

**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

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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

Vera Norwood, *Made from This Earth: American Women and Nature*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993. ISBN: 978-0807843963 (**available in Kindle format from Amazon.com**).

Greta Gaard, *Ecological Politics: Ecofeminists and the Greens* (Temple University Press, 1998) ISBN: 978-1566395700 (**available in NOOK Book format from Barnes & Noble**).

Christina Holmes, *Ecological Borderlands: Body, Nature, and Spirit in Chicana Feminism*. (University of Illinois Press, 2016) ISBN: 978-0252082016 (**available in Kindle format from Amazon.com**).

Week 1 Articles:

Karen Warren, "Introduction to Ecofeminism," in *Environmental Philosophy: From Animal Rights to Radical Ecology*, edited by Michael E. Zimmerman, J. Baird Callicott, George Sessions, Karen J. Warren, and John Clark (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: PrenticeHall, 1993): 253-267. (**Uploaded on Blackboard**).

Carol Adams, "Ecofeminism and the Eating of Animals," *Hypatia* 6, no. 1 (Spring, 1991): 125-145. <http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/3810037>

- Greta Gaard, "Toward a Queer Ecofeminism" *Hypatia* 12, no. 1 (Winter, 1997): 114-137
<http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/3810254>
- Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Ecofeminism: First and Third World Women," *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy* 18, no. 1 (January 1997): 33-45.
<http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/27944009>
- Sherilyn MacGregor "From Care to Citizenship: Calling Ecofeminism Back to Politics," *Ethics and the Environment* 9, no. 1 (Spring, 2004): 56-84.
<http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/40339077>
- Greta Gaard, "Ecofeminism Revisited: Rejecting Essentialism and Re-Placing Species in a Material Feminist Environmentalism," *Feminist Formations* 23, no. 2 (Summer 2011): 26-53. <http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/41301655>

Week 2 Articles:

- Melissa Leach and Cathy Green, "Gender and Environmental History: From Representation of Women and Nature to Gender Analysis of Ecology and Politics," *Environment and History* 3, no. 3 (October 1997): 343-370.
<http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/20723052>
- Susan Mann, "Pioneers of U.S. Ecofeminism and Environmental Justice," *Feminist Formations* 23, no. 2 (Summer 2011): 1-25. <http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/41301654>

Week 3 Articles:

- Stephanie Lahar, "Ecofeminist Theory and Grassroots Politics," *Hypatia* 6, no. 1 (Spring, 1991): 28-45. <http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/3810031>
- Joni Seager, "Rachel Carson Died of Breast Cancer: The Coming of Age of Feminist Environmentalism," *Signs* 28, no. 3, (Spring 2003): 945-972.
<http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/10.1086/345456>

Week 4 Articles:

- Gwyn Kirk, "Ecofeminism and Chicano Environmental Struggles: Bridges across Gender and Race," in *Chicano Culture, Ecology, Politics: Subversive Kin* edited by D. G. Peña (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1998): 177-200. **(Uploaded on Blackboard).**
- Kamala Platt, "Chicana Strategies for Success and Survival: Cultural Poetics of Environmental Justice from the Mothers of East Los Angeles," *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* 18, no. 2 (1997): 48-72. <http://0-www.jstor.org.lib.utep.edu/stable/3346965>

Course Schedule

Week 1 (July 11th – 16th)

Introduction to Ecofeminist Thought & Theory

IN CLASS:

Wednesday, July 12th

❖ **Introduction to Course**

- Go over syllabus & class expectations
- Lecture: “What is Ecofeminism?”

READ:

- Warren, “Introduction to Ecofeminism.”
- 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.”

POST

- Discussion: Introductions (**Due Thurs., 7/14 @ 11:59pm**)
- 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

IN CLASS:

Monday, July 17th

- Lecture: “What is Environmental History?”
- Film: *All Things Are Connected*

Wednesday, July 19th

- Lecture: “Gender & Environmental History”
- Film: *Ecofeminism Now*

READ:

- Norwood, *Made from This Earth*.
- Leach & Green, “Gender and Environmental History.”
- Mann, “Pioneers of U.S. Ecofeminism and Environmental Justice.”

POST:

- Discussion: Environmental History (**Due Thurs., 7/21 @ 11:59pm**)
- 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**)

DUE:

- Norwood Book Review (**Due Sat., 7/22 @ 11:59pm**)

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:

- Gaard, *Ecological Politics*.
- 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:

- Holmes, *Ecological Borderlands*.
- 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**)

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