MANGALORE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Semester IV (Soft Core 2)

ENS 554: WOMEN WRITING IN INDIA

- Soft Core: 4 credits(3 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

- The Socio-religious reform movements of nineteenth century India and the emergence of the 'Women's Question'.
- The writings of Indian women in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.
- The introduction of women's education in nineteenth century India and its impact on women's life.
- The recasting of gender in nineteenth century India and women's response to it as seen in their writings.

COURSE OUTCOME:

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

- Familiarity with the early writings of women in India and the reasons for which they wrote.
- An understanding of the ways in which gender as a social construct informs and shapes the writing of women.
- An insight into the recasting of gender in nineteenth century India.
- A knowledge of the significance of education in the emancipation as well as schooling of women.
- A critical perspective on the upper caste, male dominated reform movements of the nineteenth century. This is enabled by reading the texts of Dalit and lower caste women like Savitribai Phule and Tarabai Shinde which are prescribed in the syllabus.
- A capacity to trace the lineages of contemporary debates on and practices of gender.

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SECTION A: BACKGROUND

Socio-religious reforms and the women's question in nineteenth century India

The debate on sati, widow remarriage and age of consent

The education of women

Patriarchal anxieties regarding the reformed woman

SECTION B: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TEXTS

Krupa Sattianadhan: *Saguna*(Section I, IV and VI)

Ramabai Ranade: Selections from *Ranade: His Wife's Reminiscences*:

"My Marriage"

"The Beginning of My Education"

"Acquaintance with PanditaRamabai"

"The Discourses of Anasuyabai"

"Punishment of Silence"

KashibaiKanitkar: "My Education" (Selection from *Feminist Vision orTreason against Men: KashibaiKanitkar and the Engendering of Marathi Literature*)

Selections from *Women Writing in India- Vol I*:

- **Lakshmibai Tilak**: *Smriti Chitre*
- **Cornelia Sorabji:** *India Calling Part II (1894-1902)* Chapter 4, "The Imprisoned Rani"

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SECTION C: LETTERS AND ESSAYS

KashibaiKanitkar *Review of PanditaRamabai's The Peoples of the United States* (December 1889) (Selections from *Feminist Vision or Treason against Men*)

PanditaRamabai:

- "The Condition of Women"(Chapter in *PanditaRamabai's America: Conditions of Life in the United States)*

Selections from *The Letters and Correspondences of PanditaRamabai*:

- Letter to Sister Geraldine (May 12, 1885)
- Letter to Sister Geraldine (1892)
- "Married Life" (Chapter 3 in *The High Caste Hindu Woman*)

Rakhmabai: Letter to the *Times* (9 April 1887) (Selection from *Women's Voices: Selections from Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Indian Writing in English*)

Selections from *Women Writing in India- Vol I***:**

- **Tarabai Shinde**: "StriPurushTulana"
- **Savithribai Phule**: "Letter to Jotiba Phule"
- **Mukthabai:** "About the Grief of the Mangs and the Mahars"

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References

A.B. Shah, ed. *The Letters and Correspondence of PanditaRamabai*

Braj Ranjan Mani and Pamela Sardar, ed. *A Forgotten Liberator: The Life and Struggle of Savitribai Phule.*

Eunice de Souza & Lindsay Pereira, ed. *Women's Voices: Selections from Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Indian Writing in English.*

Geraldine Forbes. *The New Cambridge History of India-IV .2: Women in Modern India*

Judith Walsh. *Domesticity in Colonial India: What Women Learned When Men Gave Them Advice.*

Kumkum and Sangari Sudesh Vaid. *Recasting Women: Essays in Colonial History*

Meera Kosambi, ed. *Feminist Vision or Treason against Men: KashibaiKanitkar and the Engendering of Marathi Literature*

Meera Kosambi, ed. *PanditaRamabai Through Her Own words: Selected Works*

PanditaRamabai. *PanditaRamabai's America: Conditions of Life in the United States*. Ed. R.E. Frykenberg

Ramabai Ranade. *Himself: The Autobiography of a Hindu Woman*

Susie Tharu and K. Lalita, eds. *Women Writing in India: 600 B.C. to the Present. Volume I*

Tarabai Shinde. *A Comparison Between Women and Men*. Ed. Rosalind O Hanolan

Thorner, Alice and KrishnarajMaithreyi, eds. *Ideals, Images and Real Lives: Women in Literature and History*

Uma Chakravarti. *Rewriting History: The Life and Times of PanditaRamabai*