



SYMBIOSIS COLLEGE OF ARTS & COMMERCE

An Autonomous College | Under Savitribai Phule Pune University

Reaccredited 'A+' with 3.51 CGPA For Third Cycle By NAAC | College with Potential for Excellence

COURSE TITLE	Studying Gender through Literature.	
Course Learning Outcomes:		
On successful completion of the module students should be able to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and critique literary and theoretical texts with the view to understanding the role gender plays in our individual and collective lives. Delineate the way patriarchal power structures function in the oppression of the sexes. Comprehend discourses around feminism and masculinity studies. Understand the various categories related to gender (heteronormative, queer, trans) and the socio- cultural narratives around them. 		
Gist of this course in maximum 3 to 4 lines	This course intends to familiarize students with the literature and discourses around gender starting with Mary Wollstonecraft up till Virginie Despentés. It is planned as an exercise in reading literary and theoretical texts so as to expand the understanding of gender beyond the masculine and feminine. It is also an attempt to bring the students up to date with the recent arguments relating to sexuality, body and performance of gender roles. By the end of the course the students should be able to successfully analyse and critique socio-cultural constructions of gender.	
Detailed syllabus		
Unit	CONTENTS OF THE COURSE	No. of Lectures
1.	<u>Early Voices</u> Euripides – Medea Mary Wollstonecraft - extracts from A Vindication for the Rights of Women (Introduction, Chapter 2- The Prevailing opinion of a sexual character discussed, Chapter 13- Some instances of the folly which the ignorance of women generates; with concluding reflections on the moral improvement that a revolution in female manners might naturally be expected to produce) Pandita Ramabai – High Caste Hindu Women	10
2.	<u>The Second Sex</u> Simone De Bouvoir (Chapters from The Second Sex, Part I – Destiny, Part iii- Myths Marge Piercy -The Token Woman, The Meaningful Exchange Sylvia Plath -Daddy, Tulips, Kamala Das – Introduction Meena Kandasamy – Mulligatawny Dreams, He Replaces Poetry Margret Atwood Poems - Spelling, This is a Photograph of Me	8
3.	<u>Women and Sexuality</u> Adrinne Rich -Compulsory heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence- Virginia Woolf (Androgyny) Chapter 6 from “A Room of One’s Own”- Luce Irigaray - The Sex Which is not One (essay) Virginie Despentés - King Kong theory (first two Chapters)	14

	Jeannette Winterson – Sexing the Cherry	
4.	<u>Exploring Masculinities</u> Mohammed Hanif -Our Lady of Alice Bhatti Jamel Brinkley - J’ouvert 1996, Infinite Happiness Junot Diaz - The Sun, The moon, The stars & The Cheater’s Guide to Love Thom Gunn – “On the Move”, “The Wound” Carl Philips – “Domestic” P.K Vijayan -Developing Powers: Modernisation and Masculine Hegemony of Hindu Nationalism	14
5.	<u>Queer and Trans Voices</u> Judith Halberstam - Female masculinity - Introduction Maggie Nelson - The Argonauts (selections) Revathi. A -Truth About Me CN Lester - Are Trans People real? (from Trans like Me: conversations for all of us)	10
	Assignments	
	Presentation - Seminar class – Chinua Achebe -Things Fall Apart, Margaret Atwood- Elias Grey	4
	Total Number of Lectures	60
Teaching Methodology:	1. Lecture Method 2. Group discussions and student presentations 3. Seminar classes	
Suggested Reference Books: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Wollstonecraft – A Vindication of the Rights Of Women • Simone de Beauvoir – The Second Sex • Virginia Woolf – A Room of one’s Own • Showalter, Elaine: A literature of their own: British women novelists from Brontë to Lessing. • Judith Butler: Gender Trouble • Jeanette Winterson: Art Objects • Bell Hooks: Understanding Patriarchy (essay) • Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai: Same Sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History • Brinda Bose and Subhabrata Bhattacharyya – The Phobic and the Erotic: The Politics of Sexualities in Contemporary India. • Maggie Nelson - The Argonauts • Virginie Despentes- King Kong theory • R.W Connell- Masculinities 		