UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY

**DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES**

**GS-655 PAKISTANI ARTS AND LITERATURE: WOMEN’S CONTRIBUTION AND PORTRAYAL**

**Capsule Statement:**

This course highlights the contribution of Pakistani women writers to the field of literature and explores the role of women writers in shaping Pakistani literature. Also, the focus of the course is on the representation of the feminine, female and feminist consciousness as portrayed in literary texts and on studying the emerging archetypes. It focuses on the components of women and gender as meaningful and balanced representations in different genres of literature. The course discusses literature produced by female writers as an element to sensitize society as regards to the complexity of gender.

**Objectives:**

After completion of this course, student will be able to,

* Understand the contribution of Pakistani women writers to the field of literature
* Assess how social attitudes have shaped perceptions of women in literature and women’s self-perceptions
* Read critically, logically, and analytically women/gender elements presented in a text
* Analyze how women writers have depicted women’s experiences in order to challenge patriarchal discourse

**Contents:**

1. **Why do we study women, gender, and literature?**
2. **Overview of women writers and presentation of women and gender in literature: A case of West and of the Subcontinent**
   1. Writers writing under pseudo-names
   2. Feminist criticism and history of feminist criticism
      1. Mary Wollstonecraft and her legacy
      2. The feminist criticism of Virginia Woolf
         1. A room of her own
      3. Simone de Beauvoir and the demystification of woman
      4. ‘The laugh of Medusa’ by Helene Cixous
      5. Feminist, Female, Feminine by Toril Moi
3. **Literature in the National language**
   1. Short Stories:
      1. *Gung Shehzadi* by Khalida Hussain
      2. *Aaqbat* by Hajra Masroor
      3. *Antar Hote Udasi* by Bano Qudsia
      4. *ZameeN aag ki, aasmaaN aag ka* by Zahida Hina
      5. *Parbati* by Farkhanda Lodhi
      6. *Le saans bhi aahista* by Neelum Ahmed Basheer
   2. Selected poetry:
      1. Ada Jafferi
      2. Shabnam Shakeel
      3. Zahra Nigah
      4. Perveen Shakir
      5. Kishwar Naheed
      6. Fehmida Riaz
4. **Literature in English**

4.1 Novel:

4.1.2 The Bride by Bapsi Sidhwa

1. **Literature in Regional Languages**
   1. Short Stories
      1. *Ki janaaN mein kaun* by Perveen Malik
      2. *Kabootri* by Zaitoon Bano
      3. *Zindagi ka zehr* by Noor ul Huda Shah
   2. Selected Poetry
      1. Nasreen Anjum Bhatti
      2. Attiya Dawood

**Suggested Readings:**

Ahmad, R., ed. (1991). *We Sinful Women*. London: Women’s Press.

Ahmed, Zia. 2009. Pakistani feminist fiction and the empowerment of women. *Pakistaniaat: A Journal of Pakistan Studies*, 1(2), 91-102.

Basheer, N. A. (1999). Le saans bhi aahista [even breath slowly]. *Le saans bhi aahista [even breath slowly].* Lahore: Sang-e-Meel.

Bredi, Daniela. (2004). Of Women, Language, and Literature: Begmati Zuban. *Pakistan Journal of Women’s Studies: Alm-e-Niswan, Vol. 11, No. 1, 21-39.*

Bredi, Daniela. (2010). Women and Male Urdu Poets- a Few Examples. *Pakistan Journal of Women’s Studies: Alam-e-Niswan, Vol. 17, No. 1, 59-70.*

Cixous, Helene. (1976). The Laugh of Medusa. Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society Vol. 1 - Issue 4. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Chughtai, Ismat. (1990). *The Quilt and Other Stories.* Translated by T. Naqvi and S. Hameed. Delhi: Kali for Women.

Hameed, S. and S. Mehdi, eds. (1996). *Parwaaz: A Selection of Urdu Short Stories by Women.* Delhi: Kali for Women.

Hina, Z. (2004). Zameen Aag ki, aasmaaN aag ka [earth made of fire, sky made of fire]. *Titliyaan Dhoondne Wali* [the girl searching for butterflies]. Lahore: Alhamd Publications.

Hussain, K. (2008). *Majmooa e Khalida Hussain* [Collected works of Khalida Hussain]. Lahore: Sang-e-Meel Publications.

Hussein, Aamer. ed. (1999). Hoops *of Fire: Fifty Years of Fiction by Pakistani Women*. London: Saqi Books.

Lodhi, F. (1996). Parbati. *Shehr ke log* [People of the city]. Lahore: Universal books.

Malik, P. (1984). Aaqbat. Ki janaan mein kaun[What do I know, who I am] *Ki janaan mein kaun.* [What do I know, who I am]. Lahore: Saarang Publications.

Masroor, H. (1991). *Majmooa e Hajra Masroor* [Collected works of Hajra Masroor. Lahore: Sang-e-Meel.

Minault, Gail. (ed.) (1994). Other Voices, Other Rooms: the View from the Zenana. *Nita Kumar* *Women as subjects, South Asian Histories.* Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 108-124.

Moi, Tori (1989). Feminist, female and feminine. *The feminist reader; essays in gender and the politics of literary criticism.* Edited by Catherine Belsey and Jane Moore. NY: Basil Blackwell.

Petievich, Carla. (1993). The Feminine and Cultural Syncretism in Early Dakhani Poetry. *The Annual of Urdu*. 119–130.

Petievich, Carla. (2005). Feminine Authorship and Urdu Poetic Tradition: Baharistan-i Naz vs. Tazkira-i rekhti, in Kathryn Hansen, David Lelyveld and C. M. Naim (ed.) *A Wilderness of Possibilities: Urdu Studies in Transnational Perspective*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Pritchett, Frances W. (1992). ‘Women, Death, and Fate, Sexual Politics in the Dastan-e-Amir Hamzah,’ in Sally J. M. Sutherland (ed.) Bridging Worlds, Studies on Women in South Asia. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 71–95.

Qudsia, B. (2004b). Antar hot udasi. *Kuch aur nahin* [Nothing else]. Lahore: Sang-e-Meel.

Rehman, Samina .(1994). In Her Own Write: Short stories by Women Writers in Pakistan. Lahore: ASR Publications.

Riaz, Fahmida. Four walls and a black veil. Karachi: Oxford University Press.

Salahuddin, Ambreen. (2005). *Feminism in Modern Urdu Poetesses*. Lahore: West Pakistan Urdu Academy.

Shah, N. H. (2014). *Zindagi ka Zehr [poison of life].* Hyderabad: Roshni Publications.

Yaqin, Amina. (2006). Badan Darid (The body torn): Gender and Sexuality in Pakistani Women’s Poetry,” *Pakistan Journal of Women’s Studies*: Alam-e- Niswan, Vol. 13, No. 1, 45-65.

Yaqin, Amina. (2001). *The Intertextuality of Women in Urdu literature: a Study of Fahmida Riaz and Kishwar Naheed*. London: University of London.