

Queering Identities: Sexuality, LGBTQ+ and Gender Identity

Programme: PhD

Year: I

Semester: Even

Course: OE

Credits: 4

Hours: 60

Course Context and Overview (100 words):

Gender identities have transcended the boundaries of the binaries and manifested as multiple identities depending on individual sensibilities and choices. Therefore it becomes imperative to understand identity as a constellation of unstable and multiple positions rooted in one's cultural and political location. This course aims to provide a nuanced understanding of gender and queer identities through a close reading of sexuality, gender and queer theory and literature and their cinematic representation. This course will equip the students to critically examine these identities in a broad socio-cultural frame and train them to interrogate the dominant discourses of power in contemporary Indian society.

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Outcomes (COs):

On completion of this course, the students will be able to:
CO1: Critically examine the theoretical framework of Gender, Sexuality and Queer Identities
CO2: Investigate queer identities in their cultural locations
CO3: Understand "queer" in Indian historical context
CO4: Analyze Queer literature and Films with reference to different types of hegemonic discourses

Course Topics:

Topics	Lecture Hours	
UNIT – I: Theoretical Framework		
1.1 : A brief queer history, Sex and Gender, Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation, Identities and their Intersections	15	
1.2: Simon de Beauvoir: <i>The Second Sex</i> (Introduction)		
1.3: Judith Butler: Bodies that Matter and/or Gender Trouble (Select Study)		
1.4: Michel Foucault: <i>The History of Sexuality</i> (Volume 1, Part 1)		

UNIT – II: Historical Background and Literary Representations		
2.1: Ruth Vanita and Salim Kidwai: Readings from <i>Same-Sex Love in India: A literary History</i> 2.2: Rabindranath Tagore The Editor (1893) and The Housewife (1891) 2.3 Ismat Chughtai: <i>Lihaaf</i> 2.4: Nivedita Menon: “Body”	15	
UNIT-III: Queer in Indian and Indian Diaspora Texts		
3.1 Arundhati Roy: The Ministry of Utmost Happiness 3.2 Ruth Vanita: <i>Memory of Light</i> 3.3 Gayatri Gopinath: <i>Impossible Desires</i>	15	
UNIT-IV: Queer Cinematic Representations		
4.1 Fire(1996): Deepa Mehta; Daayra (1996): Amol Palekar; Darmiyaan(1997): Kalpana Lazmi; Mango Souffle(2002): Mahesh Dattani; Memories of March (2010): Sanjoy Nag; Chitrangda: The Crowning Wish(2012): Rituparno Ghosh; Margarita with a Straw (2014): Shonali Bose; Aligarh(2015): Hansal Mehta and others 4.2 Analysis of films with reference to queer theory	15	

Text Books(Excerpts/Select/Complete Reading):

1. Beauvoir, Simon De. *The Second Sex*. Ed. and translated by H.M. Parshley, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1953.
2. Butler, Judith. *Bodies that Matter*. London: Routledge, 1993.
3. —. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. London: Routledge Classics, 2006.
4. Chughtai, Ismat. *Lihaaf*. New Delhi: Rajkamal Prakashan.2018.
5. Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, New Delhi: Vintage, 1990.
6. Gopinath, Gayatri. *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures*. North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2005.
7. Menon, Nivedita. *Seeing like a Feminist*. Published by Zubaan in Collaboration with Penguin Books, 2012.
8. Roy, Arundhati. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, New Delhi: Penguin Random House India, 2017.
9. Tagore, Rabindranath. *Selected Short Stories*. London: Penguin Books, 1991.
10. Vanita, Ruth and Salim Kidwai: Readings from *Same-Sex Love in India: A literary History*, New Delhi: Penguin Book, 2008

11. Vanita, Ruth. *Memory of Light*. Penguin Viking. 2020

Additional Resources (NPTEL, MIT Video Lectures, Web resources etc.)

Evaluation Methods:

Item	Weight (%)
Quiz	10
Seminar Presentations	15+15
Term Paper I	10
Term Paper II	10
End Term Examination	40

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