Teaching Plan for the session (2021-22)

odd semester July 2021-December 2021

(BA History Hons V semester)

This paper is shared with **Mr Levin n.r**

PAPER: **DSE-IV**

**Gender in Indian History up to 1500 CE**

SEMESTER: V

SESSION: 2021-22 (odd semester)

TEACHER NAME**: Dr Madhuri Sharma**

SYLLABUS

**Unit I: Theories and concepts**

[a] Gender: a tool of historical analysis

[b] Understanding Origins and Structures of patriarchy

**Unit II: Aspects of Gender: Politics, Power and Household**

[a] Economic and Social Roles: household, patronage and Property

[b] Women and Power: Raẓiyya and Rudramadevi

[c] Questions of Sexualities

**Unit III: Gender, Representation and Literature**

[a] Religious Literature in the early period: Vedic, Buddhist and Puranic

[b] Love and Manliness in Hindawi Romances; case studies of Padmavat, Purushpariksha

and histories of Mira [c] Representations of the Divine Feminine:Virasaivism, WarkariPanths, Korravai-Durga in Tamil Traditions

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course teaches how ‘Gender’ is not an innocent term denoting biological differences but a social and culturally constructed unequal relationship that needs careful historical analysis in the context of Indian history. The focus is not merely on studying ‘women’s history’ but to go beyond and explore aspects of masculinities as well as alternative sexualities, spanning temporal frames from prehistory to 1500 CE. There is an added emphasis on learning inter-disciplinary analytical tools and frames of analysis concerning familiar topics such as class, caste, and environment that enriches an understanding of historical processes.

**TEACHING TIME**

(No. Of Weeks) 16weeks- 5+1 credits

The six credit course will comprise of theory classes (five credits) and tutorials (one credit).

Each credit is equivalent to one hour of class-room instruction per week

Teaching plan is divided into 5Lectures + 3 Tutorials per week (8 hours per week)

CLASSES: 120 Classes

**UNIT WISE BREAK UP OF SYLLABUS**

**Unit -1.** The unit should familiarise students with theoretical frames of gender and patriarchy and how these concepts provide tools for historical analysis.**(Teaching time: 3 weeks Approx.)**

[a] Gender: a tool of historical analysis

[b] Understanding Origins and Structures of patriarchy

**Unit -2.** This section should apprise students to locate fluctuating gender relations within households, court and also explore linkages between gender, power and politics. Additionally discussion on the question of sexualities would open up vistas for a nuanced historical learning of normative and alternative sexualities as well as issues of masculinities. **(Teaching time: 6 weeks Approx.)**

a] Economic and Social Roles: household, patronage and Property

[b] Women and Power: Raẓiyya and Rudramadevi

[c] Questions of Sexualities

**Unit -3.** The focus is on studying gender representation in literature that highlights the idea of

love as well as manliness on the one hand and religiosity across temporal and regional spread on

the other.**(Teaching time: 5 weeks Approx.)**

[a] Religious Literature in the early period: Vedic, Buddhist and Puranic

[b] Love and Manliness in Hindawi Romances; case studies of Padmavat, Purushpariksha

and histories of Mira [c] Representations of the Divine Feminine:Virasaivism, WarkariPanths, Korravai-Durga in Tamil Traditions

**ASSESSMENT**

Internal Assessment: 25 Marks

Students will be regularly assessed for their grasp on debates and discussions covered in class. \

Two written submissions and at least one presentation will be used for final grading of the students.

Students will be assessed on their ability to engage with a sizeable corpus of readings assigned to the theme for written submissions,

i.e. being able to explain important historical trends and tracing historiography reflected in the assigned readings.

**Learning Outcomes:**

On completion of this course students shall be able to

• Explain critical concepts such as gender and patriarchy and demonstrate their use as tools for

historical analysis

• Examine the role and functioning of power equations within social contexts in Indian history

during the ancient period, in the construction of gender identities

• Critically examine representations of gender in literature, focusing on ideas of love, manliness

and religiosity

• Examine the role of social and political patronage of art and literature in perpetuating gendered

Inequalities

**Essential readings**

**Unit 1**

• Geetha, V. (2002). *Gender.* Calcutta: Stree.

• Kent, Susan Kingley. (2012).*Gender and History.* New York: Palgrave McMillan. pp. 49-75.

• Scott, J. W. (1986). “Gender a useful Category of Historical Analysis”.*The American Historical*

*Review* vol.91/9, pp.1056-1075.

• Lerner, G. (1979). *The Majority Finds its Past: Placing Women in History.* New York: Oxford

University Press.

• Walby, S.(1990).*Theorizing Patriarchy.* Oxford: Basil Blackwell. pp.1-24, 109-127.

**Unit 2**

• Bhattacharya, N.N. (1999). “Proprietary Rights of Women in Ancient India”, Kumkum,

Roy (Ed.). *Women in Early Indian Societies.* Delhi: Manohar, pp.113-122.

• Chakravarti, U. (2006). *Everyday Lives Every Day Histories: Beyond the Kings and*

*Brahmans of ‘Ancient’ India.* Tulika Books: New Delhi.138-155.

• Jaiswal, Suvira. (2008). “Caste, Gender and Ideology in the making of India”. *Social Scientist*

vol. 36, no. 1/2. pp. 3-39.

• Shah, S.(2012). *The Making of Womanhood; Gender Relations in the Mahabharata.* Revised

Edition, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 32-83.

• Singh, Snigdha.(2018). ‘‘Exploring the Question of Gender at an Early Stupa: Inscriptions

and Images”’, Snigdha, Singh et. Al. (Ed.). *Beyond the Woman Question: Reconstructing Gendered Identities in Early India.* Delhi: Primus Books, pp. 21-62.

• Tyagi, J. (2004). “Hierarchical Projections of Women in Household: Brahmanical Perceptions

Recorded in the Early Grhyasutras c.800-500BC”. *Social Scientist* vol. 32, no.5-6, pp.3-20.

• Gabbay, Alyssa. (2011). “In Reality a Man: Sultan Iltutmish, His Daughter, Raziya, and

Gender Ambiguity in Thirteenth Century Northern India”. *Journal of Persianate Studies*,

vol. 4, 45-63.

Roy, K. (2010). “Construction of Gender Relations in the Rajatarangini of Kalhana”;

“Gender Relations during the First Millenium: An Overview”, in Kumkum Roy, *The*

*Power of Gender and the Gender of Power, Explorations in Early Indian History,* New

Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp.142-164 and pp.195-222.

• Talbot, Cynthia. (1995). “Rudramba Devi The Female King: Gender and Political authority

in medieval India”. David Shulman(Ed.), *Syllables of the Sky: Studies in South Indian*

*Civilisation.* OUP: New Delhi, pp.391-428.

• Sahgal, Smita. (2009-10). “Masculinity in Early India: Constructing an Embryonic

Frame”. *Proceedings of Indian History Congress*vol.70, pp. 151-163.

• Zwilling, L and M. Sweet. (1996). “Like a City Ablaze’: The Third Sex and the Creation

of Sexuality in Jain Religious Literature.” *Journal of History of Sexuality.* vol.6/3, pp.

359-384.

**Unit 3**

• Blackstone, R. K. (1998).*Women in the Footsteps of Buddha: Struggle for Liberation in the*

*Therigathas.* Britain: Curzon Press.

• Chitgopekar, N. (2002). ‘Indian Goddess: Persevering and Antinomian Presences’; and

Kumkum, Roy. “Goddess in the Rgveda-An Investigation” NilimaChitgopekar (Ed.), *Invoking*

*Goddess, Gender Politics in Indian Religion.* Delhi: Shakti Books, pp.11-61.

• Chakrabarti, Kunal. (2001). “Introduction”. *The Religious Process: The Puranic and the*

*Making of a Religious Tradition.* Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp.1-43.

• Jha, Pankaj. (2019). ‘Political Ethics and the Art of Being a Man’. Pankaj Jha, *A political*

*History of Literature: Vidyapati and the Fifteenth Century.* Delhi:Oxford University Press,

pp.133-183.

• Sreenivasan, Ramya.(2003). “Padmini, The Ideal Queen: Sufi and Rajput Codes in Malik

Muhammad Jayasi's Padmavat”. Vijaya Ramaswamy, (Ed.), *Re-searching Indian Women.*

New Delhi: Manohar, pp. 97-118.

• Sangari, Kumkum. (1990) “Mirabai and the Spiritual Economy of Bhakti”.*Economic and*

*Political Weekly,* vol. 25/ 27. July 7, pp. 1461-1475.

• Mahalaksmi, R. (2011). “Inscribing the Goddess: Female Deities in Early Medieval Inscriptions

from Tamil Region”, R., Mahalakshmi. *The Making of the Goddess: Korravai-Durga in*

*Tamil Traditions.* New Delhi: Penguin Books India, pp. 156-98.

• Ramaswamy, V. (1997). “Rebels- House wives”; and “Women in and Out: Women within the

WarkariPanths”. Vijaya, Ramaswamy, *Walking Naked: Women and Spirituality in South India.*

Simla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study, pp.145-194; pp.195-230.