

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Monsoon Semester (July -December 2017)

School: School of Human Sciences

Programme with title: MA Gender Studies

Semester to which offered: Semester -3

Course Title: Health

Credits: 4

Course Code (new): SHS202805

Course Code (old):

Type of Course: Core

Course Coordinator and Team: ???

Email of course coordinator: ???

Pre-requisites: Enrolled in MA programmes

Aim:

What the course attempts to do:

What do we understand by the concept called 'health?' Dominant definition of 'health' is the absence of disease. Modern medicine's promise of curing all that is pathological or dysfunctional has enabled a certain way of understanding the human body. What happens when the concepts of normality and abnormality extends its judgment to behaviour, life style and mental health? Medicine and medical practice can then become both caring and controlling. Modern medicine and science have in fact provided the specific knowledge or a guide to understanding and looking at our body. The course will seek to understand health care and systems of health care delivery developed on the basis of science and modern medicine. We will explore critiques, by both public health and feminist activists and scholars, of this conceptual understanding of health and health care systems. It will also look at the critiques of modern medicine and regimes of scientific knowledge and technology that frame the human body in specific ways and generate forms of governmentality that (self) regulate activities of individuals and populations.

The course will give an overview of critical issues in public health and will foreground women, especially the more vulnerable strata of women, to mark an entry point into debates around science, modern medicine, illness, well-being and offer critiques and alternatives to the current challenges of envisioning a people oriented health care system. It will look at ways in which bio-medical discourse produces race, gender, caste and class and differentially structures women and men's experiences of health. The course will cover a broad range of health issues for which gender has been of specific importance. It will also locate the concerns of women's health and well being in the larger context of socio historical, economic and political realities. It seeks to understand the biological, psychosocial and political factors affecting women's health and also analyze the ways in which this understanding is integrated into existing public health initiatives.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Unit 1: Health and Health Care Systems: Critiques and Framing the Questions

- A pamphlet; Rise of modern medicine and displacing women healers
- Social Determinants of Health; a public health perspective
- Developmental medicine: an answer to the call of the sick?

Essential Readings:

1. Ehrenreich, Barbara and Deirdre English (1973) *Witches, Midwives and Nurses: A History of Women Healers*, New York: The Feminist Press.
2. Szreter, Simon (1997). 'Economic Growth, Disruption, Deprivation, Disease and Death: On the importance of the Politics of Public Health for Development'
3. Zachariah, Anand, R, Srivatsan and Susie Tharu (2011), *Towards a Critical Medical Practice: Reflections on the Dilemmas of Medical Culture Today*, (introduction) New Delhi: Orient Blackswan.
4. Crimp Douglas (eds.) (1987) *AIDS Cultural Analysis. Cultural Activism*, MIT Press. Selections

Unit 2: Women and Health: Critical Issues

- Demographic indicators and health statistics: examining differentials between genders and within women
- Declining sex ratio

- Maternal mortality
- Nutritional status and nutritional discrimination against girls and women
- Access and utilization of health services
- Diseases: communicable, non-communicable (TB/Anemia/BMI/Osteoporosis/Depression)

Essential Readings:

5. Qadeer, Imrana (2002), "Gender and Health: Beyond Numbers" in Shaila Desouza (ed.) *Women's Health in Goa A Holistic Approach*, Concept Publishing House, New Delhi, pp 3-33.
6. Banerji, Nirmala and Jain, Devaki (2001), "Indian Sex Ratio through time and space: Development from Women's Perspective", in Mazumdar, Veena and Krishnaji, N. (ed.). *Enduring Conundrum: India's Sex Ratio: Essays in Honour of Asok Mitra*, Delhi, Rainbow, pp 73-119. (CWDS/AUD library)
7. Mary Barker, Ginny Chorghade, Sarah Crozier, Sam Leary, and Caroline Fall (2006) "Gender Differences in Body Mass Index in Rural India Are Determined by Socio-Economic Factors and Lifestyle," *The Journal of Nutrition, Nutritional Epidemiology*, jn.nutrition.org
8. Sathyamala, C. (2005) 'Women's Health Movement in Independent India,' In Amiya Kumar Bagchi and Krishna Soman (Eds.) *Maladies, Preventives and Curatives: Debates in Public Health in India*, New Delhi: Tulika Books
9. Shatrugna, Veena, Nirmala Soundarajan, P.Sundaraiah and Leela Raman (2008) *Backpain ,The Feminine Affliction*. In M. John (ed.) *Women's Studies in India: A Reader*, New Delhi: Penguin Books
10. Davar, Bhargavi.V (2008) *Our Mind Our Madness*. In M. John (ed.) *Women's Studies in India: A Reader*, New Delhi: Penguin Books
11. Ghai, Anita (1999) *Living in the shadow of my Disability* . In *The Journal, Vol. 1(1) June*, 32-36
12. Jeffery, Patricia and Roger Jeffery (2010), *Only when the boat has started sinking: A maternal death in rural north India*, *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol. 71, pp. 1711-1718.
13. Trollope-Kumar, Karen, "Speaking Through the Body: Leukorrhea as a bodily idiom of communication in Garhwal, India" (2001). *Open Access Dissertations and Theses*. Paper 2423.

Supplementary Readings:

Sunny Jose, K Navaneetham (2008). 'A Factsheet on Women's Malnutrition in India' Economic & Political Weekly, August 16.

P.N. Mari Bhat (2002). 'Levels and Differentials in Maternal Mortality in Rural India: New Evidence from Sisterhood Data' National Council of Applied Economic Research, March.

Enough is Enough: Report on the Campaign against the Hazardous Hormonal Contraceptive, Net-En, Saheli.

Chronicle of deaths foretold (Quinacrine report), Saheli

Sethuraman, Kavita and Nata Duvvury (2007), The Nexus of Gender Discrimination with Malnutrition: An Introduction, Economic and Political Weekly, Nov 3, pp 49-53

Sen, Gita, Iyer, Aditi and George, Asha (2002), "Class, Gender and Health Equity: Lessons from Liberalising India" in Gita Sen, Asha George and Pirooska Ostlin (Ed), Engendering International Health, MIT Press, Massachusetts

Gopalan Sarla and Shiva Mira (2000), National Profile on Women, Health and Development –Country Profile-India, New Delhi, VHA, and WHO.

UNICEF (1991), Children and Women in India: A Situational Analysis, 1990, New Delhi, UNICEF.

Qadeer, I. (1998): Reproductive Health: A Public Health Perspective, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol 33, No.44, pp 2675-2684

McNay, Kirsty (1995) Fertility and Frailty. Demographic Change and Health and Status of Indian Women Economic and Political Weekly, Oct 28, pp WS 81-86.

Premi, M.K. (2001), The Missing Girl Child, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXVI, No. 21, pp 1875-1880.

Sundar Rajan, Rajeshwari (2003) The Scandal of the State. Women, Law, and Citizenship in Postcolonial India. Permanent Black. New Delhi. Chapter: Children of the State? Unwanted girls in rural Tamil Nadu, pp 177-211.

George, Sabu and Ranbir S.Dahiya (1998) Female foeticide in rural Haryana, Economic and Political Weekly, 33(32), pp 2191-2198.

Dasgupta, Monica (1998), "Fertility Decline in Punjab, India: Parallels with Historical Europe" in Martine George et al (ed), Reproductive change in India and Brazil, Delhi, OUP, pp. 65-96.

Krishnan, T.N. (1998), "Social Development and Fertility Reduction in Kerala", in Martine, George et al (ed); Reproductive change in India and Brazil, Delhi, OUP, pp. 37-64.

Soman, Krishna (1994), Trends in Maternal Mortality, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 29, No.44, pp 2859-60.

Ganguli, Geetanjali (2004), "Women as vectors. Health and Rights of Sex workers in India", in Mohan Rao (ed) *The Unheard Scream: Reproductive Health and Women's Lives in India*, Zubaan Publications and Panos Institute, pp 87-108 (need the book)

Roy, Kakoli and Chaudhuri, Anoshua (2008), Influence of socioeconomic status, wealth and financial empowerment on gender differences in health and healthcare utilization in later life: evidence from India, *Social Science & Medicine*, No 66, pp. 1951-1962.

Unit 3: Social Determinants of Health: Social Epidemiology Perspectives

Essential Readings:

1. Raphael, Dennis (2006). 'Social Determinants of Health; Present Status; Unanswered Questions and Future Directions' *International Journal of Health Services*, Volume 36, Number 4, Pages 651–677.
2. Baru Rama et'al (2010), Inequities in Access to Health Services in India: Caste, Class and Region, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 14, no 38, pp. 49-58.
3. E. Premdas Pinto and Manisha Gupte () *Social Discrimination in Health (with Reference to Caste, Class, Gender and Religious Minorities)*, Concept Note, 40th Annual meet, Medico Friends Journal.
4. Fassin Didier (2003) "The Embodiment of Inequality," *EMBO reports* VOL 4, special issue.
5. Shatrugna V; Vidyasagar P & Sujatha T (1993). 'Women's Work and Reproductive Health' 197-198-199-200 & 201 *Medico Friend Circle Bulletin*; August-December 1993, pp 1-5
6. Doyal, Lesely (1995), *What makes Women sick: Gender and the Political Economy of Health*, London, Macmillan, select chapters
7. Swaminathan, Padmini (2002), "Women, Work and Health: Issues for Consideration", in Khanna R., Shiva, M., and Gopalan, S., [eds], *Towards Comprehensive Women's Health: Programmes and Policy*, SAHAJ, Baroda, pp. 442-459
8. Walters, Vivienne and Nickie Charles (1997), "I just cope from day to day": Unpredictability and anxiety in the lives of women, *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 45, Issue 11, December, pp. 1729-1739
9. Avotri, Joyce Yaa and Vivienne Walters(1999), "You just look at our work and see if you have any freedom on earth": Ghanaian women's accounts of their work and their health, *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 48, Issue 9, May, pp. 1123-1133
10. Kalathil, J (2011). 'After Ervadi: Healing and Human Rights in the Context of Mental

Health,' in Zachariah, Anand , R, Srivatsan and Susie Tharu, *Towards a Critical Medical Practice: Reflections on the Dilemmas of Medical Culture Today*, New Delhi: Orient Blackswan .

11. Bisht, R. (forthcoming), “Caste, Gender, Health: The Experiences Of Work And Child Bearing Among Dalit Women Of Garhwal”, in Imrana Qadeer (ed) *Glimmerings of an Awakening - Dalit Women's Health and Rights*, Zubaan (English) and Yatra/Penguin (Hindi)

Supplementary Readings:

Sathyamala, C., Nirmala Sundharam and Nalini Bhanot (1986) *Taking Sides: The choices before the health worker*, New Delhi: Asian Network for Innovative Training Trust (ANITRA)

Pal, M. et.al. (Ed.). (2009). *Gender and Discrimination: Health, Nutrition and role of women in India*. Oxford.

Mitra, A. (2001). Implications of Declining Sex Ratio in India. In Mazumdar, V and Krishnaji, N. (Ed.). *Enduring Conundrum: India's Sex Ratio*. Delhi: Rainbow. pp- 143-198

Loewenson, R. (1991), “Harvest of Disease: Women at work on Zimbabwean Plantations”, in M. Turshan (ed.), *Women and Health in Africa*, Troton N. J, Africa World Press.

National Commission on Self Employed Women (1988), *Occupational health Issues of Women in the Unorganized Sector- Report of the Task Force on Health*, New Delhi, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Swaminathan, Padmini (2009), Outside the Realm of Protective Labour Legislation: Saga of Unpaid Labour in India, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol xiv no 44, pp 80-87

English, Deirdre and Barbara Ehrenreich. (1973). *Complaints and Disorders: The Sexual Politics of Sickness*. New York: Feminist Press.

Unit 4: Reproduction, Technology and Health

- Politics of Reproduction: Fertility, Population Control, Abortion
- Shift in the rhetoric from population control to reproductive rights
- Reproductive technologies and Medicalisation of women's bodies
- Surrogacy

Essential Readings:

- 1) Imrana Qadeer (2010) *NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND HEALTH CARE IN NEO-LIBERAL INDIA: ESSAYS*, Monograph, CWDS

- 2) Agnihotri Gupta, Jyotsna (2000) *New Reproductive Technologies, Women's Health and Autonomy: Freedom or Dependency?*, New Delhi: Sage. Chapters 6 and 7
- 3) Hodges Sarah (2004) Governmentality, Population and Reproductive Family in Modern India; *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 39, No. 11 (Mar. 13-19), pp. 1157-1163
- 4) Sangari Kumkum (2015) *Solid: Liquid. A (Trans) National Reproductive Formation*, Tulika Books, New Delhi. Selections
- 5) Forum Against Sex Determination and Sex Pre-selection. 'Using Technology, Choosing Sex. The Karkal, M (1993) 'Reproductive Technologies and the Third World' 197-198-199-200 & 201 *Medico Friend Circle Bulletin*; August-December 1993, pp 11-14
- 6) Van Hollen, Cecilia (2003), Invoking Vali: Painful Technologies of Modern Birth in South India, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 17(1), pp. 49-77.
- 7) Fried, M. (2006) Politics of abortion, *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 229-245
- 8) Jeffery, Patricia, Roger Jeffery and Craig Jeffrey (2008), Disputing Contraception: Muslim Reform, Secular Change and Fertility, *Modern Asian Studies* 42, 2/3 pp. 519–548.
- 9) SAMA Team (2009) Assisted Reproductive Technologies in India: Implications for Women, *Economic and Political Weekly*, June 9, pp. 2184-2189

Supplementary Readings:

Van Hollen Cecilia (2003) *Birth on the Threshold Childbirth and Modernity in South India*, University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles, California.

Sharma B.R., N. Gupta and N. Relhan (2007), Misuse of prenatal diagnostic technology for sex-selected abortions and its consequences in India, *Public Health*, 121, pp 854–860

Lingam, Lakshmi (1998) Reproductive Technologies and the Violation of Women's Bodies In Lakshmi Lingam (Ed.) *Understanding Women's Health Issues: A Reader*, New Delhi: Kali for Women.

Simon-Kumar, Rachel (2007), Neo-liberal Development and Reproductive Health in India: The Making of the Personal and the Political, *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*; 14:3, pp 355-385

Fox Keller Evelyn (2001) 'Gender and Science. An Update' in (eds. Mary Wyer et. al) *Women, Science and Technology. A Reader in Feminist Science Studies*, Routledge, New York, London, pp 132-142

Unit 4: Population, Gender and Politics

Essential Readings:

- 1) Hodgson, Dennis and Susan Cotts Watkins(1997) Feminists and Neo-Malthusians: Past and Present Alliances. In *Population and Development Review* 23(3): 469-523
- 2) Petchesky, Rosalind Pollack (1995) From Population Control to Reproductive Rights: Feminist Fault Lines. In *Reproductive Health Matters, 3(6) Women's Health Policies: Organising for Change :152-161*
- 3) Hodges, S. (2006). Indian Eugenic in an Age of Reform. In Hodges, S. (Ed.) *Reproductive Health in India: History, Politics, Controversies*. Orient Longman.
- 4) Jeffrey, Roger and Patricia Jeffrey(1997) *Population, gender and politics: Demographic change in rural north India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, UK. In particular Chapter 4, "Women's Agency and Fertility", and Chapter 6, "Fighting with Numbers".
- 5) Rao, M and Sexton, S (2010) "Introduction: Population, Gender, And Health In Neo-Liberal Times" in Mohan Rao, Sarah Sexton (eds) *Markets And Malthus : Population, Gender, And Health In Neo-Liberal Times*, Sage Publication, New Delhi, pp. 1-30

Supplementary Readings:

Galton, David J. and Claire J. Galton(1998) Francis Galton: And Eugenics Today. In *Journal of Medical Ethics* 24(2):99-105

Qadeer I. and Nalini Viswanathan (2004) "How Healthy are health and population policies", in Arachu Castro and Merrill Singer, (eds) *Unhealthy Health Policies*, Altamira Press, NY. Population policy. Pp 145-162

Mohan Rao and Sarah Sexton (Eds.). (2010). *Markets and Malthus: Population, Gender and Health in Neo-Liberal Times*, New Delhi: Sage

Unit 6: Configurations of 'Health' and Crisis of Health Care

Essential Readings:

- 1) Foucault, Michel () "Crisis of Medicine or the Crisis of Anti-Medicine" *Foucault Studies*, No 1, pp. 5-19, December 2004
- 2) Sontag, Susan, and Heywood Hale Broun. *Illness as metaphor*. Center for Cassette Studies, 1977.
- 3) Fassin, Didier (2001). "The Biopolitics of Otherness," *ANTHROPOLOGY TODAY*, VOL 17 NO 1, FEBRUARY.

- 4) Lock, Margaret and Nguyen Vinh-Kim (2010) *An Anthropology of Biomedicine*, (introduction) Wiley-Blackwell Publications, UK.
- 5) Imrana Qadeer (2011) *Public Health in India: Critical Reflections*, (introduction) Danish Books, Delhi.
- 6) Jacob, K.S. (2011). 'Reclaiming Primary Care: Managing Depression and Anxiety in a Different Framework,' in Zachariah, Anand, R, Srivatsan and Susie Tharu, *Towards a Critical Medical Practice: Reflections on the Dilemmas of Medical Culture Today*, New Delhi: Orient Blackswan.
- 7) Anup Dhar, Anjan Chakrabarti, Pratiksha Bannerjee () *The Political Economy of Mental Health in India*.
- 8) Steve Brouwer (2011) *Revolutionary Doctors. How Venezuela and Cuba are Changing the World's Conception of Health Care*, Monthly Review Press, New York.
- 9) Luce Irigaray and Edith Oberle (1985) "Is the Subject of Science Sexed?" *Cultural Critique*, No. 1 (Autumn), pp. 73-88

Supplementary Readings:

Jeremy Youde (2010) *BIOPOLITICAL SURVEILLANCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS*, PALGRAVE MACMILLAN, New York

C Sathyamala () *Review of Critical Medical Practice*

Sontag, Susan. *AIDS and its metaphors*. London: Penguin, 1989.

Michel Foucault The Birth of Biopolitics. LECTURES AT THE COLLÈGE DE FRANCE, 1978–79, (ed.) Michel Senellart, Palgrave Macmillan, New York.

Pamela K. Gilbert (2007) *The Citizen's Body: Desire, Health, and the Social in Victorian England*, The Ohio State University Press, Columbus.

Biswamoy Pati and Mark Harrison (2009) *The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India*, Routledge, London and New York

Unit 7: Feminist Critiques: Building Alternative Knowledge and Approaches to Healing

- Women as healers and their gradual marginalization: reclaiming knowledge
- Our bodies; our experience: journey towards evolving alternative knowledge

- Reclaiming Women's rights to their own bodies and health self help movement

Essential Readings:

- 1) Khanna, Renu, Mira Shiva and Saralan Gopalan (Eds.) (2002), Part 4. Traditional Systems of Medicines and Women's Health, 169-204 in *Towards Comprehensive Women's Health Programmes and Policy*, Vadodara: SAHAJ.
- 2) Sabala and Kranti (1996). *Na Shariram Nadhi : My Body is mine*.
- 3) Boston Women's Health Book Collective. (2008). *Our Bodies Ourselves: Pregnancy and Birth*. Simon and Schuster.
- 4) Swatija, M & Shah, C. (1996) 'Towards a New Perspective on Women's Bodies. Learning and Unlearning Together,' EPW, Vol XXXI, Nos. 16 and 17, April 20-27, pp WS 35-38.

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Weightage	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Assessment
1	40%	5-October-2017	Assesment 1
2	40%	5-November-2017	Assesment 2
3	20%	6-November-2017	Assesment 3

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