From creation to death, humans are involved intimately with their surroundings (environment), and have devised many strategies to justify and perpetuate that involvement. In our post-industrial society, the relationship between women and the environment often is problematic. This course is centered on two aspects of that relationship:

Women when differentiated from men by their ability to be the environment (i.e. to bear an embryo/fetus), can become coessentialized with nature (in its sense of the vital force of life on Earth/Ocean). In a society centered on science and technology, and with an emphasis on the control of creativity, women/nature and the virtues of womanhood/wilderness often are viewed at best as inappropriate, and at worst as dangerous to the public good.

Women, as the source of half of human genetic makeup, and of most of early childhood development, are more easily located as the moral source from which both individual and societal reform should spring. At the same time, that reform can be viewed as putting economic progress at risk.

In this course, we will look at how these two aspects interact with some of the issues that are developing around the concept of sustainable development; and identify strategies for a feminist environmental world view.

REQUIRED READING:

Selected readings on reserve at the library.

Plant, J. 1989. Healing the Wounds: the promise of ecofeminism
Between the Lines Press, Toronto

Wilhelm, K. 1983 Welcome Chaos
Berkeley Book; New York
on reserve

EVALUATION:

Midterm 20%
Research essay 30%
Class Presentation 10%
Environmental Code 10%
Attendance and Participation 20%
Workbook Completion 10%

office\cstr\semprpl\outlines310.doc