

**Ph.D. Course Work Examination- 2024**  
**Subject: Women's Studies**  
**Course I: Research Methodology and Techniques**

**Time : 4 hours**

**Total Marks: 80**

**Questions are of value as indicated in the margin**

**Answer question no. 1 and three other questions taking one from each part:**

1. Distinguish between conceptual framework and theoretical framework. How do these relate to a research study? Illustrate with suitable examples. 6+14

**Part A**

- 2.a) Critically discuss the postulations of Thomas Kuhn and Karl Popper on the evolution of scientific knowledge. 20

- 2.b) Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative research methods. What is meant by 'Research Questions'? Discuss the different types of research questions with suitable examples. 8+2+10

**Part B: Statistics**

- 3a). What do you mean by the measures of dispersion? Discuss the different measures with examples. 5+15

- 3b). Compare and Contrast (any two): 10+10
- i. The four types of data
  - ii. Sampling distribution and standard errors
  - iii. Concept of T-test and Z-test.

**Part C: Feminist Methodology**

- 4.a) . How does feminist epistemology differ from mainstream/malestream epistemology? What are the main traditions of feminist epistemology? Can politically value-laden research produce more complete and less distorted social analysis? Discuss. 5+10+5

- 4.b). What is meant by ethnographic research? What are the concerns and dilemmas in doing feminist ethnographic research? Discuss. 8+12

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

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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

10/06/25

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**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

05/06/25

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**Part A: Scientific Social Research**

1. What are the various components of social research? Discuss the concept of research design with suitable examples. 5+15
2. Attempt a feminist critique of the positivist approach to doing social research. Critically discuss the merits of both quantitative and qualitative research. What do you understand by a Critical Quantitative Methodology? 8+8+4

**Part B: Statistics**

3. What do you mean by the measures of central tendency? Discuss the different measures with examples. 5+15
4. What is sampling? What are the different methods of sampling? Discuss each method briefly. 5+3+12

**Part C: Feminist Methodology**

5. Critically discuss how elements of postmodern thought present both problems and opportunities for feminist research? 20
6. What are oral histories? What are the concerns and dilemmas in conducting Oral Histories for doing feminist research? Explain and examine. 8+12