

**Indian Institute of Technology, Palakkad**  
**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**HS2304: Culture and Gender Performativity**

Course Instructor: Dr. G. Sugatha

Test 1 (17 September 2025)

Time: 8.00 – 8.50 am

Marks: 30

**I. Answer any THREE questions.**  $3 \times 5 = 15$

1. Attempt a definition of gender by juxtaposing it with sex.
2. Define Performativity.
3. What is Androcentric language and how is it different from sexist language?
4. What are the three broader definitions of culture?

**II. Answer any ONE of the following.**  $1 \times 15 = 15$

1. People opine that the gender discriminatory language we use is just a reflection of a gender-discriminatory society. Thus they argue that when the society changes, language will automatically change too as “language is just a medium or tool for communication”. Problematisize this argument by foregrounding the productive potential of language.

**OR**

2. “One is not born, but becomes a woman.” Elucidate this statement by highlighting the importance of one’s acts in constructing one’s identity.