

**24EN812**

**Contours of Ageing: History and Representation**

**4 Credits**

**Course objective:** The course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted dimensions of ageing across historical, cultural, and socio-political contexts. Through critical analysis, students will develop the analytical skills and empathetic insights necessary to navigate the complexities of ageing in contemporary society. By delving into representations of ageing in various forms of media, literature, and cultural practices, the course aims to cultivate an interrogative voice into the prevailing stereotypes and ideologies surrounding ageing.

**Year of Introduction 2024**

**Syllabus**

**Unit 1 Ageing: History of Representation**

“Social Histories of Old Age and Aging” by Pat Thane

“The Elderly in Classical Antiquity” by I M Finley

**Unit 2 Ageing, Beauty and Culture**

*The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used against Women* by Naomi Wolf

*In Full Flower: Aging Women, Power, and Sexuality: A History* by Lois W Banner

*Aged by Culture* by Margaret Morganroth Gullette

**Unit 3 Ageing and Popular Culture**

“Ageing in film” by Aagje Swinnen

“Celebrity culture and ageing” by Kristy Fairclough-Isaacs

Woodward, . “Performing Age, Performing Gender” by Kathleen Woodward

*From Reverence to Rape: The Treatment of Women in the Movies* by Molly Haskell and Manohla Dargis

**Unit 4 Ageing and Intimacy**

“Sex, sexuality and later life” by Linn Sandberg

“Historians of ageing and the ‘cultural turn’” by Antje Kampf

**Recommended references:**

- Banner, Lois W. *In Full Flower: Aging Women, Power, and Sexuality: A History*. Vintage Books, 1993.

- Finley, M. I. “The Elderly in Classical Antiquity.” *Greece & Rome*, vol. 28, no. 2, 1981, pp. 156–71. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/642863>. Accessed 21 Mar. 2024.
- Gullette, Margaret Morganroth. *Aged by Culture*. Univ. of Chicago Press, 2005.
- Haskell, Molly, and Manohla Dargis. *From Reverence to Rape: The Treatment of Women in the Movies*. The University of Chicago Press, 2016.
- Pearsall, Marilyn. *The Other within US: Feminist Explorations of Women and Aging*. Routledge, 2019.
- *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology*. Routledge, 2019.
- Thane, Pat. “Social Histories of Old Age and Aging.” *Journal of Social History*, vol. 37, no. 1, 2003, pp. 93–111. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3790315>.
- Woodward, Kathleen. “Performing Age, Performing Gender.” *NWSA Journal*, vol. 18, no. 1, 2006, pp. 162–89. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4317191>.
- Wolf, Naomi. *The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used against Women*. Vintage Classic, 2015.

### Course outcomes

After the completion of the course, the student will be able to

- CO1 Trace the trajectory of history of ageing.
- CO2 Evaluate the socio-cultural constructions of beauty and aging.
- CO3 Analyse the intersectional spaces of popular culture, ageing and gender.
- CO4 Compile various lenses through which ageing is captured in cultural history.

### Evaluation pattern:

Category	Marks
Continuous Assessment	20
Mid-Term	30
End Semester	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>