

## Gender And Society

### Assignment 1 – Interpretation of text

(worth 25 % of your final grade)

Please read Ismat Chughtai's Urdu short story, "Of Fists and Rubs," translated by Mohammad Umar Menon (uploaded on Moodle).

Please use your readings of gender and feminist theory discussed in class to produce an analysis of the text.

#### Do's

1. Read the text carefully and repeatedly if needed.
2. Have a specific statement to make.
3. This is a slightly graphic and provocative text. Think about what it is trying to present. Whose points of view are being constructed and how? Do the story, its characters, its events, and its language tell you anything about the particularities of being a woman? How does agency emerge in this story? Does it emerge at all? What is story doing with concepts like class, family, marriage, democracy, and the nation?
4. Research Chughtai to get a sense of who she was and what her work has meant for the literature of the sub-continent.
5. If you do this seriously, there is a lot that can be said about what is going on in the story. Therefore, plan your paper.

#### Don't s

1. Don't tell us how you "feel." Don't even start sentences with that phrase. What you **think and come to think** are important. Therefore, find evidence from the text for your claims.

2. Quote the text. But with economy. Don't waste time and words on quoting extensively.
3. This can be a disturbing text for some. Don't shy away from the horror of the story. That is part of its experience.

We would appreciate not reading first drafts, and plagiarized writing.

You shall fail the **course** if you are found to have plagiarized more than 20% of your paper. Anything between 15% and 20% puts you on a first-strike list. A second-strike will result in an **F for the course**.

Specifications: 12 point font, double spaced, Times New Roman, 1000-1100 words. You stand to lose marks for not meeting specifications.

**Due: Midnight 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 on Turnitin. No requests for extensions can be entertained.**