A PEACE INSTITUTE COURSE:

SUMMER SESSION 1986

WOMEN'S STUDIES 204-3

WOMEN, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

We live in a society where science and technology play an increasingly dominant role. Even though commonly assumed to be 'objective' science and technology are in fact shaped by the society which created them. Sexism and militarism are among the factors that have influenced both theory and practice in scientific and technical areas. In this course we will look at:

1) The nature of science; relationship to technology.
2) Effects of gender on scientific theory and practice.
3) Science, the military and masculinity.
4) Science, gender and ethics.
5) Women as scientific practitioners: barriers and rewards.
6) Women as consumers of science and technology.
7) Science and peace.

One theme throughout will be a comparison between the problems around present science/technology and the possibilities opened up by alternative approaches. The 'new genetics' will be used as one case study, with an investigation of its implications both for dehumanization/militarism and for changes in reproductive technologies.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

D. Albury & J. Schwartz
Partial Progress
Pluto Press

E. Fox Keller
A Feeling for the Organism
W.H. Freeman & Co.

J. Watson
The Double Helix
(cheapest edition)

Bill Harding
Uranium Mining in Northern Saskatchewan
Regina Group for a Non-Nuclear Society

Course Requirements

Essay: 30%
Class participation: 10%
Mid-term exam: 25%
Final exam: 35%