INSTRUCTOR: Medha Kotwal

CREDITS: 4 semester credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course as the title indicates seeks to introduce students to the diverse Indian culture and society through a gendered lens. It will explore gender relations that are rooted in tradition and culture and the inter-sectionality of gender with religion and caste so specific to India. Though these are rooted in tradition a slow process of change is taking place by the opening up of the Indian society. In other words, globalization has stirred up not only the Indian economy but also the cultural practices and traditions. In short, the paper seeks to explore the connections between gender, changing cultural norms and globalization.

COURSE OBJECTIVE
• To introduce basic concepts of gender and inequality
• To introduce inter-sectionality of gender caste and culture
• To introduce the ways in which processes of globalization are culture specific

COURSE CONTENT

Module 1 - The social construction of gender
1. Socialization in India: construction of femininity and masculinity


2. Film followed by discussion
3. Cultural reproduction

Reading: Latika Gupta, Growing up Hindu and Muslim: How early Does it happen” EPW Feb. 9 2008

Field Visit to Aalochana

Assignment 1. Write a short note of 3-4 pages on your observations of the different religious communities that you encounter as you move around Pune.

Module 2 - Nationalism, Gender and Ideology
1. The Indian Nation, contending voices: women too

2. Woman as subject of social reform and nation building


3. Bharat Mata: India as a Mother & being a Mother in India


### Module 3 - Gender and Violence

1. Violence of Normal times: family & ideas of ‘izzat’

**Reading:** Shubha Sharma “Location of Barbaric Crimes socio-cultural structures; Honour Killings in Haryana” in Honor and Women’s Rights South Asian Perspectives ed. by Manisha Gupte et.al Jointly published by Masum & IDRC, 2012.

2. Public spaces and sexual violence

**Reading:** Shilpa Phadke, “Dangerous Liaisons; Women and Men: Risks and Reputations in Mumbai” EPW April 28, 2007.

3. Violence at workplace

**Reading:** Sheba Tejani: “Sexual harassment at the workplace: Emerging Problems and Debate” EPW Oct 9 2004.

**Assignment 2:** Interview 5 women on their experiences of sexual harassment either at home or in the public spaces or at work. Write a short note of 4-5 pages on your finds.

**Debate on “Women as upholders of family honour, culture & traditions”** For and against positions to be taken.

### Module 4 - Gender, Development and Globalization

1. Gendering development- critique and interventions

**Reading:** Uma Kalpagam (2011): Gender and Development: Interrogating Current Issues in “Gender and Development in India” Rawat Publication, Jaipur.

2. Globalization and new forms of exploitation of women’s workers


3. Questioning Citizenship- Entitlements and women’s struggles

2
Seema Kulkarni, Guest lecture


Module 5 - Gender and Caste
1. Understanding gender and caste

2. Reservations and Caste: Case of the women’s bill

Module 6 - Popular Culture and Gender
1. Culture Identity and women in Indian Cinema

2. Caste, gender & globalization- Case of bar dancers in Mumbai

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENT
All lectures will be interactive. Participation of students in every class is encouraged. Readings provided on different topics should be perused before classes so that discussions in class are more informed, critical and interesting.

In all there will 20 engagements / inter-actions. Two visits will also be part of this course (to be finalized. Aalochana, Centre for Documentation & Research on Women and the Mahatma Phule Wada)

Grading Structure/Evaluation, marks out of 100
- Assignment 1 – 20 marks
- Classroom Debate – 20 marks
- Assignment 2 – 20 marks
- Classroom presentations on current issues – 20 marks. Each student must locate one current issue as reported in Indian media concerning the topics covered in the module. Presentations may be made by using PowerPoint or charts or any other form.
- One research paper – 20 marks (8-10 pages) on any topics that has been covered in the course.

All assignments must be submitted on time. Hard copy of the written assignments must be submitted. Non-compliance can affect grades. Proper references must be given for both print and internet. Students are expected to read at least one of the readings for each topic before the class.
ACM POLICY ON ACADEMICS
A complete listing of ACM policies can be found in your student handbook.

Class attendance and participation: You are expected to attend and participate fully in all classroom sessions, site visits, and field trips.

Academic honesty: Actions of dishonesty are destructive to the well-being of the academic community, and ACM staff respond to them vigorously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic theft will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in failure for the course.

ACM POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION
The Associated Colleges of the Midwest does not discriminate in the operation of its educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, or disability.