GSWS 411/831: Gendering Environment

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Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Wednesdays 9:30-13:20, SWH 10061 Graduate seminar: 13:30-14:20

Course Description:
This course uses a feminist-critical perspective to examine environment, sustainability, and eco-activism, paying particular attention to the social forces that are at work in efforts to address environmental change. The course is grounded in an examination of the production of knowledge and the relationship between nature and culture. It builds upon this foundation to examine case studies in environmental activism and sustainability studies, from Clayquot Sound and Greenham Common to Standing Rock and Site C. Each case study interrogates social relations (e.g., gender, race, colonial history, globalization) and their effects: how ecological change is understood and experienced, and how ecological challenges are addressed at various scales. The course invites students to evaluate individual and community eco-activism, institutional policy initiatives, state governance, and international debates over environmental protection.

Educational Goals:
The goal of this course is to engage students in an examination of, and conversation about, feminist-critical approaches to environment, political ecology, and sustainability. Students will develop an understanding for how scholars critically examine and interpret environmental change, activism, and resilience. Students will use qualitative research methods and analytical writing to examine and evaluate local environment/ sustainability/ eco-policy initiatives using a feminist lens.

For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

Course Texts and Courseware:
• #StandingRockSyllabus https://nycstandwithstandingrock.wordpress.com/standingrocksyllabus/
• Readings on reserve or electronically accessed through Canvas and/or the SFU Library.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Course Evaluation: 411
Participation and short writes 20%
Foundational concepts exam 20%
Field work activity 20%
Organizational policy analysis 20%
Intervention design 20%

Course Evaluation: 831
Participation 20%
Facilitation 20%
Field work activity 20%
Organizational policy analysis 20%
Intervention design 20%

Prerequisite GSWS 411: 45 units, including 6 units in GSWS. Students who have previously taken GSWS 321 Gendering Environment (Spring 2014) may not take this course for further credit.