

Introduction to feminist theory

(Summer Course)

Course Name: Introduction to feminist theory

Course Type: Elective

Credits: 2 credits

Number of weeks, Start Date: 26th May to 28th July

Hours per week: 3 hours per week

Instructor(s) Names (need to be Ph.D. graduates): Dr. Aswathy Raveendran

Tutor(s) Names (Ph.D. students): None

Course Number: SCE604.2

Course Day/Time: Friday 2-5 pm

Learning Outcomes

1. Get acquainted with feminist theory with the purpose of understanding concepts such as sex, gender, patriarchy, and their interrelationships between race, caste and disability
2. Understand how gender as a theoretical/analytical construct is used in research
3. Analyze how feminist theory is applied/used in STEM education research

Pedagogy

The course will be conducted partly online and will involve both lectures (by the instructor) as well as reading, presentations and discussions

Evaluation Process and Work Submission Deadlines

The evaluation process would entail:

1. Weekly reading and presentation- the nature and depth of engagement will be evaluated
2. posting on a weekly discussion forum set up on gmail or discord
3. One term paper that explores the question of feminist theory and its application in STEM research (Due on 15th July, 2023)

Course Outline

Week	Topic to be covered	Readings to be covered
Week 1-4	Introduction to the conceptual tools of feminist theory- sex/gender, sex/gender systems, patriarchy and its intersections with other structures such as race, caste, class and disability, feminist movements and the questions that they have raised for theory	Refs. 3,7,8,10
Week 5-8	Exploring feminist epistemology which entails understanding the nature of relationship between experience and knowledge from the point of view of feminist empiricism, standpoint and intersectionality theories	Ref.s 2, 4,5,6,9
Week 9-10	Analyze how feminist theory is applied/used in STEM education research	Ref. 1, and other readings which will be identified by the course participants for their term paper

References

1. Brotman, J. S., & Moore, F. M. (2008). Girls and science: A review of four themes in science education literature. *Journal of Research in Science Teaching: The Official Journal of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching*, 45(9), 971-1002.
2. Collins, P. H. (1989). The social construction of black feminist thought. *Signs: Journal of women in culture and society*, 14(4), 745-773.
3. Geetha, V. (2009). *Patriarchy*. Kolkata: Stree. (selected chapters)
4. Guru, G. (2019). Dalit women talk differently 1. In *Dalit Feminist Theory* (pp. 150-153). Routledge India. <https://www.epw.in/engage/discussion/caste-and-gender>
5. Harding, S. (2013). Feminism, science, and the anti-enlightenment critiques. In *Feminism/postmodernism* (pp. 83-106). Routledge.
6. Jaggar, A. M. (2015). Love and knowledge: Emotion in feminist epistemology. In *Women, knowledge, and reality* (pp. 166-190). Routledge.
7. Lerner, G. (1986). *The creation of patriarchy* (Vol. 1). *Women and History*; V. 1. (selected chapters)
8. Menon, N. (2012). *Seeing like a feminist*. Penguin UK. (selected chapters)
9. Rubin, G. (1975). *The traffic in women: Notes on the "political economy" of sex*.
10. Oudshoorn, N. (2003). *Beyond the natural body: An archaeology of sex hormones*. Routledge.