

GDS 2120: THEORIES IN GENDER STUDIES - 30 CREDIT POINTS

Pre-requisite: None

1.0 Background

This course introduces students to feminist and gender theory on selected themes in the field of gender studies sexuality, religion, masculinities, feminist politics, and technology studies. The course explores feminist theories across space and time to understand gender and power relations in society to inform the gender analysis process. This course exposes students to the social processes that produce gender discrimination and inequality at various societal levels (household, community and nation), as well as strategies to promote gender equality.

2.0 Rationale

This course provides feminist and gender theoretical frameworks to analyze gender norms across cultures in order to broaden students' thinking and ability to question issues around them. The course aims to enable students understand the dynamics of gender relations in society using theories of gender across time and space.

3.0 Course objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 3.1 Describe the five approaches of conceptualizing gender;
- 3.2 Demonstrate understanding of the role of gender theories in knowledge production;
- 3.3 Explain the social construction of gender in the family, labour market and politics in Zambia;
- 3.4 Identify gender norms that create and perpetuate gender inequality in society;
- 3.5 Identify opportunities for promoting gender equality;
- 3.6 Name feminist and gender theories that explain gender relations in society;
- 3.7 Describe feminist strategies of eliminating gender inequalities in policy and practice;
- 3.8 Analyze the relevance and applicability of post-modern feminism to issues of gender in society; and
- 3.9 Mainstream gender in research proposals and the development planning process.

4.0 Course content

4.1 Introduction to key terms and concepts in gender studies

- 4.1.1 Gender, Gender Equality and Gender Equity
- 4.1.2 Gender theory

4.2 Approaches for conceptualizing gender

- 4.2.1 Gender a binary
- 4.2.2 Social construction
- 4.2.3 Performance
- 4.2.4 Hierarchy
- 4.2.5 Fluid

4.3 Feminist theories

- 4.3.1 Liberal, Marxist/Socialist, Radical feminism
- 4.3.2 Standpoint theory
- 4.3.3 Intersectionality theory

4.4 Theorizing on men and masculinity

- 4.4.1 Hegemonic masculinity
- 4.4.2 The crisis of masculinity
- 4.4.3 Challenges of theorizing men and masculinities

4.5 Patriarchy

- 4.5.1 Origins of Patriarchy
- 4.5.2 Patriarchy in the domestic sphere
- 4.5.3 Patriarchy and accumulation (Capitalist patriarchy)
- 4.5.4 Critical theory: a challenge to patriarchy

4.6 Approaches to achieving gender equality

- 4.6.1 Women in Development, Women and Development
- 4.6.2 Gender and Development, Women, Environment and Development
- 4.6.3 Gender mainstreaming
- 4.6.4 Gender transformation

4.7 Women in political theory

- 4.7.1 Plato and Aristotle on the status of women in a just state
- 4.7.2 Status of women and men in the Enlightenment period
- 4.7.3 Gender and religion

4.8 Feminism practice and post structuralism theory

- 4.8.1 Feminism and post modernism
- 4.8.2 Post structuralism theory: Discourse, power and resistance
- 4.8.3 Black feminism
- 4.8.4 Contemporary feminism

4.9 Cyber space, feminism and technology

- 4.9.1 Media and popular culture
- 4.9.2 Positive and negative representation in the media
- 4.9.3 Advertising and selling

4.10 Gender and work

- 4.10.1 Gender in work organizations
- 4.10.2 The gendered patterns of work
- 4.10.3 Domestic work, beyond the household
- 4.10.4 New forms of work

5.0 Method of teaching

- 5.1 Lectures 3 hours per week
- 5.2 Tutorials 1 hour per week

6.0 Assessment

- 6.1 Continuous Assessment 50%**
 - 6.1.1. Two assignments (essays) (15% each) 30%
 - 6.1.2 Test 20%
- 6.2 Final examination 50%**

7.0 Prescribed readings

Coole, D. (ed) (1989) Women in political theory: from ancient misogyny to contemporary feminism. Wheatons Ltd, London

Engberg-Pedersen, L. Fejerskov, A. and Cold-Ravnkilde, S. M. (Eds.). (2019) Rethinking gender equality in global governance: The delusion of norm diffusion. Springer.

Mukhopadhyay, M (2016) Mainstreaming gender or “streaming” gender away: feminists marooned in the development business. In *The Palgrave handbook of gender and development* (pp. 77-91). Palgrave Macmillan, London.

Richardson, D. and Robinson, V. (Eds.). (2020). *Introducing gender and women's studies*. Red Globe Press.

8.0 Recommended readings

Lober, J. and farrel, S.A (ed) (1991) The social construction of gender. SAGE publications, London

Mosedale, S. (2014) Women’s empowerment as a development goal: taking a feminist standpoint. *Journal of International Development*, 26(8), 1115-1125.

Mies, M. (1991) Patriarchy and accumulation on a world scale: women in international division of labour, Zed books limited, London

Mill, J.S. (1986) The subjection of women. Prometheus books, New York

Shanley, M. L. and Pateman, C (ed) (1994) Feminist Interpretations and political theory, Polity Press, Oxford

9.0 Recommended Journal(s)

African Journal of Gender and Women Studies, ISSN: 2736-1578

Gender and Society, ISSN: 0891-2432, Online ISSN: 1552-3977

Gender and Development Journal, ISSN: 1355-2074 Online ISSN: 1364-9221