*. trans. H.M. Parshley. Harmondsworth. Penguin.

Butler, Judith. (1990). *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York. Routledge.

Connell, R. W. (1987) *Gender and Power*. Cambridge. Polity.

Delphy, Christine and Diana Leonard. (1992). *Familiar Exploitation: A New Analysis of Marriage in Contemporary Western Societies*. Cambridge. Polity.

Lerner Gerda. 1988. *The Creation of Patriarchy: The Origins of Women's Subordination. Women and History, Volume 1*. USA. OUP.

Sangari, Kumkum. and Sudesh Vaid, (ed). 1989. *Recasting Women: Essays in Colonial History*. India. Kali for Women/ Zuban Books

Mead, Margret. (1935). *Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies*. London. Routledge.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade, Ann Russo and Lourdes Torres. (1991). *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*. Bloomington. Indiana University Press.

Newton, Esther. (2000). *Margret Mead Made Me Gay: Personal Essays, Public Ideas*. London. Duke University Press.

Oakley, Ann. (1972). *Sex, Gender and Society*. London. Temple Smith.

b. Audio Visual Material:

‘Bol’, Shoaib Mansoor

‘Fire’, Deepa Mehta

‘The Danish Girl’, Tom Hooper

‘Born into Brothels’, Zana Briski, Ross Kauffman

‘Period. End of Sentence’, Rayka Zehtabchi

Teaching Learning Process:

This paper would enable to students to understand how gender relations inform our experience and realities. This would enable them to identify problematic links which perpetuates gender inequality and justice.

Students are introduced to the concept of gender as a social structure thereby not limiting gender injustice to individual events and agents but part of a systematic process.

The students will be engaging with different types of texts and documents which represent various subjectivities within several contexts like caste, class and race, thus promoting a gender just perspective which is objective and open to multicultural realities and concepts

Assessment Methods:

Assessment for this paper would be in the form of tests, written assignments, projects reports and presentations and field-work oriented tasks.

Key Words:

Sex and gender, sexuality, inequalities, power, subordination, social construction of masculinity and femininity, resistance, movements, family, caste, class, work.