

**MA in Women's and Gender Studies
(MAWGS)**

ASSIGNMENT
(July 2018-19 Academic Year)
First Semester



School of Gender and Development Studies

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110068

MA IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

ASSIGNMENT for MWG 001
(2018-19 Academic Year)

Assignment No.	Submission of Assignments by the Students
MWG-001/AST/TMA-2018	25th th Sep, 2018* *Check with Regional Centre for any updates

As explained in your Programme Guide, you need to complete one assignment for each course of 8 credits. Last date of submission for all assignments is mentioned above. **Please contact your Regional Center regarding any further updates regarding assignment submission.** With proper planning you will be able to do them within the stipulated period.

Kindly note that examination forms for December 2018 Term End Examinations will only be accepted if you have submitted the assignments by the given deadline at your Regional Center/Study Center. Include your name, enrollment number, programme code, course code and e-mail ID on the submitted assignment.

PLEASE ALSO READ CAREFULLY INFORMATION REGARDING ASSIGNMENTS AND STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM PROVIDED IN THE PROGRAMME GUIDE.

Programme Code : MAWGS
Course Code : MWG 001
Course Title : Theories & Concepts in Women's & Gender Studies
Assignment No. : MWG 001/AST/TMA-2018

Note : The assignment requires you to attempt any TWO essay type questions. The recommended length for each answer is 1200-1500 words. **Maximum Marks: 100**

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

Attempt **any two** of the following Long Answer questions (50 marks each)

1. MWG 001 has introduced you to various types of feminist perspectives, including liberal, socialist, Marxist and radical. Invite any two to four people for a discussion of the various types of feminisms (these could be friends, peers at the SC, family members, neighbours, co-workers or anyone else of your choice).

Your assignment is to first explain the differences between these feminist theories to the group. Once everyone has a clear understanding, ask each of them individually to state which particular feminist theory they prefer the most. Conduct a group discussion in which the group members share their opinions explaining their preference. You can record/transcribe the comments as you prefer.

In Part A of the assignment, present the group discussion in dialogue format (names of group members can be provided or kept anonymous as preferred). In Part B, present your own opinions and analysis, based on your understanding of the course material, and your reactions to the individual responses of the group members.

2. Read a few of the recent articles about felling of trees in Delhi. Two examples are listed below. You can also find others online.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/delhi-news/delhi-high-court-stays-till-july-2-cutting-of-16-500-trees-for-development-projects/story-14N0xkkCVqBjclizHr7KvM.html>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/hc-stays-felling-of-trees-in-south-delhi-till-july/articleshow/6473057>

In Part A of the assignments, based on your understanding of the issues, present the justifications offered by both sides – the state and the protesters.

In Part B offer an analysis of the situation from the perspective of ecofeminism, explaining how the ecofeminist approach you have chosen is relevant to current issues.

3. The movie *Padmaavat* (Director: Sanjay Lela Bhansali, 2018) courted controversy over its depiction of the ‘tradition’ of *jauhar* and invited fierce debate over the issue, with Swara Bhaskar openly condemning the depiction of women’s life choices in the movie. Read the following news articles regarding the controversy (you can also search for others on your own):

<https://thewire.in/film/end-magnum-opus-i-felt-reduced-vagina>

https://www.huffingtonpost.in/2018/01/29/bhansalis-ram-leela-writers-hit-back-at-swara-bhaskars-criticism-of-jauhar-say-padmavati-did-it-out-of-choice_a_23346313/

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/bollywood/deepika-padukone-on-swara-bhaskar-s-criticism-of-padmaavat-she-probably-missed-the-disclaimers-at-the-beginning/story-bkoETlzQKIsYg8bA3PWhbO.html>

After watching the movie and reading the articles, read the Unit on Formative Feminisms (Block 5, Unit 1). Based on your understanding of various feminist perspectives, present your opinion on the controversy regarding the depiction of women and *jauhar* in the movie. Make sure that your analysis is clearly linked to the course material.