

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
B.A. DEGREE COURSE IN ENGLISH
SYLLABUS WITH EFFECT FROM 2020-2021

Title of the Course	Elective BEN-DSE2B: WOMEN'S WRITING		
Category of the Course	Year & Semester Third Year & Sixth Semester	Credits 5	Subject Code
Hours:	90		
Objectives:	This course intends to acquaint the students to the body of literature written by women as a discrete academic discipline and become aware of women's voices and perspectives and their integral role in human experiences.		
Course Introduction (to be considered for internal assessment only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Patriarchy? • Mary Wollstonecraft/ Reform Bills- Right to Vote for Women • Ecriture Feminine • Concepts of Gender. Gender Stereotypes. Gender and Culture. • Feminism, feminist consciousness and its evolution. • What is the importance of gender sensitization and gender equality? 		
Course Components	<p>Unit 1: Poetry</p> <p>1.1 "A Fairy Tale" – Amy Lowell</p> <p>1.2 "Eve to her Daughters" - Judith Wright</p> <p>1.3 "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law" - Adrienne Rich</p> <p>1.4 "Tribute to Papa" – Mamta Kalia</p> <p>1.5 "Women's Work" - Julia Alvarez</p> <p>1.6 "Phenomenal Woman" – Maya Angelou</p> <p>1.7 "Purdah" - Imtiaz Dharker</p> <p>1.8 "Kongu isn't a rag that stands guard over my head" – Jhoopaka Subadra (From, <i>Kaitunakala dan Dem.</i>)</p> <hr/> <p>Unit 2: Prose</p> <p>2.1 "Professions for Women" – Virginia Woolf</p> <p>2.2 "Links in the Chain" – Mahadevi Varma</p> <p>2.3 "The Spectacle is Vulnerable : Miss World, 1970" - Laura Mulvey [Chapter 1 from <i>Visual and Other Pleasures</i>]</p> <p>2.4 Excerpts from <i>We Should All Be Feminists</i> - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie -Pages 26-34 :Problematic bringing up of boys and girls -Pages 38-46 :Unlearning of preconceived notions, why problem of gender is always overlooked</p> <hr/> <p>Unit 3: Short Story</p> <p>3.1 "The Yellow Wallpaper" - Charlotte Perkins Gilman</p> <p>3.2 "Boys and Girls" – Alice Munro</p> <p>3.3 "Admission of Guilt" – Lalithambika Antharjanam</p> <p>3.4 "Yellow Woman" – Leslie Marmon Silko</p> <hr/> <p>Unit 4: Drama</p> <p>4.1 <i>Thus spake Shoorpanaka, so said Shakuni</i> - Polie Sengupta</p> <hr/> <p>Unit 5: Fiction</p> <p>5.1 <i>Fasting, Feasting</i> - Anita Desai</p>		

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Learning Outcomes	<p>After completing this course, the students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ understand the impact of patriarchy on women and become sensitized to the need for gender equality ➤ distinguish women’s writing as one shaped by their gender experiences ➤ identify genres and narrative strategies employed by different women writers and the language used ➤ gain an understanding from the themes of suppression, oppression and marginalization expressed by women writers across the world and gauge its effect in changing the social construct ➤ analyse literary texts through the perspective of gender.
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Prescribed Texts/ Web Sources	
<p>1.1 https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/a-fairy-tale/ 1.2,3,6 https://genius.com/ , https://www.poemhunter.com/ 1.4 Living and Feeling: An Anthology of Indian Women’s Writing in English . Edited by P Rajani, V. Rajagopalan and Nirmal Selvamony (1999) 1.5 https://www.teenink.com/nonfiction/academic/article/401916/Womans-Work-by-Julia-Alvarez/ 1.7 https://www.poetryinternational.org/pi/poem/2823/auto/0/0/Imtiaz-Dharker/PURDAH-1/en/tile</p> <p>1.8 http://www.dalitweb.org/wp-content/uploads/wp-post-to-pdf-enhanced-cache/1/kongu-by-jupaka-subhadra.pdf</p> <p>2.1 “Professions for Women.” Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader - Mary Eagleton (1996) http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks12/1203811h.html#ch-28 & http://www.wheelersburg.net/Downloads/Woolf.pdf 2.2 “Links in the Chain” – Mahadevi Varma. Translated by Neera Kukreja Sohoni . Katha Publishers (2004) 2.3 <i>Visual and Other Pleasures</i> by Laura Mulvey Palgrave Macmillan, 2009. https://books.google.co.in/books?id=P6awCwAAQBAJ&pg=PA3&lpg=PA3&dq=The+Spectacle+is+Vulnerable+:+Miss+World+-+Laura+Mulvey&source=bl&ots=3kztbA6mrK&sig=ACfU3U1FhGOhnn3wL5jJmm31j-DZnsHKfg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjx1Y-Y_djoAhWGyDgGHWqWDooQ6AEwCXoECAwQKQ#v=onepage&q=The%20Spectacle%20is%20Vulnerable%20%3A%20Miss%20World%20-%20Laura%20Mulvey&f=false 2.4 <i>We Should All be Feminists</i> – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie .Harper Collins,2014. 3.1 https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/theliteratureofprescription/exhibitionAssets/digitalDocs/The-Yellow-Wall-Paper.pdf 3.2 http://www.giuliotortello.it/shortstories/boys_and_girls.pdf 3.3 <i>Indian Short Stories, 1900-2000</i> by E.V. Ramakrishnan, Sahitya Akademi, India 2005. https://books.google.co.in/books?id=kLn11KD4ea0C&pg=PA89&dq=%E2%80%9CAdmission+of+Guilt%E2%80%9D+%E2%80%93+Lalithambika+Antharjanam&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewjyWLyfgtNoAhWazjgG</p>	

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3.4 https://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf-library/Silko_YellowWoman.pdf

4.1 Women Centre Stage: The Dramatist and the Play. Routledge Publication.2010.

5.1 *Fasting, Feasting* by Anita Desai, Random House, 2000.

<https://epdf.pub/fasting-feastingd24622a1d2cf175651260840622ff24f90295.html>

Women's Writing. Edited by Saji K S and Jisha Elezaba (2019)

FURTHER READING (to be considered for internal assessment tasks only)

- A Vindication of the Rights of Woman by Mary Wollstonecraft
- On Subjection of Women by John Stuart Mill
- Sojourner Truth
- Poems of Sylvia Plath, Kamala Dass
- Works of Shashi Deshpande, Arundathi Roy, Chitra Devkaruni Banerjee
- Works of Toni Morrison, Alice Walker
- Works of Kate Millet, Kate Chopin
- Works of Margaret Atwood
- Works of Mahasweta Devi
- Malala Yousafzai's memoir *I am Malala*
- *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi

BOOKS & WEB SOURCES FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

- Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Critical Studies*. 3rd ed., 2009
- Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. Routledge Publishers, 1990.
- Gilbert, Sandra M, and Susan Guber, *The Mad Woman in the Attic*. Yale UP. 1997.
- Hooks, Bell. *Understanding Patriarchy*. Louisville Anarchist Federation. 2010
: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjoNx9UGzg>
- Kirsznner, Laurie and Stephen Mandell. *The Pocket Holt Handbook*. Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1999.
- Millett, Kate. *Sexual Politics*. U of Illinois P, 2000.
- Rooney, Ellen. *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Literary Theory*. Cambridge UP, 2006.
- Sage, Lorna. *Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English*, edited by Germaine Greer and Elaine Showalter, Cambridge UP, 1999. <http://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/samples/cam032/98050778.pdf>
- Tharu, Susie and K. Lalita, editors. "Introduction", *Women Writing in India: 600 B.C. to the Present*. vol.I, NY, Feminist P, 1991.
- Walters, Margaret. *Feminism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford UP, 2005.

RECOMMENDED MOOC

- edX: Gender and Sexuality: Applications in Society ([The University of British Columbia](https://www.classcentral.com/course/edx-gender-and-sexuality-applications-in-society-12333) via [edX](https://www.classcentral.com/course/edx-gender-and-sexuality-applications-in-society-12333))
<https://www.classcentral.com/course/edx-gender-and-sexuality-applications-in-society-12333>
- MIT: Introduction to Woman and Gender Studies

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https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/womens-and-gender-studies/wgs-101-introduction-to-womens-and-gender-studies-fall-2014/index.htm?utm_source=OCWDept&utm_medium=CarouselSm&utm_campaign=FeaturedCourse

- NPTEL: Feminist Writings – Dr. Avishek Puri Co-ordinated by IITM
<https://nptel.ac.in/courses/109106146/>

TED TALKS

- The political progress women have made and What's next - Cecile Richards
https://www.ted.com/talks/cecile_richards_the_political_progress_women_have_made_and_what_s_next?language=en
- We should all be feminists : Ngozi Adichie
https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_we_should_all_be_feminists?language=en
- For these women, reading is a daring act: Laura Boushnak
https://www.ted.com/talks/laura_boushnak_for_these_women_reading_is_a_daring_act?language=en