



Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani
Hyderabad Campus

SECOND SEMESTER 2023-2024

Course Handout Part II

Date: 09-01-2024

In addition to part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : HSS F369
Course Title : Caste and Gender in India
Instructor-in-Charge : Shilpaa Anand

Scope and Objective of the Course:

Caste and gender are social, cultural, political entities that shape individual and collective ways of being. This course will enable students to comprehend and reflect on the interconnectedness and intersectionality of caste and gender in the Indian context. An understanding of the nexus of gender and caste may offer insights into the ways in which it shapes and constitutes a person's identity and subjectivity. Students will learn theories related to caste as a category and as a concept while studying about the emergence and continuing presence of caste based discrimination in contemporary times. Theories of gender as well as the intersectionality of gender and caste in feminist discourse will be the focus of the course. The course will also introduce students' life writing and performance that act as expressions of resistance to gender-based and caste-based oppression.

Textbooks:

Primary Readings:

1. Balagopal, K. 'This Anti-Mandal Mania' in *The Problem of Caste*. Ed. Satish Deshpande. Orient Blackswan: 2014.
2. Chakravarti, Uma. 'Understanding Caste' in *Gendering Caste: Through a Feminist Lens*. Stree: 2018.
3. Deshpande, Satish. 'Caste and Castelessness: Towards a biography of the 'General Category' in *The Problem of Caste*. Ed. Satish Deshpande. Orient Blackswan: 2014.
4. Geetha, V. 'Periyar, Women and an Ethic of Citizenship' in *The Problem of Caste*. Ed. Satish Deshpande. Orient Blackswan: 2014.
5. Guru, Gopal. 'Introduction: Theorizing Humiliation' in *Humiliation: Claims and Context*. Ed. Gopal Guru. Oxford: 2009.
6. Jaffrelot, Christophe. 'In the Political Arena, Against Gandhi' in *Dr. Ambedkar and Untouchability*. Hurst and Company: 2005.
7. Jeffrey, Craig and John Harriss. 'Caste', 'Dalit', 'Feminism', 'Gender', 'Masculinity', 'Modern, Modernity', 'Patriarchy', 'Rape', 'Reservations', 'Schedule Caste' in *Keywords for Modern India*. Oxford: 2014.
8. Menon, Nivedita. 'Family' in *Seeing Like a Feminist*. Zubaan/ Penguin: 2012.
9. Menon, Nivedita. 'Body' in *Seeing Like a Feminist*. Zubaan/ Penguin: 2012.
10. Menon, Nivedita. 'Sexual Violence' in *Seeing Like a Feminist*. Zubaan/ Penguin: 2012.



11. Paik, Shailja. 'Dalit Feminist Thought' in *Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia* (Second Edition). Ed. Leela Fernandes. Routledge: 2022.
12. Subramanian, Ajantha. 'Meritocracy and Democracy: Indian Reservations and the Politics of Caste' *Public Culture* 31 (2): 275–288. 2019.
13. Upadhyay, Carol. 'Employment, Exclusion and 'Merit' in the Indian IT Industry' in *The Problem of Caste*. Ed. Satish Deshpande. Orient Blackswan: 2014.
14. Yengde, Suraj. 'Dalit Cinema'. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2018.1471848>. 2018.

Reference books

1. *Caste and Gender in Contemporary India: Power, Privilege and Politics*. Edited by Supurna Banerjee and Nandini Ghosh. Routledge, 2019.
2. *Annihilation of Caste*. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
3. *Thinking Women: A Feminist Reader*. Edited by Navaneeta Mokkil and Shefali Jha. Stree, 2019.
4. *Caste: Oxford India Short Introductions*. Surinder Jodhka. Oxford, 2012.
5. *Dalit Feminist Theory: A Reader*. Edited by Sunaina Arya and Aakash Singh Rathore. Routledge, 2020.

Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1-4	Comprehend the scope and objectives of the course as well as the key concepts	Introduction to the Course; Key Concepts - Caste and Gender	Class notes and relevant readings
5-10	Comprehend and explain theories of intersectionality	Caste, class and gender intersections	Class notes and relevant readings
11-15	Review cultural expressions of resistance to caste and gender hierarchies	Dalit women's writing; fictional and autobiographical texts; Poetry and performance; Oppositional narratives to caste oppression	Class notes and relevant readings
16- 22	Explain different theories of caste and gender; Analyze the interconnections between caste and the political system	Materialist and religious theories; Caste Ideologies Key Concepts: Subjectivity and Identity	Class notes and relevant readings
23- 28	Describe the legal protections explicated in anti-discrimination laws and policies	Legal Interventions against caste-based and gender-based discrimination and concepts of equality and justice	Class notes and relevant readings
29 - 32	Discuss patriarchal structures and control of female sexuality; comprehend how	Gender construction within caste; graded patriarchy with emphasis on Brahmanical patriarchy	Class notes and relevant readings



	patriarchy and caste privilege constitute each other		
33- 36	Discuss pre-colonial and postcolonial	Caste and Gender in India: Historical insights	Class notes and relevant readings
37-39	Discuss contemporary phenomena in relation to theories of caste, gender and their intersectionality; Discuss the impact of caste identities in the educational & corporate sectors	Caste and Gender in contemporary India – Analysis and reflection of stories in the news media	Class notes and relevant readings
40	Discuss course material	Course overview	

Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Assignments 1and 2	TBA	25	TBA	Open Book
Class Participation	NA	5	Throughout the semester	NA
Mid Semester Exam	90 Minutes	30	16/03 - 11.00 - 12.30PM	Closed Book
Comprehensive Exam	180 Minutes	40	18/05 AN	Closed Book

Chamber Consultation Hour: To be announced in class and on CMS

Notices: Notices concerning the course will be displayed on CMS or other platforms as notified.

Make-up Policy: Make-up exams and make-up assignments will be granted due to medical reasons if students have prior clearance from institute authorities and if students have informed the instructor beforehand. If a student has an extraordinary situation that does not allow him/her to appear/ for the examination/submit an assignment, the student is responsible for intimating the matter to the instructor at the earliest.

Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy:

Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

Shilpaa Anand

INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE

