

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

WINTER SEMESTER (January –May 2018)

School: School of Human Sciences

Programme with title: M.A. GENDER STUDIES

Semester to which offered: Winter 2017

Course Title: Global Feminism

Credits: 4

Course Code SHS202832

Course Code (old):

Type of Course:

Course Coordinator and Team:

Email of course coordinator:

Pre-requisites:

Aim:

The course asks the question, is there global feminism? The multiple images that form at the invocation of the word include, among others, seeing it as an idea for the purpose of representation, a movement, with representational logic as well as embodied practices. The possibility of it being both is also not unimaginable. What does it represent and to whom and to what effect? It will attempt to understand the unintended/intended effects of the global on the local/national/regional feminisms and the relationship between these strands.

The course traces some of the important moments in the making of “global feminism” as a category – the radical feminist moment of the 70s USA, where a feminist like Robin Morgan came up with the slogan, “sisterhood is global” and the U.N. development decades of the 60s and 70s which “added” women globally into development goals for the globe. The “global” of the former moment emerges from a theorization of patriarchy as universal. The developmental moment, on the other hand, imagines individual nation states as responsible for the

“improvement” of their respective subjects and therefore, the logic of adding up national state driven initiatives for women adding up to form the entity called global feminism.

The idea of global is being continuously critiqued for producing a universal understanding of feminism, assuming homogeneity and producing a universal idea of its subject of this feminism, the universal woman, who needs to be uplifted, empowered, ‘made’ independent. The paradigm of development then becomes a mode of legitimising Western intervention in ‘empowering’ women of the Third World. The importance of solidarity and advocacy is important, but the positions of power inherent are also to be recognised.

Readings for Global Feminism

Making of Global Feminism: The “Second Wave” Moment in the West

Morgan, Robin. “Planetary Feminism: The Politics of the 21st Century.” In *Sisterhood is Global: The International Women’s Movement Anthology*. New York: The Feminist Press, 1989. pp: 1-38.

Bell Hooks. “Sisterhood: Political Solidarity between Women.” *Feminist Review*, No. 23, (Summer, 1986), pp. 125-138.

Drawing Histories for “the” Feminism:

Mary Wollstonecraft, Chapter 13 (“Folly which the ignorance of women generates”), *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792).

Harriet Taylor Mill, excerpt from “Enfranchisement of Women,” *Westminster Review* (July 1851): 295-96. Reprinted in Ann P. Robson and John M. Robson, eds., *Sexual Equality: Writings by John Stuart Mill, Harriet Taylor Mill, and Helen Taylor* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994), 178-203.

The Bostonians or *Iron Jawed Angels* - Films, both available on Youtube

Sojourner Truth. “Ain’t I a Woman? Women’s Convention, Akron, Ohio, 28-29. May 1851.

The “Other” Global Feminism: Feminist internationalisms in 19th and Early 20th Century Europe

Goldman, Emma. *The Tragedy of Woman’s Emancipation*

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/goldman/works/1906/tragedy-women.htm>

Luxemburg, Rosa. "Women's Suffrage and Class Struggle."

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/1912/05/12.htm>

Leila Rupp and Verta Taylor, 'Forging Feminist Identity in an International Movement: A Collective Identity Approach to Twentieth-Century Feminism', *Signs*, 1999.

Kollontai, Alexandra. "Communism and the Family." 1920

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/kollonta/1920/communism->

Zetkin, Clara. "Only in Conjunction With the Proletarian Woman Will Socialism

Be Victorious." (1896) <http://www.marxists.org/archive/zetkin/1896/10/women.htm>

Ghodsee, Kristen. "Red Nostalgia? Communism, Women's Emancipation, and Economic Transformation in Bulgaria." *L'Homme Z. F. G.* 15, 1 (2004). pp: 21-36.

Global Women's Movement: The Development Debates

Antrobus, Peggy. *The Global Women's Movement: Origin, Issues, Strategies.* Bangalore: Books for Change, 2004.

Walby, Sylvia. "Feminism in a Global Era." *Economy and Society Volume 31 Number 4 November 2002: 533–557.*

Rathgeber, Eva M. "WID, WAD, GAD: Trends in Research and Practice." *The Journal of Developing Areas*, Vol. 24, No. 4 (Jul., 1990), pp. 489-502.

Escobar, Arturo. "Power and Visibility: Tales of Peasants, Women, and the Environment." *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995. 154-211.

Saunders, Kriemild *Feminist Post-Development Thought: Rethinking Modernity, Post-Colonialism, and Representation*. New York: The Feminist Press, 2002.

Gibson-Graham, [J. K.](#). *A Postcapitalist Politics*. University of Minnesota Press, 2006 (Selections)

Ong, Aihwa. *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline: Factory Women in Malaysia..* Albany: State University of New York Press, 1987. Pp: p xiii_p 10.

Making of "Third world" Feminism

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. *Under Western Eyes*. (Excerpts).

Narayan, Uma. *Dislocating Cultures*. (Excerpts).

John, Mary. *Discrepant Dislocations*. (Excerpts).

Jayawardena, Kumari;. *Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World*. Zed Books, 1986. (Excerpts).

Universalism/Feminism: Contemporary Debates

Saba Mahmood, Introduction *Politics of Piety* [selections] -

Benhabib in *Feminist Contentions* – Feminist problem with postmodernism

Nancy Fraser, “Feminism, Capitalism, and the Cunning of History”

Globalizing difference

Pandita Ramabai, “The Condition of Women”, in *The Peoples of the United States*, in MeeraKosambi, ed. and trans., *Pandita Ramabai’s American Encounter* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2003). –

Susan Moller Okin, ‘Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?’

Kimberle Crenshaw, ‘Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence against Women’, *Stanford Law Review*.

Assessment:

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Weightage	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Assessment
1	20%	Continuous Class Assessment	Assesement 1
2	40%	Feb-March	Assesement 2
3	40%	April-May	Assesement 3

