

THE LNM INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Queer Theory, Advocacy and Cultural Traditions

Programme: PhD

Course: Other Elective (OE)

Year: I

Credits: 4

Semester: Odd

Hours: 60

Course Context and Overview:

We have come a long way from recognizing identities as gender binaries to more inclusive multiple identities based on sexual orientation and individual choices. Sexuality, according to some influential theorists, is the central principle of social organization. Therefore, it becomes pertinent to understand the multiple locations of these identities contributing to the social discourse. This course aims to familiarize the students with critical issues, methods, and practices of Queer Theory and its cultural manifestations. Beginning with the Western theoretical approach on sexuality, the students will trace its adaptation and its socio-political undercurrents in non-western cultures by carefully examining literary texts and media representations.

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Outcomes (COs):

On completion of this course, the students will be able to:
CO1: Understand the Western theoretical interventions on Gender and Sexuality
CO2: Analyze LGBTQ+ Identities in Modern Indian Literature
CO3: Examine Queer Activism in the Contemporary Indian Landscape
CO4: Evaluate Queer in the Indian Cultural Tradition
CO5: Determine Queer politics in Neo-liberal India
CO6: Discuss the transnational discourse on gender and sexuality through various textual and media representations

Course Topics:

Topics	Lecture Hours	
UNIT – I: Theoretical Interventions on Gender and Sexuality		
1.1. <i>Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality</i> by Sigmund Freud	15	
1.2 <i>Cultural Politics-Queer Reading</i> by Alan Sinfield		

1.3 “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality” by Gayle S. Rubin		
1.4 <i>On Feminine Sexuality, The Limits of Love & Knowledge 1972–1973</i> by Jaques Lacan		
1.5 "Axiomatic," <i>Epistemology of the Closet</i> by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick,		

UNIT – II: Indian History/Mythology and Queer		
2.1 <i>Queer Studies: Texts, Contexts, Praxis</i> by Bakshi and Dasgupta 2.2 <i>Infinite Variety: A History of Desire in India</i> by Madhavi Menon 2.3 <i>Intimate Relations: Exploring Indian Sexuality</i> by Sudhir Kakkar 2.4 <i>Queering India: Same-Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society</i> by Ruth Vanita	15	
UNIT-III: Queer Activism and the Contemporary Indian Landscape		
3.1 <i>Queer Activism in India</i> by Naisarge Dave 3.2 <i>Love’s Rites: Same-Sex Marriage in Modern India</i> by Ruth Vanita 3.3 <i>Made in India: Decolonizations, Queer Sexualities, Trans/national Projects</i> by Suparna Bhaskaran 3.4 <i>LGBTQ: Identities in Select Modern Indian Literature</i> by Kuhu Sharma Chanana	15	
UNIT-IV: Normalizing Genders Across Cultural Boundaries		
4.1 <i>Digital Queer Cultures in India: Politics, Intimacies and Belonging</i> by Dasgupta 4.2 <i>Changing the Subject: Feminist and Queer Politics in Neoliberal India</i> by Srila Roy 4.3 Law, Education and Workplace Identities 4.4 National and International Media Representation of Gender and Queer and its significance	15	

Text Books (Excerpts/ Select/ Complete Reading):

1. https://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf-library/Freud_SE_Three_Essays_complete.pdf
2. Sinfield Alan. Cultural Politics - Queer Reading. Routledge, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994.
3. Butler, Judith. *Undoing Gender*. New York: Routledge, 2004.
4. Lacan, Jaques. *On Feminine Sexuality, The Limits of Love & Knowledge 1972–1973*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co, 1998.
5. Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. *Novel Gazing: Queer Reading in Fiction*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1997.
6. Bakshi, Kaustav and Rohit K Dasgupta. *Queer Studies: Texts, Contexts, Praxis*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2019.
7. Menon, Madhavi. *Infinite Variety: A History of Desire in India*. New Delhi: Speaking Tiger Publishing Private Limited, 2018.
8. Kakkar, Sudhir. *Intimate Relations: Exploring Indian Sexuality*: Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.
9. Vanita, Ruth. *Queering India: Same-Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society*. New York: Routledge, 2002.
10. Dave, Naisarge. *Queer Activism in India*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2012.

11. Vanita, Ruth. *Love's Rites: Same-Sex Marriage in Modern India*. New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2021.
12. Bhaskaran, Suparna. *Made in India: Decolonizations, Queer Sexualities, Trans/national Projects*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005
13. Chanana, Kuhu Sharma. *LGBTQ: Identities in Select Modern Indian Literature*. New Delhi: D. K. Printworld Pvt. Ltd., 2015.
14. Dasgupta, Rohit K. *Digital Queer Cultures in India: Politics, Intimacies and Belonging*. New York: Routledge, 2017.
15. Roy, Srila. *Changing the Subject: Feminist and Queer Politics in Neoliberal India*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2022.

Suggested Readings:

1. Alcoff, Linda and Elizabeth Potter. *Feminist Epistemologies*. New York: Routledge, 1993.
2. Bose, Brinda and Subhabrata Bhattacharyya, (Edited). *The Phobic and the Erotic*. Calcutta: Seagull Books, 2007.
3. Butler, Judith. *Undoing Gender* by (Excerpts)
4. Cixous, Helene. "The Laugh of the Medusa"
5. Friedan, Betty. *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1963.
- Gupta, Charu. *Sexuality, Obscenity, Community*. Permanent Black, 2001.
4. Khanna, Akshay. *Sexualness*. New Delhi: New Text, 2017.
5. Kakar, Sudhir. Homosexuality and the Indian,
<http://www.littleindia.com/news/145/ARTICLE/1835/2007-08-17.html>
6. Menon, Madhavi. *The Law of Desire: Rulings on Sex and Sexuality in India*. New Delhi: Speaking Tiger Books, 2021.
7. Millet, Kate. *Sexual Politics*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2016.
8. Pattanaik, Devdutt. *Shikhandi: And Other 'Queer' Tales They Don't Tell You*, 2014.
9. Rao, R Raj. *Criminal Love?: Queer Theory, Culture, And Politics In India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2017.
10. Reddy, Gayatri. *With Respect to Sex- Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.
11. Rubin, Gayle. "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality" in *Culture, Society and Sexuality*, London: Routledge, 2006.
12. Stryker, Susan and Stephen Whittle. *The Transgender Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2006.
13. Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. *Novel Gazing: Queer Reading in Fiction*
14. McCann Hannah, Whitney Monaghan. *Queer Theory Now: From Foundations to Futures*. London: Red Globe Press, 2020.
15. Rao, Rahul. "The Ineffable Somethingness of Love and Revolution," *Jindal Law and Humanities Review* 1 (2020): 108-12.
16. Jagose, Annamarie "Introduction," *Queer Theory*. New York: New York University Press, 1997.
17. Selvadurai, Shyam. *Funny Boy*. Toronto: Penguin Random House, 1994.

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

1. Selvadurai, Shyam. *Funny Boy*
2. Chutney Popcorn A film by Nisha Ganatra
3. *Nina's Heavenly Delights* Dir. Pratibha Parmar

4. [PRIDE Values | LGBT Resource Center.](#)

Evaluation Methods:

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

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