

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM
AMRITAPURI CAMPUS
PhD-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
2024

24EN809

Body Studies in Young Adult Literature

4-0-0-4

Course overview:

The course Body Studies in Young Adult Literature points to the potential of YAL as a tool through which we can offer an educated and truly “comprehensive” opportunity to grapple with questions about gender, sexuality, and healthy relationships in Young adults as seen in literature. This paper also can help address the gaps left behind when the focus is on exclusive adult narrative patterns. This course will enable the students to question and apply Critical Literacy Theory, which examines how popular media uses language and symbols that promote an unquestioning acceptance of social and political inequality, and argues for the idea of “critical literacy,” which involves the capacity to think critically about the messages conveyed by media.

Syllabus:

Unit I [Key Concepts]

The racialized body, the gendered body, cultural perceptions of beauty, new bodily technologies; Canon Male Gaze theory, Laura Mulvey
Freudian Idea of Phallogentrism

Écriture féminine, Hélène Cixous

Judith Butler’s Subjects of Sex, Gender, Desire

Unit II [Essays]

Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema”

Kimberle Crenshaw, ‘*Demarginalizing* the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black

Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics”

Simone de Beauvoir's "Introduction" from *The Second Sex*

Unit III [Fiction]

Shashi Des Pande “*The Dark Holds No Terrors*”

Sara Walker “*Dietland*”

Mona Award “*13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*”

Unit IV [Poetry]

Phyllis Webb: “The Voice That Breaks”

Margaret Atwood : “Helen of Troy Does Countertop Dancing”

Bell Hooks: “When Angels Speak of Love”

Sylvia Plath: “The Applicant”

Margaret Atwood: “Marsh Languages”

Samantha Zigelboim: “fat” , All She Knew”

References:

Butler, Judith. *Subjects of desire: Hegelian reflections in twentieth-century France*. Columbia University Press, 1987.

Cixous, Hélène. *The third body*. Hydra Books/Northwestern University Press, 1999.

DeMello, Margo. *Body Studies: An Introduction*. Routledge, 2014.

Irigaray, Luce. *Speculum of the other woman*. Cornell University Press, 1985.

White, Mary C. *From text to practice: rereading Laura Mulvey's 'Visual pleasure and narrative cinema' towards a different history of the feminist avant-garde*. 2007. Loughborough University, thesis, dspace.lboro.ac.uk/2134/10913.

Course outcomes:

CO1: Acquire a firm base in Body studies, media narratives, Gender Identity and Expression to the students

CO2: Analyze and read in depth YAL which will pour light on the student’s understanding of the gender binary, particularly engagement with Body diversity.

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: Sensitize students regarding those categories of the society who are at the peripheries and margins.

CO6: Get an insight into the links between language, history and culture.

Evaluation pattern:

Internal: 50

Mid term- 30

Continuous Evaluation - Viva 20

External - Presentations : 50