

School of Environmental Studies

Queen's University

ENSC 420* *Gender and Environments*

Winter 2004

Tuesdays 11:30am -2:30pm

Mac-Corry C508

Instructor: Dr. Allison Goebel

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This course considers feminist theories and activism relating to environmental issues in historical, contemporary, local, cross-cultural and global contexts. The emphasis is on the specificity of the gendered nature of human/environment interactions and the effects of environmental problems in different times and places, while also attending to global systems and processes that create environmental problems. Topics will include: women's environmental activism in the west; feminist issues and movements in non-western contexts; western feminist theories of environmental issues; gender, environment and development approaches; the gendered natures of a selection of non-western indigenous theories/philosophies of the environment; and a select number of issue-based concerns for feminist environmentalists such as women, food and globalization; women and health issues; women and the degradation of natural resources in "Third World" contexts; gender and built environments.

The course will be run as a seminar. Class members are expected to make active contributions to the learning process through the preparation of comments and discussion points on the set weekly readings. Participation grades are awarded on the basis of attendance, preparation, and quality as well as frequency of in-class contributions. The instructor will lecture occasionally to provide background and context.

Required Texts

1. Wyman, Miriam (ed.) 1999. *Sweeping the Earth. Women Taking Action for a Healthy Planet*. Gynergy Books. (Bookstore)
2. *Alternatives Journal*. "Eros and Nature". Vol. 27, No. 3, Summer 2001.
3. Goebel, Allison 2003 (ed). *ENSC420* Winter 2004 Courseware Readings*. (Available at the PC&C Lower John Deutsch Centre (JDUC)).

Assessment

1. Seminar on a weekly set of readings.....Presentation 15%
.....Paper 20%
2. Case Study – Oral presentation and extended abstract.....35%
3. Peer Interview.....15%
4. Participation.....15%

Schedule of Classes and Readings

Jan. 7 Introduction

Jan. 14 Feminism and the Environment: Departure Points

Wyman: 1-23.

*Seager, Joni 1993. "Introduction: What's the problem here?" in *Earth Follies. Coming to Feminist Terms with the Global Environmental Crisis*. New York and London:

Routledge: 1-13. (Courseware)

*Smith, M. B. 2001. "Silence Miss Carson!"

Jan. 21 Women's Activism and the "Environmental Establishment"

Wyman: 87-128.

*Gaard, G. 1997. "Ecofeminists in the Greens" in *Ecological Politics. Ecofeminists and the Greens*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 140-170. (Courseware)

Jan. 28 Homemaker Activisms and Environmental Health

Wyman: 65-83.

*Kaplan, T. 1997. "Suburban Blight and Situation Comedy" in *Crazy for Democracy. Women in Grassroots Movements*. New York, London: Routledge: 15-45. (Courseware)

**Gallon Environment Letter Special-Cancer* Vol. 5, No. 34, Nov. 4, 2001. (Courseware)

*Seager, J. 1996. "'Hysterical Housewives' and other mad women" in D. Rocheleau (et al.) *Feminist Political Ecology. Global Issues and Local Experiences*. New York and London: Routledge: 271-283. (Courseware)

*Van Esterik, Penny (et al) 2003. "Communicating about Environmental Risks and Infant Feeding" and "Beyond DES- Hormones in the Environment" in *Centres of Excellence for Women's Health Research Bulletin* Volume 3, Number 2 Spring 2003: 16-22. (Courseware)

Feb. 4 Work and Environmental Health

Wyman: 162-184.

*Rosenberg, H. 1986. "The Home is the Workplace: Hazards, Stress and Pollutants in the Household" in Meg Luxton and Harriet Rosenberg (eds.) *Through the Kitchen Window: The Politics of Home and Family*. Toronto: Garamond Press: 37-61. (Courseware)

*Ruth, Barbara 1996. "Homeless" in Shelley Tremain (ed) *Pushing the Limits. Disabled Dykes Produce Culture*. Women's Press: 198-202. (Courseware)

*Messing, K. 1995. "Chicken or Egg: Biological Differences and the Sexual Division of Labour," in K. Messing, B. Neis and L. Dumais (eds.). *Invisible: Issues in Women's Occupational Health*. Charlottetown, PEI: Gynergy Books: 177-201. (Courseware)

Feb. 11 Women and Food: Issues North and South

*Friedmann, H. 1999. "Remaking 'Traditions': How we eat, what we eat and the changing political economy of food" in Deborah Barndt (ed.) *Women Working the Nafta Food Chain: Women, Food and Globalization* Toronto: Second Story Press: 36-60. (Courseware)

*Lilliston, B. and R. Cummins 1998. "Organic Vs 'Organic': The Corruption of a Label" *The Ecologist* 28(4): 195-200. (Courseware)

*Fike, M.S. and S. Kerr 1995. "Making the Links. Why Bioregionalism needs Ecofeminism" *Alternatives* 21(2): 22-27.

*Shiva, Vandana 1997. "Chapter Two. Can Life be Made? Can Life be Owned?: Redefining Biodiversity" in *Biopiracy. The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge*. Boston: South End Press: 19-41. (Courseware)

*Greenburg, Laurie S. Z. 2003. "Women in the Garden and Kitchen: The Role of Cuisine in the Conservation of Traditional House Lot Crops among Yucatec Mayan Immigrants" in P. L. Howard (ed) *Women and Plants. Gender Relations in Biodiversity Management and Conservation*. Zed Books: 51-65. (Courseware)

Feb. 18---Reading Week!

Feb. 25 Feminist Responses to Consumerism

Wyman: 291-310

Harrison, N. E. "All Consuming Desire" *Alternatives* 27(3): 24-27. (Required text)

*Littig, B. 2001. "Chapter 4. Consumerism, Lifestyles and Behavioural Changes" *Feminist Perspectives on Environment and Society*. Prentice Hall: 85-120. (Courseware)

*Norberg-Hodge, H. 1998. "Think Global--Eat Local! Delicious Ways to Counter Globalization" *The Ecologist* 28(4): 208-214 (Courseware).

*Mies, Maria 1993. "Consumption patterns of the North: The cause of environmental destruction and poverty in the South" in F. C. Steady (ed.). *Women and Children First. Environment, Poverty and Sustainable Development*. Rochester, Vermont: Schenkman Books: 95-110. (Courseware)

*Fry, K. and C. Lousley 2001. "Girls Just Want to Have Fun--With Politics" *Alternatives* 27(2): 24-28. (Courseware)

*Sandilands, Catriona 1993. "On 'Green' Consumerism" *Canadian Women's Studies/Les cahiers de la femme* 13(3): 45-47. (Courseware)

March 4 Feminist Thought I. Ecofeminisms.

- *Griffin, S. 1989. "Split culture" in Judith Plant (ed.) *Healing the Wounds: The Promise of Ecofeminism*. Philadelphia: New Society Publishers: 7-28. (Courseware)
- *Starhawk 1990. "Power, Authority, and Mystery: Ecofeminism and Earth-Based Spirituality" in I. Diamond and G.F. Orenstein (eds.) *Reweaving the World. The Emergence of Ecofeminism*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books: 73-86. (Courseware)
- *Sargisson, Lucy. 2001. "What's wrong with ecofeminism?"
- *Alaimo, Stacy n.d. "Feminism, Nature, and Discursive Ecologies" (<http://www.ecofem.org> 9pages) (Courseware)

March 11 Feminist Thought II. Desire, Sexualities and Nature

- Alternatives* "Eros and Nature" 27(3). Read through the whole issue (Required Text).
- *Heller, C. 1999. "Rescuing Lady Nature: Ecology and the Cult of the Romantic" in *Ecology of Everyday Life. Rethinking the Desire for Nature*. Montreal, New York, London: Black Rose Books: 13-38. (Courseware)
 - *Gaard, G. 1997. "Toward a Queer Ecofeminism" *Hypatia* vol. 12, no. 1: 114-137. (Courseware)
 - *Goebel, A. 2002. "'Men these days, they are a problem': Husband taming herbs and gender wars in rural Zimbabwe" *Canadian Journal of African Studies*. (Courseware)

March 18 Feminist Thought III. Anti-colonialism and Race

- Wyman: 131-140.
- *Shiva, V. 1989. "Development, Ecology and Women" in Judith Plant (ed.) *Healing the Wounds: The Promise of Ecofeminism*. Philadelphia: New Society Publishers: 89-90. (Courseware)
 - *Smith, A. 1997. "Ecofeminism through an Anticolonial Framework" in K. Warren (ed.) *Ecofeminism: Women, Culture, Nature*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press: 21-37. (Courseware)
 - *Kirk, G. 1997. "Ecofeminism and Environmental Justice: Bridges Across Gender, Race, and Class" *Frontiers* 18, 2: 2-20.
 - *Sturgeon, N. 1997. "The Nature of Race: Discourses of Racial Difference in Ecofeminism" in K. Warren (ed.) *Ecofeminism: Women, Culture, Nature*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press: 260-278. (Courseware)

March 25 Feminist Thought IV. Gender, Environment and Development

- *Sen, Gita "Women, Poverty and Population: Issues for the concerned Environmentalist" in Wendy Harcourt (ed). *Feminist Perspectives on Sustainable Development*. Zed Books: 215-225. (Courseware)
- *Salleh, Ariel 1997. "A barefoot epistemology" *Ecofeminism as Politics. Nature, Marx and the Postmodern*. Zed Books: 133-149 (Courseware)
- *Goebel, A. 2002. "Gender, Environment and Development in Southern Africa" *Canadian Journal of African Studies* Volume XXIII No. 2: 293-316. (Courseware)

*Phiri, I.A. 1996. "The Chisumphi Cult. The role of women in preserving the environment" in R. R. Ruether (ed.) *Women Healing Earth. Third World Women on Ecology, Feminism and Religion*. Maryknoll, NY: ORBIS Books: 161-171. (Courseware)

April 1 Built Environments: Housing and Urban Spaces

*Franck, K. A. 1994. "Questioning the American dream: recent housing innovations in the United States" in R. Gilroy and R. Woods (eds.) *Housing Women*. New York, London: Routledge: 226-246. (Courseware)

*Dandekar, H.C. (ed) 1993. *Shelter, Women and Development. First and Third World Perspectives*. Ann Arbor: George Wahr Publishing Co.: 13-32. (Courseware)

*MacGregor, S. 1995. "Deconstructing the man made city: feminist critiques of planning thought and action" in M. Eichler (ed.) *Change of Plans. Towards a Non-sexist Sustainable City*. Toronto: Garamond Press: 25-49. (Courseware)

*Elwood, S. A. 2000. "Lesbian Living Spaces: Multiple Meanings of Home" in Gill Valentine (ed.) *From Nowhere to Everywhere. Lesbian Geographies*. Binghamton: Harrington Park Press: 11-27. (Courseware)