**WS711: Women Studies and Feminist theory**

**L = 3, T = 1, P = 0, CH = 4, CR=4**

**Women Studies and Feminists’ theory** introduces the students to the emergence of Women’s Studies as an academic discipline in the west as well as in India. The course will also try to orient the research scholars to the feminist thoughts of different schools and to provide them a feminist perspective to understand women’s experience in local and global perspectives.

This paper will attempt at providing a definitional as well as conceptual understanding of what feminism has entailed and how feminism has unfolded itself. It will deal with the theoretical positions within feminism in a chronological manner. The paper will also attempt to place the different schools of feminist thought in the backdrop of their times. As a course it will aim at acquainting the research scholars with the key traditions within feminist theory, familiarize them with the issues that were paramount to each tradition as well as to introduce key figures within such theoretical traditions.

**Unit I: Feminist Theories:**

1. Liberal Feminism

2. Marxist Feminism

3. Existentialist Feminism

4. Radical Feminism

5. Psychoanalytic Feminism

6. Socialist Feminism

7. Eco-Feminism

8. Black Feminism

9. Islamic Feminism 1

10. Third World Feminism

11. Dalit Feminism

12. Post-modern Feminism

**Unit II: Feminism in India:** **feminist class-consciousness; caste and women; religion and feminism; Ecofeminism; women and development; women and violence.**

**Unit III:** **Contemporary Contestations: Intersex and transgender Movement**

**Readings:**

1. Butler, Judith. Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of Sex. New York: Routledge, 1993
2. Butler, Judith. Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity. Routledge:, 1999
3. Beasley, Chris. What is Feminism? : An Introduction to Feminist Study. London: Sage London, 1999.
4. Eagleton, Mary. (Ed.). Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1988
5. Friedrich, Engels. The Origin of Family, Private Property and the State. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1979
6. Geetha, V. Theorizing Feminism: Gender. Kolkata: STREE, 2006.
7. John, Mary E (Ed) Women Studies in India: A Reader. New Delhi: Penguin Books:, 2008
8. Lee, Wendy Lynne. Contemporary Feminist Theory and Activism: Six Global Issues. North America: Broadview Press, 2010
9. Lerner, Gerda. The Creation of Patriarchy. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1986
10. Maria Miles. Indian Women and Patriarchy. Concept Publishing Company: New Delhi, 1980
11. Majumdar, Veena. “Report on the committee on the Status of Women: Towards Equality”, Journal of Women Studies. 1974.
12. Pilcher, Jane. and Whelan, Imelda. Fifty Key Concepts in Gender Studies. California: Sage, 2004.
13. Ruth, Sheila. Issues in Feminism: An Introduction to Women's Studies. Mayfield California: Publishing Company, 1990
14. Samita Sen. Women and Labour in Late Colonial India. The Bengal Jute Industry. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1999
15. Smith, Bonnie G. Women’s Studies: The Basics. New York: Routledge, 2013
16. Tong, Rosemarie. Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction. United States of America: Westview Press, 2009
17. Oyewumi, Oyeronke 2003, ‘Introduction: Feminism, Sisterhood and Other Foreign Relations’ in African Women and Feminism: Reflecting on the Politics of Sisterhood edited by Oyeronke Oyewumi. Asmara, Eritrea: Africa World Press.
18. Roy, Arundhati 2004, An Ordinary Person’s Guide to Empire, Cambridge, MA: South End Press.Tharu,
19. Suruchi Thapar. Women in the Indian National Movement: Unseen Faces and Unheard Voices, 1930-42. Sage: New Delhi, 2006
20. Susie and K. Lalita (eds) 1991, Women Writing in India Volume I: 600 B.C to the Maitrayee Chaudhuri (ed). Feminism in India. Kali for Women and Women Unlimited: New Delhi, 2004
21. Uma Chakravarti, Gendering Caste through a Feminist Lens. Stree: Calcutta, 2006

Early Twentieth Century, Oxford: Oxford University Press

1. Vandana Shiva. Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Survival in India. Kali for India: New Delhi,1986