School of Human Studies
Ambedkar University Delhi
Course Outline

Time Slot- TBC

Course Code: SHS202806
Title: Masculinities
Type of Course: Core
Cohort for which it is compulsory: MA Gender Studies, Semester 3
Cohort for which it is elective: All MA students at AUD
No of Credits: 2
Semester and Year Offered: Monsoon Semester 2017
Course Coordinator and Team: Rachna Chaudhary
Email of course coordinator: rachna@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: Graduation and some basic understanding of Feminist Theory

Aim:

1. To theorise gender as a category of analysis with emphasis on masculinity.
2. An examination of Indian masculinities historically and in contemporary context.
3. A review of masculinity studies in India

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Masculinity as a field of enquiry is important to theorise gender as a category of analysis. The course looks at masculinity as socially produced but embodied ways of
being male. Its manifestations include manners of speech, behaviour, gestures, social interaction, a division of tasks proper to men and women (men work in offices, women do housework), and an overall narrative that positions it as superior to The discourse of masculinity as a dominant and superior gender position is produced at a number of sites and has specific consequences for ‘other’ genders especially its perceived antithesis, femininity. These sites include: customary laws and regulations, the state and its mechanisms, the family, religious norms and sanctions, popular culture, and, the media. The mass media is one of the most important means for the transmission, circulation and reception of local and global masculine identities. With the rise of new technologies of media and communication, representations of masculinities find both local and global anchoring. In this sense, the media becomes a transformative force field with a capacity to change structures of belief. This course will explore various historical, cultural, political and social contexts through which ideas of masculinity / masculinities circulate and take shape. A review of masculinity studies in India will also be undertaken. The significance of detaching Masculinity from men’s bodies is emphasized to comprehend the difference in context of different identity locations.

**Unit 1: Theorising Masculinity**

**Unit 2: Masculinity and History: Pre-Colonial, Colonial and Post-colonial Contexts**

- Indian Masculinities before Colonialism
- Masculinities and the Colonial Era: the Making of Indian Men
- Post-colonial Masculinities: The Nation and its Men

**Unit 3: Learning to be a Man**

- Family
- Schooling
- Religion
- Work
- Caste

Unit 4: Masculinity and Sexuality

- Men, Women and Sexuality
- Heterosexuality, Homosexuality and Masculinity

Unit 5: Masculinities, ‘Honour’ and Violence

- Losing Masculinity, Maintaining Masculinity
- War and Masculinity

Unit 7: Masculinities, Beauty, Physicality and Fitness

- Making-up the Male Body
- Masculinity in Performance

Assessment Details with weights:

1. Attendance and participation – 20%
2. Assessment 1 (September) – 40%
3. Assessment 2 (November) – 40%

Reading List:


Ray, Raka. “Culture of Servitude.” Religion and Masculinities


The f2M trans manifesto

Maddox, Georginia. Essay on being a butch female in India. In Nivedita Menon’s *Sexualities*.

