

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

ASSIGNMENTS

**(July 2015-16 Academic Year)
4th Semester (Jan 2016)**

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 2016: 4th Semester)

Assignment No.	Receipt of Assignments by the Students	Submission of Assignments by the Students	Feedback from the Counsellors
MWG-007/AST/TMA-2016	15 th Feb, 2016	15 th March, 2016	15 th April, 2016
MWG-008/AST/TMA-2016	15 th Feb, 2016	15 th March, 2016	15 th April, 2016

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 2016 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-2016

Note: The assignment has two sections, containing questions which require long and medium answers. A long answer should not exceed 800 words, and medium answers should not exceed 600 words each.

Long Answer Questions

70 Marks (35x2)

Attempt all questions:

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. Find any image based perfume/cologne advertisement in any magazine or newspaper. Provide a photocopy of the advertisement along with the source as part of your assignment response.
With the help of your understanding of semiotics provided in Block 1 of the course, critically analyze aspects of the advertisement from a feminist semiotic perspective. You can refer to any of the theorists and their insights in your analysis but the analysis must be your own.
2. a. In Block 3, Unit 2, you have read about the different positions taken up by social constructionist feminists and essentialist feminists. Explain in your own words what you understand by these two positions.
b. Which position do you find more convincing in the context of Indian women's situation today? Why? Explain your stand with the help of examples from daily life.

Medium answer question: 30 Marks (max. 600 words total)

Read the essay "The Laugh of the Medusa" by Hélène Cixous available at this link: https://artandobjecthood.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/cixous_the_laugh_of_the_medusa.pdf

- a. Jot down your reactions after reading the essay: What is your understanding of this piece? What are your thoughts about it? Do you agree or disagree with some of the issues raised by the author? (All responses must be in your own words and reflect your own understanding of the article.) (15 marks; app. 300 words)
- b. Imagine you are writing a similar creative piece in the style of Cixous, but targeted to Indian women readers. Write your own creative piece in about 300 words. (15 marks)

Course Code : MWG 008
Course Title : Gender & Life Narratives
Assignment No. : MWG 008/AST/TMA-2016

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.

100 Marks (80+20)

MWG 008 (“Gender & Life Narratives”) touches upon the significant impact of gender identity on autobiographical writing. It also highlights the role played by life narratives in the lives of women as well as men.

This assignment asks you to create a **dated journal** of your own where you will record your responses to the course material in your own words. In order to do this, choose any eight Units of MWG 008. If you wish, these could be the entire Blocks 1 and 2 of the course, or any other Units of your choice from any of the other Blocks. Read through each Unit carefully. After reading the Unit, think about any questions which come to your mind, comments or responses to any part/s of the Unit, linkages that you can think of in terms of your own real life experiences.

- A. Make a dated entry in your journal (with at least one entry of minimum 200 words for each of the eight Units) where you record your queries/comments/responses to what you have read. Please do not repeat the information provided in the Unit. You do not need to cover each and every aspect discussed in each Unit. The journal entry is meant as a way for you to respond to some of the main issues which interest you in each Unit. Try to link the issues you read about to your own life experiences, or to experiences of those around you – these could be your family members, friends, colleagues, or to events that you come across in daily life, such as news items. (80 marks/ app. 1600 words: 10 marks/ for each entry of app. 200 words)
- B. In part B, explain how your journal entries have helped you to see some links between your gendered identity and autobiographical writing. (20 marks: App. 400-500 words)

Evaluation of this assignment will be based on both your understanding of the course material, as well as your original/creative responses to what you read.

Note: a journal entry is a self-reflective piece that records the reader’s thoughts/ reactions/ comments/ questions upon reading a given work. In case you are not sure how to begin, here is a link to a sample journal entry which will give you a general idea: <http://www.autotelic.info/blog/2015/2/12/oils-481001-assignment-journal-entry-intersection-of-culture-gender-and-technology>

This is meant only as a suggestive aid. You are free to use your own format for your journal entries, each of which should be dated. Please refrain from copying sources available on the internet.