WOMEN'S STUDIES DEPARTMENT

FALL, 93

MARILYN MACDONALD
Lec: Monday, 13:30-15:20
Tut: Monday, 15:30-1620

W.S. 204-3

WOMEN AND SCIENCE/ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY

The use of science as a way of knowing has changed radically from the Middle East and Meso America of five thousand years ago, through its waxing and waning in the Aegean, in China, and in India, to the current panglobal situation. This change has occurred in terms of the ideology, the body of accepted knowledge and the institutions (both formal and informal) of science: and has coevolved with changes in engineering and technology. Historically and currently, women have been and are active participants in these fields, but only after overcoming numerous barriers. In the first stage of a feminist analysis of science/engineering/technology (SET), we discovered our foremother practitioner. In the second stage, we looked for space for women in the existing structures. Now, we question the nature of SET, and how it fits within a more holistic and equitable worldview. In the 1990's, where SET are equated with prosperity, progress, power and security, a relatively small elite make decisions that affect all aspects of our lives. By understanding the relation of gender to SET, we can move toward their transformation and reclamation.

REQUIRED READING:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Research project (10-12 pages) 20%
Presentation 10%
Mid-term 15%
Interview 5%
Book review (suggestion list to be provided) 10%
Experimental design/review 10%
Final Examination 30%

This course may be taken as a complementary studies elective for Engineering Science.