

DSC – II - WOMEN’S WRITING

Women’s writing

The course aims to acquaint the students with the complex and multifaceted literature by women of the world, reflecting the diversity of women’s experiences and their varied cultural moorings. It embraces different forms of literature: poetry, fiction, short fiction, and critical writings. In certain respects, it interlocks concerns of women’s literary history, women’s studies and feminist criticism.

Unit 1: In Defence of A Literature of Their Own

MaryWollstonecraft: “Introduction” from “A Vindication of the Rights of Women”

OR

Sarala Devi: “Narira Dabi” (*The Claim of the Woman*) Trans. S.Mohanty, Chapters 13 & 17 from the collective novel *Basanti* (The first two in *Lost Tradition: Early Women’s Writing from Orissa* and the third in *Indian Literature No.*)

Unit 2: Desiring Self: Fiction by Women from the Centre

- Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre* OR Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights*
- Jean Rhys: *Wide Sargasso Sea* OR Dorris Lessing: *The Grass is Singing*

Unit 3: Desiring and Dissenting Self: Fiction by Women from the Periphery

Krupabai Saththianadhan: *Saguna* or *Kamala* OR Prativa Ray: *Yajnaseni*

Unit 4: Tongues of Flame: Poetry by Women from Across the World

*Any Four Poets to be read

Kamala Das	“An Introduction” & “The Sunshine Cat”
Shanta Acharya	“Homecoming” & “Shringara”
Eunice de Souza	“Women in Dutch Painting” & “Remember Medusa?”
Tishani Doshi	“Ode to the Walking Woman” & “What the Body Knows”
Maya Angelou	“PhenomenalWoman” & “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”
Sylvia Plath	“Mirror” & “Barren Woman”
Margaret Atwood	“This is a Photograph of me” & “The Landlady”

Unit 5: Discoursing at Par: Literary Criticism by Women

Virginia Woolf: "Chapter 1" from *A Room of One's Own* OR Simone de Beauvoir: "Introduction" from *The Second Sex*

Web Resources:

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

<https://victorianpersistence.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/aroom-of-ones-own-virginia-woolf-1929.pdf>

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*: Introduction

<http://pinkmonkey.com/dl/library1/vindicat.pdf>

Maya Angelou's Poems

http://www.poemhunter.com/i/ebooks/pdf/maya_angelou_2012_6.pdf

Sylvia Plath's Collected Poems

https://monoskop.org/images/2/27/Plath_Sylvia_The_Collected_Poems_1981.pdf

Margaret Atwood's Poems

<http://www.poemhunter.com/margaret-atwood/poems/>

Eunice de Souza, "Remember Medusa?" & "Women in Dutch Painting"

<http://www.poetrynook.com/poem/remember-medusa>

<http://www.gallerie.net/issue14/poetry1.html>

Tishani Doshi's Poems

http://www.poemhunter.com/i/ebooks/pdf/tishani_doshi_2012_6.pdf

Simone de Beauvoir *The Second Sex*

<http://burawoy.berkeley.edu/Reader.102/Beauvoir.I.pdf>

Suggested Reading:

Toril Moi, *Sexual Textual Criticism*

Elaine Showalter, *A Literature of Their Own*

Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, *The Mad Woman in the Attic*

Gill Plain and Susan Sellers, *A History of Feminist Literary Criticism*. Cambridge University Press. 2007. Essays to be read: Helen Carr, "A History of Women's Writing"

and Mary Eagleton, "Literary Representations of Women"

https://mthoyibi.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/05-history-of-feminist-literary-criticism_gill-plain-andsus.pdf