

CHARLES UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES
"FEMINISM AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS"

YMGS 625, WINTER 2020

Time & Location: Mondays 15:30-16:50, YT242

Professor: Ivy Helman, Ph.D.
Email: drivyhelman@gmail.com
Office hours: YT240, Mondays, by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will introduce students to the intersection of feminism and ecology. Together we will explore the background and history of the movement, its diversity and various types of ecofeminism. In addition, this course investigates the origins of the current environmental crisis in Western science, philosophy and religion as well as ecofeminist responses to the crisis. Focusing on the following themes in ecofeminist thought -the green movement, politics, diversity, responsible citizenship, economics, materialism, ethics, animals, vegan/vegetarianism and religion - we will come to understand both the various feminist critiques of this situation and also diverse feminist solutions to the crisis.

READING MATERIAL:

Available online through Moodle and the course's website in SIS.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

It is expected by the university, by the professor and by the larger academic community that the student will always create, write and sit for exams under their own volition; when using ideas, quotes and creations from other sources than themselves, the student must properly give credit whenever credit is due. Failing to accord by this standard has serious repercussions on the student's future and their current academic career. Punishments will correspond to the weight of the given assignment for the class and will be discussed with university administration when necessary.

STATEMENT REGARDING COVID:

Unless stated otherwise, the class sessions for the winter semester 2020 will be conducted online through the MSTeams platform. The classes will follow the official schedule. For more information about MSTeams and how to register, see here: <https://dl.cuni.cz/ms-teams/>.

If the epidemiological situation permits us to return to in-person classes, the student will be informed ahead of time. Regardless of what happens, all course work will take place according to the syllabus.

This course will use Moodle, a course management system for course material, interactive feedback, submission of papers, etc. The student is also required to submit all course work at the dates, specified in the syllabus. If the student has an emergency or other serious situation which prevents the student from missing a deadline, the professor must be informed in advance of the situation if at all possible. If that is not possible, then at the earliest possible moment after the missed assignment/deadline.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (PERCENTAGE OF GRADE):

Participation (25%)
Response Papers (25% each, 75% total)

Participation (25%):

The student is expected to participate in class. However, while attendance is not required at the online sessions, and the student who misses an online class will not be penalized, students are still required to participate in the class. Therefore, if you miss an online class session, it is your responsibility to email the professor and ask for a make-up assignment. Each missed online class

session will require a separate make-up assignment. Failure to complete any or all make-up assignments will affect your grade.

Participation in the class (whether online or in-person) includes having read the assigned material and have access to copies of it for class. The student must stay engaged (and awake) in discussion, during occasional lectures, and videos. Contributing to discussion as well as note-taking is expected.

Class is not only an opportunity to learn new things, but also: an opportunity to learn more about yourself and your classmates, an occasion for the professor to provide some clarification and insight, an experience in which you can improve your ability to express your views and the knowledge you have and the chance to learn from your peers, who may have thought about the same information in a slightly different manner than yourself.

Response Papers (25% each / 75% total)

Students will write three 700 word responses to answer to a professor-proposed prompt. The main purpose of these papers is to show that the student has done the assigned reading. Think of them as reading checks. The papers will show both engagement with course material as well as the student's ability to think critically and analyze a given topic. Instructions and prompts will be given two weeks before each assignment is due. Any paper less than 650 or more than 750 words will not be accepted. All assignments will be accepted via the course website on Moodle. **No outside research is allowed; only class readings and in-class materials can be referenced.**

For each day the paper is late, the student's grade decreases by one number. Papers more than one week late will not be accepted. The student will only be allowed to make-up a missed paper for valid medical emergencies.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

5 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction to Feminism and Ecology:

Distribute syllabus & intro to material.

12 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction to Theory: Week 1

Reading: Mellor, *Feminism and Ecology*. Chapters 1-2

19 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction to Theory: Week 2

Reading: Mellor, *Feminism and Ecology*. Chapters 3-4

26 OCTOBER 2020

Special Topic: Religion and Its Importance in Ecofeminism

Reading:

Catriona Sandilands, "A Genealogy of Ecofeminism," pages 3-15.

Ivy Helman, "The Importance of Religion for Ecofeminism."

Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Dualism and the Nature of Evil in Feminist Theology."

Review Reading:

Mellor, *Feminism and Ecology*, pages 52-55

Recommended Reading:

Catriona Sandilands, "A Genealogy of Ecofeminism," pages 16-27.

2 NOVEMBER 2020

Introduction to Theory: Week 3

Reading: Mellor, *Feminism and Ecology*. Chapters 5-6

9 NOVEMBER 2020

Philosophical Discussions: Week 1 - Embodiment

Reading:

Richard T. Twine, "Ma(r)king Essence-Ecofeminism and Embodiment," *Ethics and the Environment*, vol. 6, no. 2 (Autumn, 2001), pp. 31-58.

Review Reading:

Mellor, *Feminism and Ecology*, pages TBA

ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE VIA MOODLE

16 NOVEMBER 2020

Philosophical Discussions: Week 2 - Nature

Reading:

Linda Vance, "Ecofeminism and Wilderness," *NWSA Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 3, Women, Ecology, and the Environment (Autumn, 1997), pages 60-76.

Richard Twine, "Masculinity, Nature, Eco-Feminism," from www.ecofem.org/journal

23 NOVEMBER 2020

Philosophical Discussions: Week 3 - Diversity and Intersectionality

Reading:

A.E. Kings, "Intersectionality and the Changing Face of Ecofeminism," *Ethics & the Environment* 22, no. 1 (2017), pages 63-87.

Greta Gaard. "Toward a Queer Ecofeminism," *Hypatia*, vol. 12, no. 1 (Winter 1997), pages 114-137.

30 NOVEMBER 2020

Topics in Feminism and Ecology: Week 1 - Politics

Reading:

Stephanie Lahar, "Ecofeminist Theory and Grassroots Politics," *Hypatia*, vol. 6, no. 1, Ecological Feminism (Spring, 1991), pages 28-45.

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE VIA MOODLE

7 DECEMBER 2020

Topics in Feminism and Ecology: Week 2 - Economics

Reading:

Chris Crittenden "Ecofeminism Meets Business: A Comparison of Ecofeminist, Corporate, and Free Market Ideologies," *Journal of Business Ethics*, vol. 24, no. 1 (Mar., 2000), pages 51-63.

14 DECEMBER 2020

Topics in Feminism and Ecology: Week 3 - Eating Animals?

Reading:

Carol J. Adams "Ecofeminism and the Eating of Animals," *Hypatia*, vol. 6, no. 1, Ecological Feminism (Spring, 1991), pages 125-145.

Kathy Rudy, "Locavores, Feminism and the Question of Meat," *The Journal of American Culture*, Volume 35, Number 1 (March 2012), pages 26 - 36.

6 JANUARY 2021

CLASS: TBA

ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE VIA MOODLE ON 13 JANUARY BY MIDNIGHT.