

**AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM
AMRITAPURI CAMPUS
PhD-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

24EN805

Feminist Body Studies

4-0-0-4

Course overview:

This course on Feminist Body Studies presents a set of sophisticated, contemporary analyses of representations, identities and practices of weight and body management. The course contextualises body management practices in current gender related discourses, and provides a convincing account of the centrality of socio-political power dynamics in the production of gender identity.

Syllabus:

Unit I [Key Concepts]

Anna Carastathis.-*Intersectionality : Origins, Contestations, Horizons*

Angela Y. Davis- *Women, Race and Class*

Da'Shaun L. Harrison -*Belly of the Beast: The Politics of Anti-Fatness as Anti-Blackness*

Amelia Morris- *The Politics of Weight: Feminist Dichotomies of Power in Dieting,*

Sahrlene Hesse Biber – *Am I thin Enough Fit?: The Cult of Thinness and the Commercialization of Identity*

Unit II

Ella Houston - “Featuring Disabled Women in Advertisements: The Commodification of Diversity?”

Audre Lorde - ‘The Master’s Tools will Never Dismantle the Master’s House’ in *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*

Unit III

Radha Chakravarty – Introductory Chapter -*Feminism and Contemporary Women Writers: Rethinking Subjectivity*

Nivedita Menon – “Gender and Politics in India”

Richard G Parker – Introductory Chapter- *Bodies, Pleasures and Passions* .

References:

Carastathis, Anna. *Intersectionality*. U of Nebraska Press, 2016.

Davis, Angela Y. *Women, Race, and Class*. Vintage, 2011.

Harrison, Da'Shaun L. *Belly of the Beast*. National Geographic Books, 2021.

Morris, Amelia Greta. *The Politics of Weight*. Springer, 2019.

Ellis, Katie, et al. *The Routledge Companion to Disability and Media*. Routledge, 2019,

Lorde, Audre. *The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House*. Penguin UK, 1998

Chakravarty, Radha. *Feminism and Contemporary Women Writers*. Routledge, 2014.

Menon, Nivedita. *Gender and Politics in India*. Oxford UP, USA, 1999.

Parker, Richard Guy. *Bodies, Pleasures, and Passions*. Beacon Press (MA), 1991.

Pilcher, J., and Whelehan, I. *Fifty Key Concepts in Gender Studies*, London, 2004.

Course outcomes:

CO1: Develop an applied understanding of several key ideas and theories in the broad field of body studies including social construction of bodies and embodiment.

CO2: Acquire an in-depth introduction to historical and contemporary understandings of the body and embodiment in society.

CO3: Understand the different approaches to Body Studies that provides opportunities for engagement with vital questions about identity, relationships, and the social world.

CO4: Develop the Research Skills of the learners to the extent that they become capable of studying any social phenomenon in an objective manner

CO5: Examine body and embodiment in relation to issues of identity, place, and the boundaries of the embodied self.

Evaluation pattern:

Internal: 50

Mid term: - 30

Continuous Evaluation – Assignments 20

External: Presentations and viva 50