

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

August-December 2017

School:	School of Human Studies
Programme with title:	MA Programme in Gender Studies
Semester to which offered:	Semester I
Course Title:	Family
Credits:	Four
Course Code (new):	SHS20280
Type of Course:	Compulsory

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory) X
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective

Course Coordinator and Team: Rachna Chaudhary

Email of course coordinator: **rachna@aud.ac.in**

Pre-requisites: Graduation

Aim: This course takes up family as both a site and ideology and traces the philosophical debates in idealist and materialist theorizations of family. The philosophical debates set up the discussion in the following sections of the course in which we explore ways in which Family becomes an object of enquiry in different

disciplinary framings. What are the implications, if any, of such disciplinary framings for Gender Studies in which Family is a key site for reinforcing heteronormativity and gender reproduction? How do familial patriarchies get configured in conjunction with market and state patriarchies? The course will look at how feminists have historicized the institution of family which is simultaneously a critical engagement with other disciplines as it is to emphasize multiple patriarchies at work of which family is a crucial part.

The emphasis would be on understanding law as one register of power through which family is constituted both materially and ideologically. Law is that modality of power which enables some of the most enduring confluences of state, family and market regimes. Yet it is also a terrain with which women's movement has most intensely engaged with for redressal and justice. An attempt would be made to highlight the 'permeability' of the family to the power of the state and to comprehend the workings of law as the instrument of that power.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Module 1. Family in Philosophy

Module 2. Family as the Object of Inquiry

Module 3. Historicising Family/ The Family in History: (4 lectures)

Module 4. The Theory and 'Workings' of Law

Module 5. Debates Around the Uniform Civil Code

References:

- Hegel – The Family from Philosophy of Right
- On Hegel, Women and Irony- Seyla Benhabib in Shanley and Pateman, Feminist Interpretations and Political Theory
- Engels- Selections from The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State

- The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex – Gayle Rubin
- John Rawls – Selections from A Theory of Justice
- John Rawls: Justice as Fairness – For Whom? – Susan Moller Okin Feminist Interpretations and Political Theory
- Pius Malekandathil, Woman, Church and the Syrian Christian Households in Pre-Modern Kerala, Kumkum Roy (ed.), Looking Within Looking Without: Exploring Households in the Subcontinent Through Time, Primus Books, Delhi, 2015, pp 253-276.
- David Lelyveld, Aligarh's First Generation – selections
- Uma Chakravarti, "Exploring a 'No-Conflict' Zone: Interest, Emotion and the Family in Early India", in Everyday Lives, Everyday Histories: Beyond the Kings and Brahmanas of 'Ancient' India, Tulika Books, New Delhi, 2012, pp. 253- 274.
- Collier, Jane and Rosaldo, Michelle Z. 2002. Is there a Family: New Anthropological Views. In Thorne, Barrie and Yalom, Marilyn. 2002. *Rethinking the Family: Some Feminist Questions*. Boston: Northeastern University Press. Pp. 31-48.
- Thorne, Barrie. 2002. Feminism and the Family: Two Decades of thought. In Thorne, Barrie and Yalom, Marilyn. 2002. *Rethinking the Family: Some Feminist Questions*. Boston: Northeastern University Press. Pp. 3-30.
- Menon, Nivedita. 2012. "Family" in *Seeing like a Feminist*. New Delhi: Zubaan (Penguin Books). 1-49.
- Rapp, Rayna, Examining Family History. In Feminist Studies, Vo. 5, No. 1. Pp. 174-181.
- Kannabiran, Kalpana, 2006. 'Three-Dimensional Family: Remapping a Multidisciplinary Approach to family studies' in Economic and political weekly, vol. 41 No. 42. Pp. 4427-4433.
- Janet Halley and Kerry Rittich, Critical Directions in Comparative Family Law: Genealogies and Contemporary Studies of Family Law Exceptionalism Critical Directions in Comparative Family Law (Fall 2010), Vol. 58 (4) pp. 753-775.
- Nivedita Menon, Recovering Subversion: Feminist Politics Beyond the Law, Permanent Black, 2011, pp 1-25.

- Kumkum Sangari, Politics of Diversity: Religious Communities and Multiple Patriarchies Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 30, No. 52 (Dec. 30, 1995), pp. 3381-3389
- Kumkum Sangari, Politics of Diversity Religious Communities and Multiple Patriarchies, Economic and Political Weekly December 23, 1995, 3287- 3310.
- Feminism and Multicultural Dilemmas in India: Revisiting the Shah Bano Case
Author(s): Siobhan Mullally Source: Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, Vol. 24, No. 4 (Winter, 2004), pp. 671-692

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Attendance and participation	Over the semester	20%
2	Assessment 1	September 1 st week	40%
3	Assessment 2	November 1st week	40%
4			
5			