

**School of Human Studies**  
**Ambedkar University Delhi**

**Course Outline**

**Time Slot-**\_\_\_\_\_

**Course Code:** M12

**Title:** Gender body subjectivity

**Type of Course:** Compulsory

**Cohort for which it is compulsory:** MPhil Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy

**Cohort for which it is elective:** All other Research Degrees

**No of Credits:** 4

**Semester and Year Offered:** 2nd Semester Winter

**Course Coordinator and Team:** Mamatha Karollil and Rachana Johri

**Email of course coordinator:** [mamatha@audac.in](mailto:mamatha@audac.in)

**Pre-requisites:**

**Aim:** This course will foreground psychoanalytical and feminist thinking on the question of body. The course is premised on an understanding that gendered bodies are central to both psychoanalytical and feminist texts from the very moment of their origins.

**Course Objective:**

The primary objective of this course will be to reexamine the question of body, emotional states and those marked by crisis through the lens of gendered experience. Women's voices in psychoanalytical theory will be foregrounded, even as the question of subjectivity and its formation will be kept open for exploration and examination.

Bodies figure in psychoanalytical renderings of 'symptomatic States', whether hysteria, anorexia or cutting, in the rendering of sexuality, the contestation around the binary of male and female and questions of maternity. Beginning with the Freudian rendering of bodies, this course will introduce readers to later renderings that have emerged at the intersections of Psychoanalysis and feminism. The twofold aims of the course are to provide students with a preliminary understanding of the multiple renderings of the gendered body in varied theorizations. At the same time each unit of the course will center around the discussion of an experiential reality that may find its way in the clinical encounters

faced by practitioners. In drawing from a variety of traditions, this course will also critically engage with the question of symptoms and their relationship to cultures.

**Course Content:**

- 1.The body and body ego, the skin as surface
- 2.Cutting: the gendered body; the problematic of male and female binary
- 3.Sexuality and Bisexuality: The question of perversions?
- 4.Women, patriarchy and distressed bodies; Hysteria and Anorexia,Possession states
- 5.Motherhood and maternal subjectivity: Postnatal depression: the inability to care
- 6.Masculinity: its construction and crisis

**Assessment Details with weights:**

1. Presentations
2. Term paper
3. Class Presentation

**Reading list**

Appignanesi Lisa (2009) Mad, bad and sad: A history of women and the mind doctors. Florida: MacMillan

Balsam, Rosemary. (2012) Women' bodies in Psychoanalysis. New York: Columbia University Press

Bordo, Susan (2003). Unbearable weight. Feminism, western culture and the body.

Cahill, Ann, J. and Jennifer Hansen (2004) Continental Feminism Reader. England: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

Cauchon, Janet Wirth (2001). Women and borderline personality disorder. U.S.A: Rutgers University Press.

Diamond, Nicola (2002) *Between Skins: The Body in Psychoanalysis - Contemporary Developments*.

Dimen, Muriel and Virginia Goldner (2001). *Gender in psychoanalytic space*. New York: Columbia University Press

Freud, Sigmund. (1912) *The ego and the id*. Standard Edition of the Complete Works. U.K. Penguin

Grosz, Elizabeth (1994). *Volatile Bodies. Towards a corporeal feminism*

Hook, Derek. *Psychoanalysis, sexual difference and the castration problematic*.

Horner, Avril and Angela Keane (2000)

Irigaray, L and Mary Green (2008) *Teachings*.

Kakar Sudhir (1982) *Shamans, Mystics and doctors*. Viking: New Delhi

Orbach, Susan (2010). *Bodies*. Profile Books. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Pines, Dinora (2010). *A Woman's Unconscious Use of Her Body: A Psychoanalytical Perspective*, Taylor & Francis

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