

## **MA in Gender Studies**

### **Course Description**

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Name and Description</b>
--------------------	------------------------------------

<b>GDRS5011</b>	<b>Introduction to Gender Studies</b>
-----------------	---------------------------------------

This course introduces students to the main streams of the current academic discourse on gender theory and feminism. It will explore various schools of thought in feminism and relate theoretical frameworks to issues of current interest such as the ability of women to earn an independent income, social security, occupational segregation, women sexuality, body politics and discrimination against women in different fields of society.

<b>GDRS5050</b>	<b>Contemporary Women's Issues</b>
-----------------	------------------------------------

This course aims to introduce methods and approaches of Women's studies for the understanding of Women's issues in contemporary society. It shall examine a broad range of issues facing women today, including job segregation, gender stereotypes in education, double-burden of working women, health and globalization, as well as discrimination against middle-aged women, single mothers and new women immigrants. The course will also review the continuous development of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Women's Commission established by the government, and their impact on Hong Kong society.

<b>GDRS5083</b>	<b>Feminism and Civil Society</b>
-----------------	-----------------------------------

The course aims at exposing students to a broad perspective and critical examination of the dynamic relationship between feminism and civil society. In addition to introducing contemporary feminist thoughts and issues, the course will guide students in examining issues such as gender and culture, knowledge and education, globalization and the economy, sexuality, the environment, and democracy. Students will also take part in visits and presentations.

**GDRS5084            Genders and Sexualities in Asia**

This course looks at the critical sites of gender/sexuality formations in different Asian societies and the many meanings of gender/sexuality in Asian Cultures by drawing on a cross-cultural perspective and a comparative approach. Issues surrounding the constructions of gender/sexuality and the changing gender relations and sexual politics in the context of Asian modernities against the backdrop of postcolonialism, globalization and transnational capitalism will be addressed. The course covers topics such as the sex/gender systems, categories of gendered and raced identities, representations of femininities/masculinities in popular culture and media, and gendered migration and displacement.

**GDRS5085            Gender and Work**

This course explores the question why women and men are treated differently in the workplace through the lens of performance anthropology, which focuses on how a person can become good at being a man or woman (quite apart from biological sex). The assumption is not that your biological sex affects your success in the workplace, but rather that your success is affected by how well you perform being a man or woman in the eyes of your employer. Our goal is to move beyond the old dualisms by trying to understand how the same person might be treated as a "man" by another. Since talking all the time at the theoretical level is boring, we will be examining ethnographic examples of the performances of man and woman-hood in the workplace.

**GDRS5086            Gender and Family**

This course explores the concept of the family is a gendered social construction and considers how the institution of the family perpetuates gender roles. The course will put a premium on feminist thoughts on family both as a cohesive institution and as a locus of negotiating power among individuals. Throughout the course, the diversity of women's actual living experiences in families will be discussed, from traditional to contemporary contexts, topics will include the gendered wedding industry, marriage and its division of unpaid labor, construction of fatherhood and motherhood, engendering children, family and sexualities, domestic violence, desperate housewives, the changing landscape of marriage and family formation, cohabitation, non-marriage families, single parenthood, divorce and remarriage, the identity politics of gay and lesbian families. Family and gender friendly social policy will be placed in a gendered context for critical analysis.

**GDRS5090            Special Topics in Gender Studies**

The course is aimed to teach students a particular gender issue (or particular set of gender issues) and their practical and theoretical implications.

**GDRS5131 Women and Literature**

This course explores the historical and theoretical connections between literature and women. Focusing on the idea, and image, of the woman in a selection of literary texts, the course will also examine the roles of women in literary activities.

**GDRS5210 Gender and Law**

The course aims to introduce students to the relationship between gender and law in different jurisdictions, to introduce students to the legal concept of equal opportunities under the framework of gender politics and to encourage students to be aware of possible gender bias in their future careers.

**GDRS5403 Gender and History**

The course demonstrates critically how the gender perspective as an important new academic paradigm challenges the mainstream historical analysis and explanation and influences feminist historiography. Topics may vary from year to year based on the respective teacher's research specialization in women's/gender of China, Asia or the West.

**GDRS5640 Psychology and Gender**

This course reviews historical and cultural perspectives of the psychology of gender. Various genetic, biological and social determinants of gender similarities/differences in physical and sexual attributes, cognitive abilities, personality, and social behaviour are examined. Socialization processes and their consequences will be explored in relation to individual development, education, work, and mental health; and related research findings will be critically reviewed. Current issues in gender relations and conflicts such as battering, sexual assault, and sexual harassment will be explored.

**GDRS5920 Media and Gender Representations**

This class will examine the different forms of media and discuss the role of media in constructing notions of gender and social identities.