

B.A. III APC

Semester V

Course: 03

Course Code:

Title of the Course: Women’s Writing in the Twentieth Century

Credits: 04

Marks: 100

Course	L	Cr	P/T	D	TP	TW	T
Women’s Writing in the Twentieth Century	4	4	-	2.30	75	25	100

Objectives:

- i. To introduce students to some of the key texts of women’s writing from across the world
- ii. To familiarize students to important concepts, perspectives and debates related to women’s writing
- iii. To acquaint students about the significant ways that the acknowledgement of gender as a distinct category in literary writing has transformed literature studies in the twentieth century
- iv. To enable students to connect to the temporal and spatial contexts of the prescribed texts in their analysis and appraisals

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- i. Appreciate and critically evaluate the distinct nature and experience that women’s writing articulates
- ii. Be able to negotiate with some of the fundamental questions related to gender and its interconnectedness to other categories like class, race, religion and community

Unit	Topic and Details	No. of teaching hours assigned	Weightage in %
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts, notions and debates surrounding the category called women’s writing and criticism • Significant ways that women’s writing questions and reshapes literary canons • Female, feminist and feminine as distinct definitions. (Reference: Elaine Showalter “Towards a Feminist Poetics”, Toril Moi Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory). • Different forms and genres employed by women writers • Retrieving lost texts, traditions and legacies as an important project in women’s writing and criticism • Significant women writers from the Anglo-American tradition: Virginia Woolf, Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Margaret Atwood, Doris Lessing, Nadine Gordimer, etc. • Women writers from India: Kamala Markandaya, Anita Desai, Nayantara Sahgal, Arundhati Roy, Urmila Pawar, Bama, Mahasweta Devi, etc. 		40%
II	<i>The Women of Brewster Place</i> (1982) by Gloria Naylor		35%
III	<i>Sultana’s Dream</i> (1905) by Rokheya Sakhawat Hossain		25%

Evaluation Scheme:

Internal Examination **25 marks**

1. Short notes on Unit I 10 marks

2. Assignment on any one of the prescribed novels 15 marks

External Examination **75 marks**

Objective questions on Unit I 25 marks

Reference to context (3 out of 5) 15 marks

Essay type questions on Units II & III (2 out of 4) 20 marks

Short notes on the Novels (3 out of 5) 15 marks

Recommended Readings:

Bahun, Sanja, and Marinos Pourgouris. *The Avant-Garde and the Margin: New Territories of Modernism*. Cambridge Scholars Press, 2006.

Calvin, Ritch. *Feminist Science Fiction and Feminist Epistemology: Four Modes*. Springer International Publishing, 2016.

Chakravorty Spivak, Gayatri. "Feminism and Critical Theory". *Modern Criticism and Theory*. David Lodge(ed.). Pearson Education (Singapore) Pvt. Ltd.

Gilbert, Sandra M., and Susan Gubar, eds., *The New Feminist Criticism: Essays on Women, Literature and Theory*. Virago Press, 1989.

Mathur, Suchitra. "Caught between the Goddess and the Cyborg: Third-World Women and the Politics of Science in Three Works of Indian Science Fiction." *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, vol. 39, no. 3, Jan. 2004, pp. 119–138.

Mitchell, Angelyn, and Danille Taylor, editors. *The Cambridge Companion to African American Women's Literature*. Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Moi, Toril. *Sexual/Textual Politics*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2002.

Ray, Bharati. *Early Feminists of Colonial India Sarala Devi Chaudhurani and Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain*. Oxford University Press, 2012.

Sage, Lorna. *The Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English*, advisory editors, Germaine Greer and Elaine Showalter. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Showalter, Elaine. "Towards a Feminist Poetics". *Modern Literary Criticism: A Reader*, edited by Patricia Waugh and Philip Rice, Bloomsbury, 2001, pp. 146-155.

Tharu, Susie and K. Lalita. *Women Writing in India: 600 B.C. to the Early Twentieth Century*. The Feminist Press, 1991.

Tharu, Susie and K. Lalita. *Women Writing in India: The Twentieth Century*. The Feminist Press, 1993.

Tong, Rosemarie. *Feminist Thought: a More Comprehensive Introduction*. Westview Press, 2014.

Warhol, Robyn R., and Diana Price Herndl, editors. *Feminisms: an Anthology of Literary Theory and Criticism*. Rutgers University Press, 2010.