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


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.
   *Smith, M. B. 2001. “Silence Miss Carson!”

Jan. 21 Women’s Activism and the “Environmental Establishment”
   Wyman: 87-128.

Jan. 28 Homemaker Activisms and Environmental Health
   Wyman: 65-83.
   *Gallon Environment Letter Special-Cancer* Vol. 5, No. 34, Nov. 4, 2001. (Courseware)
Feb. 4  Work and Environmental Health

Feb. 11  Women and Food: Issues North and South

Feb. 18---Reading Week!

Feb. 25  Feminist Responses to Consumerism
Wymans: 291-310
Harrison, N. E. “All Consuming Desire” Alternatives 27(3): 24-27. (Required text)

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March 4 Feminist Thought I. Ecofeminisms.
*Sargisson, Lucy. 2001. “What’s wrong with ecofeminism?”

March 11 Feminist Thought II. Desire, Sexualities and Nature
*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.

March 25 Feminist Thought IV. Gender, Environment and Development
April 1 Built Environments: Housing and Urban Spaces


