

Certificate Course In
Understanding Women, Power, and Politics

This course is essential for understanding the contemporary issues of women in private and public spaces. The rationale for developing the course is to sensitize the students about the relation between women and power. This paper will help the students understand the fundamental issues women face in political life as participants. The paper shall be taught from a feminist perspective to understand women's role in family, community, and state. It will try to develop the appreciation of domestic labor and sex workers without making any moral judgment. The course develops an awareness of women's empowerment and appreciates women as independent and radical social agents. The first unit will deal with the concept and debates surrounding Patriarchy. The sex-gender debate says sex is natural and biologically given facts, whereas gender is culturally constructed. The culturally constructed nature of being a man and a woman is so opposite and so biased against women that it leads to male domination and the subjugation of women. Then we will talk about the distinction between public and private space from a gender perspective. Then comes the issue of power. Power in the sense of decision making, agenda-setting, and formation of thought. How far can a woman exercise power at these three levels? Then this course will deal with the history of the women's movement in India, work labor, and the ethics of child care.

Course Objectives:

1. to propose the idea of women as active participants in politics and national development;
2. to teach feminism as a method of study;
3. to develop a rethinking of women's labor;
4. to teach the dignity of labor of women;
5. to enhance gender equality in personal;
6. and professional life of the young minds; and
7. to equip the students for higher studies on gender issues

Teaching hours: 32 hours.

Target Audience: Students of BALLB, LLB.

Fees: 500 INR for college students

700 INR for other students

Syllabus of the course:

<u>Units</u>	<u>Title and Contents</u>	<u>No. of Lectures</u>
<u>Unit I</u>	<u>Understanding Gender</u> Patriarchy and its Ideological Foundation: Biological Determinism The Social Construction of Gender Sex/Gender System Gender as Performative	4
<u>Unit II</u>	<u>Feminism: its facets</u> Feminism in the West Liberal and Radical Feminism Marxist Feminism and Dalit Feminism	3
<u>Unit II</u>	<u>Feminism in India</u> Third World Feminism Feminism in India Feminist Perspective on Family Feminist Views on Family in India	3
<u>Unit IV</u>	<u>Women and Caste</u> Women and Community Women and Caste System in India Women and State Women and Indian State	5
<u>Unit V</u>	<u>Women and Social Reform Movements</u> Women and Social Reform Movements in 19th century India Women's Movement in Pre and Post-Independent India Women and Religion	3
<u>Unit VI</u>	<u>Women and Violence</u> Theorizing Gender-Based Violence Domestic Violence in India Sexual Violence: Rapes in India Violence Against Women in India: A General Overview	5
<u>Unit VII</u>	<u>Women at Work</u> Women and Work in India: The Concept of Visible and Invisible Work Why Women's Work is not Visible? ,Sexual Harassment in the Workplace	3

Assessment System:

1. Assignment
2. Research Paper
3. Movie review
4. Written examination

Marks System: 100

Readings

Pre-Class Readings:

1. Robertson, David, The **Penguin** Dictionary of Politics
2. McLean, Iain & Alistair McMillan, **Oxford** Concise Dictionary of Politics, Indian Edition
3. Encyclopedia Britannica (Available Online)

Texts & References:

1. Beauvoir, Simone de. The Second Sex. Translated by H. M. Parshley. New York: Vintage Books. 1989.
2. Butler, Judith. Gender Trouble: Feminism and Subversion of Identity. New York: Routledge. 1990.
3. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory." Theatre Journal, published by: The Johns Hopkins University Press.
4. Menon, Nivedita. Seeing Like a Feminist. United Kingdom: Penguin Random House Private Limited. 2012.
5. Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. & quot; The Body in its Sexual Being, & quot; in The Phenomenology of Perception. Translated by Colin Smith. Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1962

