SUMMER 2017 (1174)

GSWS 411-4: SPECIAL TOPICS IN GSWS: GENDERING ENVIRONMENT

Professor: Dr. Tiffany Muller Myrdahl
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Office: AQ 5092
Office hours: Tuesday 13:00 - 15:00 and by appointment
Lecture & Seminar: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30-13:20, May 8 - June 19; AQ 5039

Course Description:
This course uses a feminist-critical geographic 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. Centrally grounded in the Standing Rock Syllabus Project, the course begins with an examination of the production of knowledge and the relationship between nature and culture. It moves on to weave together an examination of Standing Rock and other case studies in environmental activism and sustainability studies.

Each case study enables us to assess and discuss how social relations (e.g., gender, race, colonial history, globalization) affect both the embodied experience of ecological change and the ability to address ecological challenges. Further, these case studies will allow us to evaluate environmental activism at various scales: we will examine individual and community activism, institutional policy initiatives, state governance, and international debates over environmental protection. Students will apply this analysis to the campus or local environment.

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. Further, the course asks students to conduct an evaluation of on-campus or local environment/sustainability/eco-policy initiatives using a feminist analysis.

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

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance and Participation 20%
Midterm exam 30%
Fieldwork activity & analysis 50%

Prerequisite: 45 units, including 6 units in GSWS.