

## **FW/ANP 858**

### **Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change: Issues and Concepts**

#### **Fall Semester 2006 Syllabus**

**Tuesdays, 1:50-4:40 pm**  
**306 Natural Resources Building**

#### **Instructors:**

**Tracy Dobson (Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife)**

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#### **Course Description**

This multi-disciplinary course acquaints graduate students with the key debates and theoretical approaches involved in understanding environmental concerns from a gender and justice perspective. It is intended for students in the social sciences and in agricultural and natural resources who, while familiar with their own disciplinary approaches to environmental studies, are not acquainted with those used in other colleges and are not familiar with gendered perspectives on environmental change or activism. Growing concern for the protection of the environment and for the development of more sustainable production systems have led policy makers and scholars to consider ways in which gender, class, and race mediate human-environment interactions. The course examines conceptual issues related to ecological systems, environmental policy, and gender studies. It critically examines the complex intersections of environmental actors, agencies, and institutions in the global arena, through a focus on contested power relations. The readings, videos, and other materials used in the class are drawn from both the North and the South in order to acquaint students with the similarities and differences in gendered relationships to the environment, access to resources, and in their environmental activism.

The objectives of the course are to:

- 1) Introduce the basic concepts and fundamental issues in environmental and gender studies that are needed to understand current debates on gender and environment;
- 2) Acquaint students with different frameworks used in gender and environmental studies;
- 3) Teach students to critically assess the underlying assumptions of contemporary theory and discourse on the environment, on sustainability, and on gender relations; and
- 4) Promote discussion on gender and environment among people from diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

## Course Materials

The following materials are required:

### Books

Available at local bookstores – *Note: Readings from these books are marked with an \* in the schedule of readings.*

Hanks, Sharon La Bonde

1996 *Ecology and the Biosphere: Principles and Problems*. Boca Raton, FL: St. Lucie Press.

Schroeder, Richard A.

1999 *Shady Practices: Agroforestry and Gender Politics in The Gambia*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Shiva, Vandana

1989 *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development*. London: Zed Books.

Stein, Rachel (ed.)

2004 *New Perspectives on Environmental Justice: Gender, Sexuality, and Activism*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Steingraber, Sandra

1998 *Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment*. New York: Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

### Articles and Chapters

Available as a course pack from Budget Printing, Trowbridge Plaza, 974 Trowbridge Road. Also on reserve in the Main Library and in the WID office, 206 International Center.

*Note: Articles marked with a # are not included in the course pack but are available on the MSU Libraries MAGIC Website (<http://magic.msu.edu>) and on reserve in the Main Library and WID office.*

## Assignments and Grading

Students are expected to attend all classes, to have completed the readings and other assignments prior to class, and to participate actively in class discussions.

Course grades are based on:

Class Participation and Postings – 35%

Mid-term Exam – 30%

Research Paper – 35%

### Class Participation and Postings

The class will be divided into two groups. Each week one group will post their comments and analyses of the week's readings on the ANGEL Website. These postings are to be no more than three pages in length. In them, students will draw out what they consider to be the main points of the readings and, most importantly, analyze them in relation to other class readings. The second group will read the postings prior to class and come prepared to discuss them in class in relation to the readings. The two groups will alternate on these assignments throughout the semester. Postings must be on the ANGEL Website no later than Monday at 12:00 noon to allow time for the other students and professors to read and digest them prior to class on Tuesday.

## Exam

The mid-term exam will take place in class on October 31 and will be essay in nature. There is no final exam. During the period scheduled for your final exam, both professors will be available in their offices to meet with students.

## Research Paper

**Papers are due on the last day of class, December 5.** There are two options:

- 1) Write a 15-page paper outlining how material and perspectives learned in the class have changed how you plan to conceptualize and carry out your Master's thesis or Ph.D. dissertation research.
- 2) Select an environmental policy paper from those provided by the instructors or of your own choosing with approval, and write a 15-page paper critiquing it from a gender perspective, drawing on what you have learned in this class.

## Integrity Policy

**The class will be guided by MSU's Integrity of Scholarship and Grades policy, available on the Web at <http://www.reg.msu.edu/read/UCC/Updated/integrityofgrades.pdf>.**

## **PART I. INTRODUCTION TO THE CONCEPTS**

### **August 29. Introduction to the Course**

Video: *Who's Counting? Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies, and Global Economics*

### **September 5. Conceptualizing the Environment: Ecological Principles**

\* Hanks, Sharon La Bonde. 1996. *Ecology and the Biosphere: Principles and Problems*, pp. 1-113.

*Recommended:* Bruce, Morito. 2002. "Sustainable Development, Conservation and Sustainability," in *Thinking Ecologically: Environmental Thought, Values, and Policy*. Halifax, NS: Fernwood Publishing, pp. 211-259.

### **September 12. Population Environment Equations**

\* Hanks, Sharon La Bonde. 1996. *Ecology and the Biosphere: Principles and Problems*, pp. 114-167.

### **Population and the Environment: Gender Perspectives**

Sen, Amartya. 1997. "Population: Delusion and Reality," in *The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy*, edited by Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo. New York: Routledge, pp. 89-106.

Bandarage, Asoka. 1999. "Population and Development: Toward a Social Justice Agenda," in *Dangerous Intersections: Feminist Perspectives on Population, Environment, and Development*, edited by Jael Silliman and Ynestra King. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, pp. 24-38.

# Hartmann, Betsy. 1998. "Population, Environment and Security: A New Trinity." *Environment and Urbanization* 10(2):113-127.

Video: *Finding Balance: Forests and Family Planning In Madagascar* – Population Action International (WID Library)

### **September 19. The Basics: Conceptualizing Sex and Gender**

Ward, Martha C. 1999. "Chapter I. What's for Dinner Honey? Work and Gender," in *A World Full of Women*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, pp. 1-40.

Lorber, Judith. 2001 (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). "The Social Construction of Gender," in *Race, Class and Gender in*

*the United States: An Integrated Study*, edited by Paula S. Rothenberg. New York: W.H. Freeman, pp. 47-57.

Greig, Alan, Michael Kimmel, and James Lang. 2000. *Men, Masculinities & Development: Broadening our Work towards Gender Equality*. UNDP Gender in Development Monograph Series #10.

Fuller, Norma. 2000. "Work and Masculinity Among Peruvian Urban Men." *The European Journal of Development Research* 12(2):93-114.

Becker, Mary, Cynthia Grant Bowman, and Morrison Torrey. 2001. "Chapter 12-D. Women and the State: Global Feminism and Equality," in *Cases and Materials on Feminist Jurisprudence: Taking Women Seriously*. St. Paul, MN: West Group, pp. 1054-1075.

### **September 26. Envisioning Diversity and Difference and Feminist Perspectives on Science**

hooks, bell. 2000 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). "Chapter 1. Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory," and "Chapter 2. Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression," in *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, pp. 1-32.

# van der Hoogte, Liesbeth and Koos Kingma. 2004. "Promoting Cultural Diversity and the Rights of Women: The Dilemmas of 'Intersectionality' for Development Organisations." *Gender and Development* 12(1):47-55.

Buckingham-Hatfield, Susan. 2000. "Chapter 2. The Making of Science: It's a Man's World," in *Gender and Environment*. New York: Routledge, pp. 11-32.

Martin, Emily. 1997. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles," in *Situated Lives: Gender and Culture in Everyday Life*, edited by Louise Lamphere, Helena Ragoné, and Patricia Zavella. New York: Routledge, pp. 85-98.

**Video: *Maid In America* (WID Library)**

## **PART II. APPROACHES TO GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **October 3. Ecofeminism**

\* Shiva, Vandana. 1989. *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development*, pp. 1-178.

Video: *Shiva Distinguished Lecture*

### **October 10. Ecofeminism, cont.**

\* Shiva, Vandana. 1989. *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development*, pp. 179-224.

Jackson, Cecile. 1993. "Doing What Comes Naturally? Women and Environment in Development." *World Development* 21(12):1947-1963.

### **October 17. Feminist Materialist Perspectives**

\* Steingraber, Sandra. 1998. *Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment*, pp. 1-118.

### **October 24. Feminist Materialist Perspectives, cont.**

\* Steingraber, Sandra. 1998. *Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment*, remainder of book.

# Mitchell, Jennifer D. 1997. "Nowhere to Hide: The Global Spread of High-Risk Synthetic Chemicals." *World Watch* March/April 10(2):26-36.

Video: *Bill Moyers – Trading Democracy*

**October 31.**

**MID-TERM EXAM**

# Korovkin, Tanya. 2003. “Cut-Flower Exports, Female Labor, and Community Participation in Highland Ecuador.” *Latin American Perspectives* 30(4):18-42.

**Presentation: Carmen Bain**

**November 7. Feminist Political Ecology**

Rocheleau, Dianne, Barbara Thomas-Slayter, and Esther Wangari. 1996. “Gender and Environment: A Feminist Political Ecology Perspective,” in *Feminist Political Ecology: Global Issues and Local Experiences*, edited by Dianne Rocheleau, Barbara Thomas-Slayter, and Esther Wangari. New York: Routledge, pp. 3-23.

**November 14. Feminist Political Ecology, cont.**

\* Schroeder, Richard A. 1999. *Shady Practices: Agroforestry and Gender Politics in The Gambia*, pp. 1-147.

**Video: Selbe (African Studies Media Library)**

**November 21. Environmental Justice Perspectives**

Taylor, Dorceta E. 1997. “American Environmentalism: The Role of Race, Class and Gender in Shaping Activism – 1820-1995.” *Race, Gender & Class* 5(1):16-62.

Stein, Rachel. 2004. *New Perspectives on Environmental Justice: Gender, Sexuality, and Activism*. Introduction, Chapters 1 and 3.

**Video: Journey to Planet Earth – Future Conditional – PBS Series**

**November 28. Environmental Justice Perspectives**

\* Stein, Rachel. 2004. *New Perspectives on Environmental Justice: Gender, Sexuality, and Activism*. Chapters 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11.

**PART III. PLANNED CHANGE: POLICY, ORGANIZATIONAL, AND LEGAL DIMENSIONS**

**December 5. Policy Dimensions**

**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**

# Cornwall, Andrea. 2003. “Whose Voices? Whose Choices? Reflections on Gender and Participatory Development.” *World Development* 31(8):1325-1342.

Harrison, Elizabeth. 1997. “Fish, Feminists and the FAO: Translating ‘Gender’ through Different Institutions in the Development Process,” in *Getting Institutions Right for Women in Development*, edited by Anne Marie Goetz. New York: Zed Books, pp. 61-74.

Alden Wily, Liz. 2001. *Making Progress – Slowly: New Attention to Women’s Rights in Natural Resource Law Reform in Africa*. Presentation to the CTA/GOU Regional Conference on the Legal Rights of Women in Agricultural Production, Kampala, Uganda, February 19-23.

Ferguson, Anne. 2005. “Water Reform, Gender, and HIV/AIDS: Perspectives from Malawi,” in *Globalization, Water and Health: Resource Management in Times of Scarcity*, edited by Linda Whiteford and Scott Whiteford. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research, pp. 45-66.