

Women and Gender in West Asia

Optional Course

for

M.A. (International Relations- West Asian Studies)

Course No: MWAS-403

Semester IV

Centre for West Asian Studies

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

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Course Description

The Study of women's role and conditions has attracted the attention of media and academics. This is true about West Asian women with an added importance because it has not been perceived properly earlier. Women in the region are not a homogenous lot, for example, Iranian women differ from Arab women. Moreover, even within one category there are diversities, as for example, women in the Arab Gulf differ from Women in the rest of the Arab World. Besides, one needs a bit of theoretical considerations to understand the real status of women in the region. This course delves deep into all these aspects.

Course Content:

Unit I: Theoretical Considerations

- Feminism
- Islam

Unit II: Turkish Women

- 1914-45: Nationalism and Women's movements: An Overview of Changes
- 1945-Till Date: New States and Trends, Women's Activism and the Role of Islam: General Features

Unit III: Iranian Women

- 1914-45: Nationalism and Women's movements: An Overview of Changes

- 1945-Till Date: New States and Trends, Women's Activism and the Role of Islam: General Features

Unit IV: Arab Women

- Arab Women: Some Generalization
- Arab Gulf Women
- Egyptian Women
- Palestinian Women

Reading List

- Amelie L. Renard, *A Society of Young Women: Opportunities of Place, Power, and Reform in Saudi Arabia*, Stanford University Press, 2014.
- Guity Nashat and Judith E. Tucker, *Women in Middle East and North Africa: Restoring Women to History*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1999.
- Gunmeen Singh, *Lifting the Veil: Position of Women in the Gulf Cooperation Council States*, Sanskriti, New Delhi. 2008.
- Leila Ahmad. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Root of A Modern Debate*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1992.
- Mahnaz Afkhami and Erika Friedl, eds. *In the Eye of the Storm: Women in Post Revolutionary Iran*, Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, 1994.
- Sanja Kelly. Julia Breslin, (eds.), *Women's Right in the Middle East and North Africa: Progress Amid Resistance*, Rowman and Littlefield, New Delhi, Plymouth, 2010.
- Shahid Jamal Ansari and Khan Yasir, *Women in the Gulf: Transition from Tradition to Modernity?* Elixir Publications, Jaipur, 2014.
- Sirin Tekeli. ed.. *Women in Modern Turkish Society*, Zed Books, London, 1995.

Websites:

- Aljazeera English
- JSTOR
- United Nations Development Progra
- www.khalijtime.com

Method of Instruction:

Lectures and tutorial will be held on a weekly basis. Questions, discussion and debate during classes will be strongly encouraged. Students are expected to keep informed of the current events in the West Asian region.

Method of Assessment:

A mid-term exam would consist of essay questions based upon the topics covered up to that point. It will be of 25 marks and student must answer two questions out of 4 of 12.5 marks each. The final exam conducted according to a schedule at the end of the semester will be of 75 marks. In the final exam, students must answer 5 out of 10 questions.