

**Department of Gender Studies
Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences
University of the Punjab, Lahore
Course Outline**



Program	BS Gender Studies	Course Code	GS-121	Credit Hours	3
Course Title	Feminist Theories				
Course Introduction					
<p>The course is designed to introduce students with the basic concepts and the theoretical perspectives of feminism. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions, and debates within feminist scholarship. In this course, we will consider questions like: What is theory? Why do we have to study theories? What is the objective of looking at feminist theories? A central feature of this course is to create an understanding of the bridge building activities between the theory/ theories of feminism and action. To answer these questions, we will consider a series of feminist frameworks, which suggest how gender relations have been in the past and how they are at the present.</p>					
Learning Outcomes					
<p>On the completion of the course, the students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Become familiar with theories of feminism2. Understand the importance of theories of feminism in context with women’s movement3 Become familiar with contemporary debates in feminism					
Course Content			Assignments/Readings		
Week 1	Unit-I What is Feminism? 1.1 What is Feminist Theory? 1.2 Feminist Epistemology		Disch, L. J., & Hawkesworth, M. E. (Eds.). (2016). <i>The Oxford handbook of feminist theory</i> . Oxford University Press.		

	Unit I: Continued	
Week 2	Unit-II Liberal Feminism 2.1 Introduction 2.2 Philosophical Roots	Disch, L. J., & Hawkesworth, M. E. (Eds.). (2016). <i>The Oxford handbook of feminist theory</i> . Oxford University Press. The course instructor will give details of selected chapters/pages from given text books.
	2.3 Main agenda 2.4 Key achievements	
Week 3	2.5 Notable feminists 2.6 Critique	
	Unit II: Continued	Assessment 1: Assignment 1 on one of the liberal feminist writers i.e., Mary Wollstonecraft, J. S. Mill etc.
Week 4	Unit-III Radical Feminism 3.1 Introduction 3.2 Philosophical Roots	Disch, L. J., & Hawkesworth, M. E. (Eds.). (2016). <i>The Oxford handbook of feminist theory</i> . Oxford University Press. Handouts of selected texts to be provided by course instructor
	3.3 Main Agenda 3.4 Key achievements	
Week 5	3.5 Notable feminists	

	3.6 Critique	
	Unit III: Continued	<p>Assessment 2: Group discussion on Betty Freidan's "Feminine Mystique". Chapters will be assigned</p> <p>Freidan, B. (1974). <i>The feminine mystique</i>. New York: Dell Publishing.</p>
Week 6	Unit-IV Marxist Feminism 4.1 Introduction 4.2 Philosophical Roots	Jahan, H. (2009). Marxist Feminism: An Overview. <i>Journal of Sociology</i> , 1(2), 143-150.
	4.3 Main Agenda 4.4 Key achievements	
Week 7	4.5 Notable feminists 4.6 Critique	
	Unit IV: Continued	Assessment 3: Quiz 1
Week 8	Unit-V Standpoint Feminism 5.1 Introduction 5.2 Philosophical Roots	<p>Crasnow, S. (2014). Feminist standpoint theory. <i>Philosophy of social science: A new introduction</i>, 1, 145-161.</p> <p>Handouts of selected texts to be provided by course instructor</p>
	5.3 Main Agenda 5.4 Key achievements	
Week 9	5.5 Notable feminists 5.6 Critique	

	Unit V: Continued	Assessment 4: Assignment 2. Find an article that has used the theoretical lens of standpoint theory and discuss how. 500 words
Week 10	Unit-VI Psychoanalytical Feminism 6.1 Introduction 6.2 Philosophical Roots	Disch, L. J., & Hawkesworth, M. E. (Eds.). (2016). <i>The Oxford handbook of feminist theory</i> . Oxford University Press. Handouts of selected texts to be provided by course instructor
	6.3 Main Agenda 6.4 Key achievements	
	6.5 Notable feminists 6.6 Critique	
Week 11	Unit VI: Continued	
Week 12	Unit-VII Postmodern Feminism 7.1 Introduction 7.2 Philosophical Roots	Disch, L. J., & Hawkesworth, M. E. (Eds.). (2016). <i>The Oxford handbook of feminist theory</i> . Oxford University Press. Handouts of selected texts to be provided by course instructor
	7.3 Main Agenda 7.4 Key achievements	
	7.5 Notable feminists	
Week 13		

	7.6 Critique	
	Unit VII: Continued	Assessment 5: Quiz 2
Week 14	Unit-VIII Muslim Feminism 8.1 Introduction 8.2 Philosophical Roots	Alak, A. I. (2015). Islamic Feminism (s): A Very Short Introduction. <i>AnALize: Revista de studii feministe</i> , (4 (18)), 31-38.
	8.3 Main Agenda 8.4 Key achievements	
Week 15	8.5 Notable feminists 8.6 Critique	
	Unit 8: Continued	
Week 16	Final group presentations on selected topics/books	Along with presentations, a soft copy of project as MS Word document must be submitted. Instructions for submission: APA format of text and citations. Paper size a4, Font size 12, Font style Times New Roman
	Final Presentations: Continued	
Textbooks and Reading Material		
Textbooks. Chris, B. (1999). <i>What is feminism? An introduction to feminist theory</i> . London: Sage Publications. Code, L. (2000). <i>Encyclopedia of feminist theories</i> . Routledge. Disch, L. J., & Hawkesworth, M. E. (Eds.). (2016). <i>The Oxford handbook of feminist theory</i> . Oxford University Press. Jackson, S. & Jones, J. (1998). <i>Contemporary feminist theories</i> . UK: Edinburgh university press.		

Suggested Readings

a. Books

De Beauvoir, S. (1953). *The Second Sex*. Everyman's Library.

Engles, F. (1891). *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*. New York: Pathfinder press.

Freidan, B. (1974). *The feminine mystique*. New York: Dell Publishing.

Wollstonecraft, M. (2018). *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Digireads.com.

b. Journal Articles/ Reports

Alak, A. I. (2015). Islamic Feminism (s): A Very Short Introduction. *AnALize: Revista de studii feministe*, (4 (18)), 31-38.

Crasnow, S. (2014). Feminist standpoint theory. *Philosophy of social science: A new introduction*, 1, 145-161.

Jahan, H. (2009). Marxist Feminism: An Overview. *Journal of Sociology*, 1(2), 143-150.

Teaching Learning Strategies

c. Reading and discussion of texts

d. Class discussion on using the theoretical lens of theories to understand texts and primary data

Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar

1. Quizzes: Week 7 and week 13
2. Assignments: Week 3 and week 9
3. Group discussion: Week 5
4. Group presentation and project submission: Week 16

Assessment

Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
1.	Midterm Assessment	35%	Written Assessment at the mid-point of the semester.

2.	Formative Assessment	25%	Continuous assessment includes: Classroom participation, assignments, presentations, viva voce, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, projects, practical, reflections, readings, quizzes etc.
3.	Final Assessment	40%	Written Examination at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.