Course Coordinator: Dr. Niharika Banerjea
Office and email: Room 36, Teacher’s Gallery, niharikab@aud.ac.in
Credits: 4

Course Description
This course will introduce students to the theories, practices and research around transnational feminisms. How do feminists understand difference and build solidarity and alliance across differences of class, race, nationality, caste, gender, sexuality, religion and language? How do feminists critically write and dialogue about processes of colonialism, global capitalism, nationalism, human rights, and the politics of gender, sexuality, race, caste, and nation? In what ways does collaboration as a concept and practice define transnational feminisms? These are some key questions that we will engage with in this course with particular attention to organizing and coalition building across north-south divides. Along the way, we will also attempt to understand the intersections of transnational feminisms, the politics of knowledge production, and social justice concerns.

Course Objectives
• To develop a critical awareness about the question of difference and intersectionality.
• To develop awareness about how coalitions can be built across difference, in order to avoid community building through universalizing discourses.
• To understand and practice scholarship and research across academia and activism.

Assessments
In-class participation = 10%
Review essay = 40%
Term paper presentation = 30%
Term paper = 30%

Modules

Module 1: A brief about feminisms
This module will focus on selected texts to understand some key concerns in feminist scholarship and activisms, especially in and around the context of India. Along the way, we will look at how feminism emerges as a response to the particularities of universalizing discourses embedded in imperial and post-colonial states and communities.


Suggested readings:
Module 2: ‘Global sisterhood’ and its critique

This module undertakes a brief overview of international/global feminisms and liberal feminisms and arrives at a critique of that through the writings of women of color academic-activists in the United States. Such critique emerges from within the institutional spaces of the academia and the collective spaces of grassroots movements to question the silences of the ‘global sisterhood’ discourse.


Suggested readings:

Module 3: When are feminisms transnational or when is a feminist response transnational?

The contested nature of ‘transnational’ is elaborated in this module. A range of writings is engaged with to understand how the transnational emerges through imperatives to understand the differential effects of scattered colonialisms, neoliberalisms and homonationalisms. Contexts across the United States and India (among others) are engaged with in an attempt to (dis)locate hegemonic narratives.

Suggested readings:


Module 4: Transnational feminist organizing, navigations, and movements

This module discusses examples of feminist organizing to understand how collectives respond to the effects of colonialisms, neoliberalisms and homonationalisms across contexts, and engage with differential locations in the process.


Suggested readings:


Module 5: Transnational feminist collaboration and praxis

Collaborations across academic and activist spaces, including their methodological premises are discussed in this module. The selected texts help understand how one can ‘do’ transnational research that is more than reflexive research.


Suggested readings: