



KAUTILYA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

GITAM (Deemed to be University)
Rudraram, Patancheru Mandal
Hyderabad, Telangana 502329

Course Code: PPOL6571	Course Title: Gender, State and Society	
Trimester: 6/3	Course Type: Elective	Credits: 3
Home Program(s): MPP	Batch/Academic Year: 2022-2024/2023-2025	
Course Lead: Dr. Vasudha Katju	Assigned TA/RA: Mr. Rashad Ullah Khan	

Course Description

In this course, we examine the state in light of the concept of gender. We examine the state as an agency which has a gendered character and which in turn shapes and channels gendered identities, institutions, relations, and experiences. We explore the state's impact on and intervention into gendered lives of those living within its territory, through the instruments of legislation and policy. We also note that the state is nonetheless subject to both internal and external challenges. Internally, the state is not a monolith but is made up of numerous institutions and agencies that contest and challenge each other. The state is also challenged by organised external actors that question its power and/or authority and/or seek to deploy that authority to their own ends. How do these factors shape how policies are made or fail to materialize? We explore these challenges to and uses of the power and authority of the state, in the context of gender.

Learning Objectives

1. To understand the concept of the state, and the idea of the state as gendered
2. To identify how the state shapes gendered experiences and identities
3. To understand the negotiations between the state and organised political actors in the area of gender
4. To understand the formulation of policy in the context of the nature of the state and the challenges it faces

Course Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyse the nature and role of the state in the area of gender
2. Illustrate how the state's stance on gender impacts everyday life
3. Delineate the contestations between the state and those subject to its regulations
4. Understand the process of the formulation of policy in the context of a gendered state and society
5. Strengthen their critical thinking and communication skills

Textbooks and Course Materials

Required Readings will be made available on Moodle. The following is a consolidated bibliography of the possible references to be made during the course:

1. Flavia Agnes. 2016. 'Has Codified Hindu Law Changed Gender Relationships?' *Social Change*, vol 46, issue 4.
2. Flavia Agnes, 1992. 'Protecting Women against Violence? Review of a Decade of Legislation, 1980-89.' *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 27, no 17.
3. Francine Frankel, Zoya Hasan, Rajeev Bhargava, Balveer Arora, 2006. *Transforming India*. Oxford University Press.
4. Gianfranco Poggi, 2006. 'State,' in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology*, Bryan S. Turner ed. Cambridge University Press.
5. Kalpana Kannabiran ed, 2005. *The Violence of Normal Times: Essays on Women's Lived Realities*. New Delhi: Women Unlimited.
6. Nivedita Menon. 2009. "Sexuality, Caste, Governmentality: Contests over 'gender' in India. *Feminist Review*. No. 91.
7. Pamela Paxton and Melanie M. Hughes, 2017. *Women, Politics, and Power (3rd edition)*. Sage Publications.
8. Patricia Uberoi, ed, 1996. *Social Reform, Sexuality and the State*. Sage Publications Pvt. Ltd.
9. R. W. Connell, 1990. 'The State, Gender, and Sexual Politics: Theory and Appraisal.' *Theory and Society*, vol 19, no. 5.

10. Rachel E. Brulé, 2020. *Women, Power, and Property: The Paradox of Gender Equality Laws in India*. Cambridge University Press.
11. Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, 2003. *The Scandal of the State: Women, Law, and Citizenship in Postcolonial India*. Duke University Press.
12. Sadaf Ahmad, 2012. 'AASHA's approach to instituting sexual harassment legislation in Pakistan.' *New South Asian Feminisms: Paradoxes and possibilities*, Srila Roy ed. Zed Books
13. Sadhna Arya, 'National Commission for Women: An Overview of Its Performance.' *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol 48 no 112.
14. Sudesh Vaid and Kumkum Sangari eds, 1990. *Recasting Women: Essays in Colonial History*. Kali for Women.
15. Sumit Sarkar and Tanika Sarkar eds, 2007. *Women and Social Reform in India: A Reader, vols 1 and 2*. Permanent Black.
16. Susan Franceschet, Mona Lena Krook and Netina Tan, 2019. *The Palgrave Handbook of Women's Political Rights*. Palgrave Macmillan.
17. Susan Moller Okin. 1998. 'Gender, the Public, and the Private.' In *Feminism and Politics*, Anne Phillips ed. Oxford University Press.

Course Schedule

Unit I	Sessions: 2	Theoretical Backgrounds
Defining the state		
Unit II	Sessions: 3	Critiques of the state
The state as heterogeneous The state as gendered		
Unit III	Sessions: 5	State impact on gendered experience
Gender identities: Trans Rights Act Gender and work: Bar Dancing Gender and community: Women and Property		
Unit IV	Sessions: 3	State impact on institutions
Gendered institutions: Gender and the family		

State institutions: National Commission for Women		
Unit	Sessions: 11	Engaging with the state
V		
Hindu Code Bill Section 498A Women's Reservation Bill Gender budgeting Marital rape Mahila Samakhya Women's Development Programme Section 377		