Office Hours: T/R 12:30-1:30 and by appointment.
All students are encouraged to come to my office hours whenever they would like.

Course Description:
This course will focus on ecofeminism. Concerned that some feminist theory uncritically accepted the identification of men with reason, culture, and theory and women with emotion, nature, and practice some feminists took up these linkages seriously. Ecofeminists generally critique the over-reliance on reason and the idea that the human (meaning male) goal is separation from, or domination over, the rest of nature. This course will begin with one of the early texts in this tradition, Carolyn Merchant’s *The Death of Nature* in which she critiques the mechanized view of nature she sees emerging from scientific and positivist epistemologies. This will be paired with Val Plumwood’s *The Ecological Crisis of Reason* in which she argues that the denial of human dependence on the non-human sphere results in a remoteness from the earth, other animals, and other human communities. These works will provide a framework within which to read the work of a number of contemporary ecofeminists.

Texts:

Assignments:
Readings: You are responsible for all of the required readings each week. In addition to these readings, you are expected to pursue secondary readings on the course material in support of your own interests, the précis, and the final paper.

Discussion Leadership and Précis: Each participant will sign up to take special responsibility for one day of the course. On that day, you will be especially well-prepared to answer questions about the readings and introduce topics for class discussion (30-40 minutes). You will also select one of the primary readings and write a short précis on that reading. The précis should summarize the argument of the work and discuss it in relation to an organizing interest (connecting it to your paper topic is a good idea). The précis should be 800-1000 words in length. The précis will be worth 15% of your grade and your time as discussion leader will be worth 10%.

Critical Reading Questions (CRQs): Each student will write two CRQ’s. You may choose when to write these, but you may not write one the same day you are scheduled to be discussion leader. They are due to me on Canvas at least 24 hours before the class meeting in which we will be discussing that reading. These are one-page (single spaced) papers in which you raise a question prompted by the reading and then respond and discuss. These are not to be simple factual questions, but questions of implication, interpretation, consistency, and the like.
Paper Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography: In the 7th week, you will submit a prospectus of your final paper with two components: (1) a 2-3 page detailed description of the topic and outline of your proposed argument; and (2) an annotated bibliography of at least two primary or peer-reviewed secondary texts that you intend to consult (in addition to texts assigned for the course). Your prospectus must receive my approval in order for your final term paper to be accepted. The prospectus will be worth 10% of your final course grade.

Term Paper: Your term paper is on a topic of your choice and should be 2500-3000 words. In general, papers should focus on materials read for class, but must include at least three external sources. Your paper will be worth 40% of your grade. Final papers are due on Friday June 10th at 2:00 in the department office or on Canvas.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is required. For every unexcused absence after one, you will lose 1/3 of a grade. Class will focus on guided discussions of the material so students need to be on time and prepared to participate. At a minimum this means having completed the reading, thought about it, having questions ready, and listening actively (rather than just waiting one’s turn to speak or dominating the conversation). Paper presentations will be included here.

Grading:
- Précis 15%
- Discussion Leader 10%
- CRQ’s 10%
- Paper Prospectus/bibliography 10%
- Final paper 40%
- Participation 15%

PLEASE NOTE: Failure to complete any assignment can result in automatic failure of the class.

Academic Honesty
Students who engage in acts of academic dishonesty, which in this class would mean cheating on an exam or paper, will receive a failing grade for the assignment and may fail the class. For a full description of forms of academic dishonesty, please see: https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct.aspx

Schedule:
Note that the schedule of readings is subject to change during the quarter. All changes will be announced in advance during class. If you have questions about the assignments, requirements, or subject matter, please let me know. If you have special needs due to a disability, please talk with me as soon as possible so that your needs can be addressed.

March
Introduction of the role of the female
(T) 29 Merchant, Preface and Introduction xv-xxiv and Plumwood, Introduction (1-12)
Evelyn Fox Keller video in class

(R) 31 Merchant, chs. 1-2 (1-68): Nature as Female and Changing European Ecology

April
Gender and views of the world and reason
(T) 5 Merchant, chs. 3-4 (69-126): Organic Society and World as Organism
(R) 7 Plumwood, ch. 1 (13-37): Ecological crisis of reason

(T) 12 Merchant, chs 5-6 (127-163): Nature as Disorder and Production and Reproduction

(R) 14 Plumwood, ch. 2 (38-61): Rationalism and the ambiguity of science

**Dominion, remoteness, and inequality**
(T) 19 Merchant, chs. 7-8 (164-215): Dominion over Nature and Mechanical Order

(R) 21 Plumwood, ch. 3 (62-80): Politics of ecological rationality

(T) 26 Merchant, chs. 9-10 (216-252): Mechanism as Power and Management of Nature

(R) 28 Plumwood, ch. 4 (81-96) and Ecofeminism, Intro and ch. 1 (1-36): Inequality and ecological rationality and Groundwork

**May**
(T) 3 Merchant, chs. 11-Epilogue (253-295): Women on Nature, Leibniz and Newton

**Centrism and commodification require a response of compassion, solidarity, and dialogue**
(R) 5 Plumwood, ch. 5 (97-122) and Ecofeminism, ch. 2 (37-58): Blindspots of centrism and the need for compassion

(T) 10 Plumwood, ch. 6 (123-142) and Ecofeminism, ch. 4 (75-90): Prudence and Anthropocentrism; Epistemology and Sympathy

(R) 12 Plumwood, ch. 7 (143-166): Ethics of commodification

(T) 17 Plumwood, ch. 8 (167-195) and Ecofeminism, ch. 8 (143-158): Dialogical interspecies ethics and Contextual edibility

(R) 18 Plumwood, ch. 9 (196-217): Unity, solidarity, and deep ecology

**Ways to move forward**
(T) 24 Plumwood, ch. 10 (218-235) and Ecofeminism, ch. 11 (191-208): Materialist spirituality of place; Ecofeminism and veganism

(R) 26 Plumwood, ch. 11 (236-240) and Ecofeminism, chs. 12-13 (209-240): Earth dependence, intersections, and ecomasculinities

(T) 31 Ecofeminism, chs. 4 and 9 (75-90 and 159-174): Participatory Epistemology and Interanimal Moral Conflicts

**June**
(R) 2 Ecofeminism, ch. 7 (127-142): Facing death

Finals June 10th