The University of Texas at El Paso - Women’s & Gender Studies
Summer II 2017
WS 3390-34595 / HIST 3391-35840
ANTH 4370-35907 / SOCI 3341-35908
The Ecofeminist Movement in the U.S.
MW 9:20am – 11:30am; Liberal Arts 122 (Hybrid)

Instructor: José Miguel Chávez Leyva
Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:50 pm & by appt
E-Mail: jmleyva3@utep.edu
Office: Liberal Arts 320A

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will examine the major developments and history of the Ecofeminist Movement in the United States. It will cover the growth of Ecofeminism as both an environmental political movement and as a theoretical lens adopted by a variety of academics. This course will begin with a broad overview of early ecofeminist thought, before moving on to look at historical and ethnographic accounts of environmental feminist movements in the U.S. and U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Learn to engage in Ecofeminist discussion and thought, addressing both praise and criticism of various theories and practices that fall under the umbrella of Ecofeminism.
2. Learn to analyze gendered aspects of historical environmental justice movements.
3. Understand how Ecofeminist theory has been applied to the study of history, especially environmental history, and other academic fields.

GRADING: Final grades will be determined based on three book reviews, weekly discussion posts and responses, a final exam, and attendance/participation of in-class meetings:

Attendance/Participation (x7 days @ 20pts each) = 140pts
Discussion Posts (x8 @ 40pts each) = 320pts
Response Posts (x12 @ 20pts each) = 240pts
Book Reviews (x2 @ 75pts each) = 150pts
Final Exam = 150pts
Total = 1000pts

A = 900-1000pts  B = 800-899pts  C = 700-799pts  D = 600-699pts  F = >599pts

No extra credit will be offered in this course. Students hoping to raise their grades should talk to the professor about how to improve on the tests and papers assigned. Improvement will be
rewarded in determining final grades (for those students who regularly make their discussion and response posts and turn in assignments on time).

ASSIGNMENTS:

Discussion Posts and Responses: Students will be expected to make two (2) discussion posts each week. These will be due on Thursdays by 11:59pm. Late discussion posts will be penalized. Each post will answer a discussion prompt on the course materials for that week, in no less than 250 words (for a total of 500 words per week). In addition to your original posts, you must make at least three (3) responses of 50 words or more to the discussion posts of other students that week, due Sundays each week by 11:59pm.

Book Reviews: Students will submit two essays reviewing and summarizing the major arguments and evidence presented inside the Vera Norwood and Greta Gaard books. These essays will consist of 500-600 words, and follow the general structure provided on a separate handout. Late papers will be penalized 10% per day. These reviews are due Saturdays each week, by 11:59pm.

Final Exam: The final exam will be a long essay examining the Christina Holmes book. Students will follow a comprehensive set of directions, analyzing the work through both theoretical and historical lenses. The total length of the final exam essays should not be less than 2500 words. This essay must be submitted through Blackboard, no later than 11:59 pm on Mon., Aug 7th. Further instructions will be provided. Late exams will not be accepted.

BLACKBOARD: All lectures, discussion forums, and handouts will be available on Blackboard. PDF copies of selected readings will be distributed through Blackboard as well. Students having technical issues with Blackboard should contact the UTEP Helpdesk at (915) 747-4357 or e-mail helpdesk@utep.edu. If there are any problems with handouts and pdf materials, please contact the professor.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: You are expected to complete readings and coursework on time following the deadlines outlined in the course calendar. Students are expected to complete their discussion posts in a timely manner each week. Late assignments will be penalized. Students are expected to maintain access to a computer with internet in order to participate in the class. Students who fall behind in coursework due to health problems or serious family emergencies (such as the illness of a child or a death in the family) will be given extensions only with appropriate documentation. Discussion posts and responses should remain friendly and respectful towards other students. Personal attacks and offensive behavior will not be tolerated. Any student concerns about the above responsibilities should be addressed to the professor privately through e-mail.
ACADEMIC HONESTY: Plagiarism is the use of the ideas, information, or words of another author without giving proper credit to your source. You are responsible for citing your sources as indicated by the instructor and, in cases where you directly quote from a source, for enclosing those words that are not your own in quotation marks. Failing to give proper credit to your sources in these ways is academic dishonesty. You are also responsible for adhering to my rules on exams. All suspected incidences of academic dishonesty will be referred immediately to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for investigation. Students found guilty of such actions will be punished. See UTEP policy on this issue at http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in the Student Union Building East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and, if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

REQUIRED READINGS: There are three required books for this course. Please note that each of these books is available in digital e-book format through various retailers, which can be read on your computer with the corresponding app. Additional readings in the form of journal articles or book chapters will be assigned for each week. Unless otherwise noted, these readings can be accessed through the UTEP Library using the links listed below.

Books


Week 1 Articles:

Greta Gaard, “Toward a Queer Ecofeminism” Hypatia 12, no. 1 (Winter, 1997): 114-137


Sherilyn MacGregor “From Care to Citizenship: Calling Ecofeminism Back to Politics,” Ethics and the Environment 9, no. 1 (Spring, 2004): 56-84.


Week 2 Articles:


Week 3 Articles:


Week 4 Articles:

# Course Schedule

## Week 1 (July 11th – 16th)

**Introduction to Ecofeminist Thought & Theory**

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<td><strong>Wednesday, July 12th</strong></td>
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| ❖ **Introduction to Course** | Go over syllabus & class expectations  
Lecture: “What is Ecofeminism?” |

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<tr>
<td>Warren, “Introduction to Ecofeminism.”</td>
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Adams, “Ecofeminism and the Eating of Animals.”  
Gaard, “Toward a Queer Ecofeminism.”  
Ruether, “Ecofeminism: First and Third World Women.”  
MacGregor, “From Care to Citizenship.”  
Gaard, “Ecofeminism Revisited.” |

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<td>Discussion: Introductions (Due Thurs., 7/14 @ 11:59pm)</td>
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Discussion: Defining Ecofeminism (Due Thurs., 7/14 @ 11:59pm)  
At least three response posts, 50 words or more (Due Sun., 7/16 @ 11:59pm) |

## Week 2 (July 17th – 23rd)

**Ecofeminist Interpretations of History**

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<td><strong>Monday, July 17th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture: “What is Environmental History?”</td>
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Film: All Things Are Connected |
| **Wednesday, July 19th** |  |
| Lecture: “Gender & Environmental History” |  
Film: Ecofeminism Now |

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<td>Norwood, <em>Made from This Earth.</em></td>
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Leach & Green, “Gender and Environmental History.” |  
Mann, “Pioneers of U.S. Ecofeminism and Environmental Justice.” |

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Discussion: Ecofeminism & Environmental History (Due Thurs., 7/21 @ 11:59pm)  
At least three response posts, 50 words or more (Due Sun., 7/23 @ 11:59pm) |

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<td>Norwood Book Review (Due Sat., 7/22 @ 11:59pm)</td>
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### Week 3 (July 24th – 30th)
The Ecofeminist Movement in the U.S.

**IN CLASS:**

**Monday, July 24th**
- Lecture: “Silent Spring & the Environmental Movement”
- Film: *American Experience: Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring*

**Wednesday, July 26th**
- Lecture: “Criticisms of Ecofeminism”
- Film: *Thinking Green: Ecofeminists and the Greens*

**READ:**
- Lahar, “Ecofeminist Theory and Grassroots Politics.”
- Seager, “Rachel Carson Died of Breast Cancer.”

**POST:**
- Discussion: Rachel Carson *(Due Thurs., 7/28 @ 11:59pm)*
- Discussion: Criticisms of Ecofeminism *(Due Thurs., 7/28 @ 11:59pm)*
- At least three response posts, 50 words or more *(Due Sun., 7/30 @ 11:59pm)*

**DUE:**
- Gaard Book Review *(Due Sat., 7/29 @ 11:59pm)*

### Week 4 (July 31st – Aug 6th)
Ecofeminism in the Borderlands

**IN CLASS:**

**Monday, July 31st**
- Lecture: “Environmental Justice in the Borderlands”
- TBA

**Wednesday, August 2nd**
- Lecture: “Ecofeminism Beyond the U.S.”
- Film: *Arise: Women Healing the Environment*

**READ:**
- Kirk, “Ecofeminism and Chicano Environmental Struggles.”
- Platt, “Chicana Strategies for Success and Survival.”

**POST:**
- Discussion: Environmental Justice in Our Communities *(Due Thurs., 8/04 @ 11:59pm)*
- Discussion: Race & Ecofeminism *(Due Thurs., 8/04 @ 11:59pm)*
- At least three response posts, 50 words or more *(Due Sun., 8/06 @ 11:59pm)*

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~ ~ **FINAL EXAM DUE MON 8/7 @ 11:59 PM ~ ~**