

INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST THOUGHT

This course is aimed at young women, and men, who are interested in exploring the contours of a gendered worldview and strive towards a just society. It will introduce students to concepts of feminism and will explore ideas in different feminisms. We shall view gender in the context of race, ethnicity, caste, class and sexuality. Feminism can be defined as looking at the world with a woman's eye, rather than the attitude of 'add woman and stir' to mainstream social sciences. Feminism urges the women's point of view to be central to social theory, political action and economic policy.

Yet, this course exhibits that feminism is not a monolith. Different types of feminisms articulate the development of women's question in varied manners in different locations and settings. This course will explore the relation of women with class and labour through Socialist feminist work; the lived realities of intersectional oppression through readings from Black feminism and Dalit feminism; the violence of development and its effect on agriculture through Ecofeminism. It will explore the possibility of the world based on the feminine value system or the ethic of care as a parallel to capitalism and imperialism.

By introducing students to the main themes and periods in feminism the course will equip them to view their world around differently and seek gender in mainstream law subjects. The course would form a base to advanced courses offered at JGLS such as feminist jurisprudence, international law with a feminist perspectives, caste and gender.

Modules:

1. Why feminism
2. Birth of feminism: Liberal feminism
3. Liberal feminism in India
4. Controversies of radical feminism
5. Intersectionality and Black feminism
6. The challenge of Dalit feminism
7. Islamic Feminisms in the clash of civilisations
8. Hindu nationalism and women
9. Sexual minorities challenging feminisms
10. Marxist and Socialist feminism
11. Ethics of Care
12. Political Economy of Gender
13. Eco-feminism
14. Cyber-feminism