MANGALORE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

MA ENGLISH

Semester III (Hard Core 3)

ENH 503: GENDER STUDIES

- Hard Core/ 4 Credits (4 lectures and one tutorial)
- End semester Examination 70 Marks
- Internal Assessment 30 Marks – Monthly Tests/Assignments/Class Reports

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The course seeks to introduce students to an in-depth study of

- Theories of Gender.
- Concepts and terms in Gender Studies.
- Texts that interrogate the commonsense of gender within a hetero-normative society.
- The social construction of masculinities and femininities.

COURSE OUTCOME:

The students will have achieved the following at the end of the semester

- The ability to interrogate commonsensical and oppressive constructions and practices of gender.
- The capacity to decouple sex from gender and look at the performance of gender in a self reflexive manner.
- Have a critical insight into the intersections of gender, religion, region and caste.
- Have a knowledge of the evolving terms and concepts within gender studies which try to articulate the nuances and complexities of gender as a lived experience.
- Have the capacity to intelligently participate in and respond to contemporary debates and legislations on gender.
- Be critically sensitive to social practices of gender discrimination.

SECTION A: THEORY

Niveditha Menon: "Body" (Chapter from *Seeing like a Feminist*)

Uma Chakravarti: "Caste, Class and Gender: The Historical Roots of Brahminical Patriarchy" (Chapter from *Gendering Caste: Through a Feminist Lens)*

Judith Butler: "Subversive Bodies" (Chapter from *Gender Trouble*)

Gayle Rubin: *The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex*

R W Connell: "The Social Organization of Masculinity" (Chapter from *Masculinities)*

SECTION B: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WRITING

A Revathi: The *Truth about Me : A Hijra Life Story*

Ashok Row Kavi: The Contract of Silence (From *Yaarana)*

Selections from *A Grief to Bury: Memories of Love, Work and Loss*":

- **K Saradamoni,**
- **Rameswari Varma**
- **Ela Bhatt**
- **Shanta Rameshwar Rao**
- **Rukmini Parthasarathy**
- **Meenakshi Mukherjee**

Hoshang Merchant: Autobiography (From *Yaarana*)

Urmila Pawar*: A Childhood Tale*

SECTION C: SHORT STORY

Ismat Chugtai: "Lihaaf"

Suniti Namjoshi: Selections from *Feminist Fables*:

"The Little Prince"

"The Female Swan"

"The Gods"

"The Quiet Life"

"The Oyster Child"

"Heart"

Isak Dinesen: "The Blank Page"

Jane Rule: "His not Hers"

Mahasweta Devi: "Bayen"

SECTION D: FILM TEXT

Sairaat

OR

Dance Like a Man

References

Anne Cranny-Francis et.al. *Gender Studies: Terms and Debates*

David Glover and Cora Kaplan. *Genders* (The New Critical Idiom)

Hoshang Merchant. Introduction to *Yaraana: Gay Writing from India*

Judith Butler. *Gender Trouble*

Kath Woodward. *The Short Guide to Gender*

Niveditha Menon. *Seeing Like a Feminist*

Radhika Chopra, ed. *Reframing Masculinities*

Uma Chakravarti. *Gendering Caste through a Feminist Lens*

V Geetha. *Gender*

Vasanth Kannabiran. *A Grief to Bury: Memories of Love, Work & Loss*