

**Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies  
(MAWGS)**

**ASSIGNMENTS**  
**4th Semester (Jan 2017)**  
**(July 2016-17 Academic Year)**

**GENDER, LITERATURE & CULTURE SPECIALIZATION**



**School of Gender and Development Studies**  
**Indira Gandhi National Open University**  
**Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110068**

## MASTER'S DEGREE IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

### ASSIGNMENTS for MWG007 and MWG008 (Jan 2017: 4th Semester)

Assignment No.	Receipt of Assignments by the Students	Submission of Assignments by the Students
MWG-007/AST/TMA-1	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 2017	15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017
MWG-008/AST/TMA-2	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 2017	15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017

As explained in the Programme Guide for MAWGS, you need to complete one assignment in each course of 8 credits. Last date of submission for all assignments is mentioned above. Please submit assignments well in time to your Regional/Study Center. With proper planning you will be able to do them within the stipulated period.

Kindly note that examination forms for June 2017 Term End Examinations will only be accepted without late fee if you have submitted the assignments by the given deadline.

**PLEASE ALSO READ CAREFULLY INFORMATION REGARDING ASSIGNMENTS PROVIDED IN THE MAWGS PROGRAMME GUIDE (PAGES 15-19) AND STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM (PAGE 16).** Assignments containing plagiarized or copied material will not be accepted.

**Course Code: MWG –007**  
**Course Title: Post Modernism and Gender**  
**Assignment No: MWG 007/AST/TMA-2017**

**Note:** The assignment contains essay type questions, each with two parts. You are required to attempt **ANY TWO** out of the three questions. Responses to each question (including all parts) should be approximately 1000 words.

Attempt any two questions.

**100 Marks (50x2)**

**Please write all answers in your own words. Assignments with plagiarized material (copied from course books or any other external sources) will not be accepted. Please read statement on Plagiarism provided in the Programme Guide.**

1. You may have come across many magazine or newspaper advertisements which use a commodified image of the female or male body to sell a product. Using any such image, provide your response as follows:
  - a. Provide a photocopy of the advertisement along with the publication source and date.
  - b. Provide a semiotic analysis of the image based on your reading of semiotics (Block 1). You may refer to various theorists to support your argument but the response must be framed in your own words.
  
2. Read the following essay on “Postmodern Blackness” by bell hooks available on either one of these links:  
<http://pmc.iath.virginia.edu/text-only/issue.990/hooks.990> or  
[http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles\\_Gen/Postmodern\\_Blackness\\_18270.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Postmodern_Blackness_18270.html)
  - a. Do you agree/disagree with the position taken by bell hooks about the limited relevance of postmodernism from the perspective of African Americans? Justify.
  - b. Taking a cue from bell hooks, write a commentary on the relevance of postmodernism from the perspective of Indian women.
  
3.
  - a. Present a postmodern analysis (in your own words) to the following poem by Audre Lorde with the help of any of the theoretical perspectives you have read in the course material.  
(Source: [www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/42577](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/42577))
  - b. Compose your own original poem and provide a brief explanation of its postmodern elements.

“Coal” by Audre Lorde

I

Is the total black, being spoken

From the earth's inside.

There are many kinds of open.

How a diamond comes into a knot of flame

How a sound comes into a word, coloured

By who pays what for speaking.

Some words are open

Like a diamond on glass windows

Singing out within the crash of passing sun

Then there are words like stapled wagers

In a perforated book—buy and sign and tear apart—

And come whatever wills all chances

The stub remains

An ill-pulled tooth with a ragged edge.

Some words live in my throat

Breeding like adders. Others know sun

Seeking like gypsies over my tongue

To explode through my lips

Like young sparrows bursting from shell.

Some words

Bedevil me.

Love is a word another kind of open—

As a diamond comes into a knot of flame

I am black because I come from the earth's inside

Take my word for jewel in your open light.

Course Code : MWG 008  
Course Title : Gender & Life Narratives  
Assignment No. : MWG 008/AST/TMA-2017

**Please write all answers in your own words. Assignments with plagiarized material (copied from course books or any other external sources) will not be accepted. Please read statement on Plagiarism provided in the Programme Guide.  
Attempt both parts of the assignment.**

**100 Marks (80+20)**

A. Document your responses/reactions to **any Six Units** of “Gender & Life Narratives” in the form of diary entries written in your own words. You can use Units from the same two Blocks or different Units spread across the various Blocks.

The diary entries should be individually dated and should list the heading of the relevant Unit. Each entry can contain your questions, thoughts, comments, critiques that come to your mind as you read the material. You can also link any of the ideas to your own life experiences, or to those of others around you, or even events/news items that you are familiar with.

Each entry should be around **250 words** in length, and there would be **six entries** in all of 1500 words total. Select themes/ideas that interest you rather than responding to all aspects discussed in each Unit.  
(80 marks: 10 marks/ for each entry of app. 250 words)

B. Do you think this kind of narrative writing has helped you to achieve a better understanding of gender issues? Explain in your own words. (20 marks: App. 400-500 words)

Note: a journal/diary entry is a self-reflective piece that records the reader’s thoughts/ reactions/ comments/ questions upon reading a given work.

If you need further guidance about writing diary/journal entries, you can visit some of these links to get started:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Journal-Response-to-a-Book>

<http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/assignments/journal>

<https://sites.google.com/a/wellesleyps.org/4mh-website/sample-reading-journal-entries>