

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

1. **Title Of Course And Course Number:** WS 430 - Ecofeminism

2. **Description Of Course Consistent With The WPUNJ Catalog:** In this course students explore the connections between women and nature from an ecofeminist perspective. The course encompasses the history, theory and praxis of ecofeminism, considers the variety of positions within ecofeminism, investigates political, social and developmental impacts of ecofeminism, and provides students with the opportunity for activism in their own lives.

3. **Course Prerequisites:** None

### **4. Course Objectives**

The main objectives of this course are to introduce students to the theory and praxis of ecological feminism, or ecofeminism.

General course objectives are to:

- introduce students to the precepts of Western ecofeminism
- engender a better understanding of ecofeministic theory and practice
- examine the major ecological, ethical, scientific and feministic roots of ecofeminism
- understand ecofeminism from political, societal, and developmental perspectives
- explore the connections between ecofeminism, environmental ethics and radical ecology
- provide an opportunity for activist practice in students' own lives

### **5. Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students will be able to accomplish the objectives listed below. Specifically, they should be able to:

- understand the philosophy of ecofeminism
- be familiar with terminology and concepts used in ecofeminism
- examine the major ecological, ethical, scientific and feministic roots of ecofeminism
- understand the complex interconnectedness between women, animals and the environment
- develop the ability to read and evaluate academic ecofeminist writing and research
- integrate principles of respect for all life into their lives
- understand principles and techniques for preservation of the earth's natural resources

### **6. Topical Outline Of Course Content:**

In this sixteen week course, the following material will be covered:

Week 1: Introductions – to each other, to this class, and to ecological feminism

Week 2: Introduction to ecofeminist philosophy

Week 3: Ecofeminist history and roots: Women, ecology and the scientific revolution  
Week 4: Ecofeminist history and roots: Women and the American environmental movement.  
Week 5: Ecofeminist theory: Women and the earth  
Week 6: Ecofeminist theory: Women and science  
Week 7: Ecofeminist movements: Liberal, cultural, social, socialist and radical Ecofeminism  
Week 8: Continued.  
Week 9: Connections: Radical ecology and ecofeminism  
Week 10: Connections: Environmental ethics and ecofeminism  
Week 11: Connections: Animal rights and ecofeminism  
Week 12: Connections: Vegetarianism and ecofeminism  
Week 13: Critiques of ecofeminism  
Week 14: Tying it all together: Future directions  
Week 15: Comprehensive final exam  
Week 16: Presentations of research projects/service learning projects

#### **7. Guidelines For Teaching Methods And Students Learning Activities**

While lecture and discussion constitute the principal teaching methods in this course, these techniques will be complemented with experiential learning experiences, collaborative work and service learning. Students will also engage in projects designed to integrate and apply ecofeminism in their lives.

#### **8. Guidelines/Suggestions For Methods Of Student Assessment**

Assessment of student learning will be multi-pronged, with both formative and summative assessment used in this course. Formative assessment will be through evaluation of: (i) writing weekly reading response papers (ii) timely completion of assigned readings (iii) active involvement in class discussions and (iv) class activities. Summative assessment will be through evaluation (i) either a service learning OR research project (ii) a comprehensive final exam and (iii) a presentation.

#### **9. Suggested Readings, Texts, Objects Of Study:**

Required texts:

Merchant, Carolyn. (1995). Earthcare: Women and the environment. New York, NY: Routledge.

Reading Packet, containing selected essays from the texts listed in the Bibliography below.

Suggested Journals:

Ecofem.org- The eJournal

Environmental Ethics  
Feminist Studies  
Hypatia  
Society and Nature  
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies  
NWSA Journal

Websites:

Ecofeminism.org

#### 10. Bibliography Of Supportive Texts And Other Materials:

Adams, Carol J. (1995). Neither man nor beast: Feminism and the defense of animals. New York, NY: Continuum.

Gaard, Greta Claire. (1993). Ecofeminism: Women, animals and nature. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

Jiggins, Janice. (1994). Changing the boundaries: Women-centered perspectives on population and the environment. Washington, D. C.: Island Press.

Mellor, Mary. (1998). Femism and ecology: An introduction. New York University Press.

Merchant, Carolyn. (1993). Radical ecology: The search for a livable world. New York, NY: Routledge.

Mies, Maria & Shiva, Vandana. (1993). Ecofeminism: Reconnecting a divided world. STATE?: St. Martin's Press.

Radford Ruether, Rosemary. (Ed.) (1996). Women healing earth: Third world women on ecology, feminism and religion. Orbis books.

Shiva, Vandana. (Ed.). (1994). Introduction. In Close to home: Women reconnect ecology, health and development worldwide, pp. 1-9. Philadelphia, PA: New Society Publishers.

Sturgeon, N. (1997). Ecofeminism natures: Race, gender, feminist theory and political action. New York, NY: Routledge.

Warren, Karen, J. (199?). Ecofeminism: Women, culture, and nature.

Zimmerman, Michael, Callicott, J. Baird, Sessions, George, Warren, Karen J., & Clark, John. (1993). Environmental philosophy: From animal rights to radical ecology. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

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**12. Original Departmental Approval Date:**

**13. Reviser's Name And Date:** *N/A*

**14. Departmental Revision Approval Date:** *N/A*