

Ph.D. Course Work Examination- 2026
Subject: Women's Studies
Course II: Feminist Thoughts in India and the West

Time : 4 hours

Total Marks: 80

Questions are of value as indicated on the margin

Answer any four questions

1. Distinguish between Radical Libertarians and Radical Cultural feminists. Discuss their arguments in the context of reproduction and motherhood. 4+8+8=20
2. Explain the key arguments of Black Feminist Thought with reference to intersectionality and lived experiences. 20
3. What do you understand by Postfeminism? Discuss the salient differences between Postfeminism and Third Wave Feminism. 6+14=20
4. "Empowerment may be understood as a process that moves beyond individual rights towards collective social transformation"- Comment critically. 20
5. Discuss the significance and limitations of cyberfeminism in the context of contemporary India. 20
6. Define 'ecofeminism'. Critically discuss the difference in Western and Indian approaches towards understanding 'ecofeminism'. 4+8+8=20

10/06/25

Women's Studies Centre, Visva-Bharati
Ph.D. Course Work Examination, 2025
Subject: Women's Studies
Course II: Elective Course (Feminist Thought)

Time : 4 hours

Total Marks: 80

Questions are of value as indicated on the margin

Answer any four questions

1. Critically discuss the arguments of Betty Friedan towards promoting women's emancipation. 20
2. What do you understand by the term "alienation"? Discuss the Marxist connotations of "alienation". Do you think women experience alienation in a manner which is different from men? Give reasons in support of your answer. 5+5+10
3. What do you understand by Existentialism? Discuss how Simon de Beauvoir presents an ontological explanation of the process of othering and women's oppression. 5+15
4. What were the issues raised by the Dalit feminists against the mainstream Indian feminists? Discuss the main tenets of Dalit feminist standpoint with special reference to the arguments forwarded by C. Mohanty. 5+15
5. Critically discuss Esther Roserup's articulations about women's role in economic development. 20
6. What do you understand by eco-feminism? Critically discuss the concept of feminist environmentalism? 5+15

2023-24-

Women's Studies Centre, Visva-Bharati
Ph.D. Course Work Examination, 2024
Subject: Women's Studies
Course II: Elective Course (Feminist Thought)

Time : 4 hours

Total Marks: 80

Questions are of value as indicated on the margin

Answer any four questions

1. What is the difference between radical libertarian and radical cultural feminists? Discuss the views of the radical libertarian and radical cultural feminists on reproduction and motherhood. 4+16
2. Discuss the main tenets of socialist feminism. Discuss, after Heidi Hartman, how patriarchy shapes the course of capitalist development? 10+10
3. What are the basic tenets of postmodern feminism? Critically discuss the concepts of 'deconstruction' and 'difference' based on the arguments of postmodernist thinkers. 5+15
4. Elucidate the main tenets of the Lacanian theory of psychoanalysis. Discuss how the feminist writers critiqued and appropriated Lacan's theory of psycho-sexual development. 10+10
5. What do you understand by 'intersectionality'? Discuss the critique of mainstream feminism put forth by the women of colour with special focus on arguments of Black feminists. 6+14
6. Define 'deep ecology'. What are its basic characteristics? Critically discuss how women-nature connections have been reaffirmed and contested by the western eco-feminists. 4+4+12