

School of Human Studies
Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Time Slot-__TBC_____

Course Code: SHS202806

Title: Masculinities

Type of Course: Core

Cohort for which it is compulsory: MA Gender Studies, Semester 3

Cohort for which it is elective: All MA students at AUD

No of Credits: 2

Semester and Year Offered: Monsoon Semester 2017

Course Coordinator and Team: Rachna Chaudhary

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

Pre-requisites: Graduation and some basic understanding of Feminist Theory

Aim:

1. To theorise gender as a category of analysis with emphasis on masculinity.
2. An examination of Indian masculinities historically and in contemporary context.
3. A review of masculinity studies in India

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Masculinity as a field of enquiry is important to theorise gender as a category of analysis. The course looks at masculinity as socially produced but embodied ways of

being male. Its manifestations include manners of speech, behaviour, gestures, social interaction, a division of tasks proper to men and women (men work in offices, women do housework), and an overall narrative that positions it as superior to The discourse of masculinity as a dominant and superior gender position is produced at a number of sites and has specific consequences for 'other' genders especially its perceived antithesis, femininity. These sites include: customary laws and regulations, the state and its mechanisms, the family, religious norms and sanctions, popular culture, and, the media. The mass media is one of the most important means for the transmission, circulation and reception of local and global masculine identities. With the rise of new technologies of media and communication, representations of masculinities find both local and global anchoring. In this sense, the media becomes a transformative force field with a capacity to change structures of belief. This course will explore various historical, cultural, political and social contexts through which ideas of masculinity / masculinities circulate and take shape. A review of masculinity studies in India will also be undertaken. The significance of detaching Masculinity from men's bodies is emphasized to comprehend the difference in context of different identity locations.

Unit 1: Theorising Masculinity

Unit 2: Masculinity and History: Pre-Colonial, Colonial and Post-colonial Contexts

- Indian Masculinities before Colonialism
- Masculinities and the Colonial Era: the Making of Indian Men
- Post-colonial Masculinities: The Nation and its Men

Unit 3: Learning to be a Man

- Family
- Schooling

- Religion
- Work
- Caste

Unit 4: Masculinity and Sexuality

- Men, Women and Sexuality
- Heterosexuality, Homosexuality and Masculinity

Unit 5: Masculinities, 'Honour' and Violence

- Losing Masculinity, Maintaining Masculinity
- War and Masculinity

Unit 7: Masculinities, Beauty, Physicality and Fitness

- Making-up the Male Body
- Masculinity in Performance

Assessment Details with weights:

1. Attendance and participation – 20%
2. Assessment 1 (September)– 40%
3. Assessment 2 (November) – 40%

Reading List:

Alter, J. (1992). Hanuman: Shakti, Bhakti and Brahmacharya. In *The Wrestler's Body: Identity and Ideology in North India*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and Subversion of Identity*. 1990.

Butler, Judith. *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"*. 1993.

Bannerjee, S. (2005). 'Cultural Nationalism, Masculine Hinduism and Contemporary Hindutva' in *Make me a Man! Masculinity, Hinduism and Nationalism in India*. New York: SUNY Press.

Chopra, R. (2006). 'Invisible Men: Masculinity, Sexuality and Male Domestic Labour', *Men and Masculinities*, 9 (2): 152-167.

Osella, C., Chopra, R. and Osella, R. (eds.) *South Asian Masculinities. Contexts of Change, Sites of Continuity*. Delhi: Women Unlimited.

Jain, K. (2004). 'Muscularity and its Ramifications: Mimetic Male Bodies in Indian Mass Culture'. In Sanjay Srivastava (ed.) *Sexual Sites, Seminal Attitudes. Sexualities, Masculinities and Culture in South Asia*. New Delhi: Sage.

Kandiyoti, D. (1994). 'The Paradoxes of Masculinity: Some Thoughts on Segregated Societies', in Cornwall and Lindisfarne (Ed). *Dislocating Masculinity. Comparative Ethnographies*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Messner, M. (2000). 'Men and Masculinities'. In *Politics of Masculinities*. Lanham: AltaMira Press.

O'Hanlon, R. (1997). "Issues of Masculinity in North India History." *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 4: 1-19.

Osella, C and Osella, F. (2006). 'Introduction: Masculinities in South Asia'. In *Men and Masculinities in South India*. London: Anthem Press.

Rosselli, J. (1980). "The Self-image of effeteness: Physical Education and Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century Bengal." *Past and Present* 86: 121-148.

Sen, P. (2005). "Crimes of Honour, Value and Meaning". In Lynn Welchman and Sarah Hossain, (eds.) *'Honour'. Crimes, paradigms, and violence against women*. London: Zed Books.

Nandy, Ashis. 1983. *The Intimate Enemy: Loss and Recovery of Self under Colonialism*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Sinha, Mrinalini. 1995. *Colonial Masculinity: The 'Manly Englishman' and the 'Effeminate Bengali' in Late Nineteenth Century*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Srivastava, Sanjay. 2004a. Introduction: Semen, History, Desire and Theory. In *Sexual Sites, Seminal Attitudes: Sexualities, Masculinities and Culture in South Asia*, ed. Sanjay Srivastava, 11-48. New Delhi, Thousand Oaks, London: Sage.

Rao, Anupama. "The Sexual Politics of Caste: Violence and the Ritual Archaic." in *The Caste Question: Dalits and the Politics of Modern India*. Ranikhet: Permanent Black. 2009. pp: 217-240.

Kodoth, *Shifting the Ground of Fatherhood: Matriliny, Men and Marriage in Early Twentieth Century Malabar*. Working Paper Series 359. Thiruvananthapuram: Centre for Development Studies.2003.

Anandhi S. et al. "Work, Caste and Competing Masculinities : Notes from a Tamil Village." *The Economic and Political Weekly*. Oct 26, 2002. pp: 4397-4406.

Ray, Raka. "Culture of Servitude." Religion and Masculinities

Mehta, Deepak. "Circumcision, Body, Masculinity." in Veena Das et al (eds). *Violence and Subjectivity*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009. pp: 79-101.

Gupta, Charu. *Sexuality, Obscenity, Community: Women, Muslims and the Hindu Public in Colonial India*. Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2001.pp: 222-320.

Srinivasan, Deepa. *Sculpting the Middle Class: History, Masculinity and the Amar Chitra Katha*. Routledge, 2010.

Kakkar, Sudhir. 1989. *Intimate Relations: Exploring Indian Sexuality*. New Delhi: Viking. 118-122 (anxiety of loss of semen)

Chowdhury, Indira. *The Frail Hero and Virile History: Gender and the Politics of Culture in Colonial*. Delhi: OUP, 1994.

Sarkar, Tanika. 2001. *Hindu Wife, Hindu Nation: Community, Religion and Cultural Nationalism*. New Delhi: Permanent Black. 250-267.

Srivastava, Sanjay (Ed.) *Sexual Sites, Seminal Attitudes: Sexualities, Masculinities and Culture in South Asia*. Sage, 2004.

Reddy, Gayatri. *With Respect to Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

The f2M trans manifesto

Maddox, Georginia. Essay on being a butch female in India. In Nivedita Menon's *Sexualities*.

Robert P. Goldman, (1993), "Transsexualism, Gender, and Anxiety in Traditional India" In *Journal of American Oriental Society*. Pp. 374-401.

R.W. Connell (Oct., 1993), "The Big Picture: Masculinities in Recent World History" in *Theory and Society*, Vol. 22, No. 5, Special Issue: Masculinities, pp. 597-623.

Stephen Heath (2003), "Male Feminism" in Alice Jardine & Paul Smith (eds.) *Men in Feminism*, London, Routledge.

Halberstam, Judith. *Female Masculinity*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1998.