

PHL 443
Ecofeminism
CON 301
T/R 12-1:50

Dr. McKenna
SCH 237
Spring 2017

Office Hours: Tuesday 11-11:50, Thursday 2-3:00, 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 and ecowomanism. 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. Ecofeminists and ecowomanists examine how race and class complicate the identification of women and nature. This course will take up an intersectional analysis of what ecofeminists call the “logic of domination” and examine issues such as food, pollution, and consumption by linking environmental justice with social justice.

Course Goals:

Goals for the course include:

- developing critical reading skills
- developing writing skills
- developing oral presentation and discussion skills
- gaining familiarity with the work of contemporary ecofeminist and ecowomanist theorists

Texts:

Harper, A. Breeze, *Sistah Vegan: Black Female Vegans Speak on Food, Identity, Health, and Society* (Lantern Books, 2010)

Kheel, Marti, *Nature Ethics: An Ecofeminist Perspective* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007)

Other assigned readings will be posted on Canvas.

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 prospectus, 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%.

Reading Questions (RQs): 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 12 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 Canvas on Wednesday, June 14th by noon.**

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:

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| Précis | 15% |
| Discussion Leader | 10% |
| RQ'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.

April

T 4 Introduction; video in class

R 6 Kheel, Forward (ix-x); Harper, Preface and Introduction (ix-xix) and ch. 7, Taylor, "Veganism" and ch. 8, Drew, "Being a Sistah at PETA" (58-64)

T 11 Kheel ch. 1, "Finding a Niche for All Animals in Nature (1-34)

R 13 Harper, chs. 13-17, Spears, "Eyes of the Dead," "I Am Sistah Vegan," "Gourmet Chef at McD's," "To Eat or Not to Eat," "Stop Feeding Me Your Bullshit" (80-91); ch. 23, Meadows "Because They Matter" (150-154)

T 18 Kheel, ch. 2, Masculine Identity: Born Again "Man" (35-68)

R 20 Harper, ch. 1, Loyd-Paige, "Thinking and Eating at the Same Time," ch. 2, Phillips "Veganism and Ecowomanism" (1-19)

T 25 Kheel, ch. 3, Origins of the Conservation Movement: Preserving Manhood (69-108)

R 27 Harper, ch. 3. Harper "Social Justice Beliefs and Addiction to Uncompassionate Consumption" (20-41)

May

T 2 Kheel, ch. 4, Thinking Like a Mountain or Thinking Like a "Man"? (109-136)

R 4 **Library Day**; Harper, ch. 4, Dunham, "On Being Black and Vegan" and ch. 5, Danielle, "Nutrition Libration" (42-57)

T 9 Kheel, ch. 5, The Ecophilosophy of Holmes Rolston III (137-162)

R 11 Harper, ch. 10, Earth, "Black-a-tarian," and ch. 11, Santosa, "Identity, Freedom, and Veganism" (68-77)

T 16 Kheel, ch. 6, The Transpersonal Philosophy of Warwick Fox (163-206)

R 18 **Prospectus and annotated bibliography due on Canvas**

T 23 Kheel ch. 7, Ecofeminist Holist Philosophy (207-247)

R 25 Kheel ch. 7, Ecofeminist Holist Philosophy (248-274)

T 30 Harper, ch. 24, Bahna-James, "Journey Toward Compassionate Choice" (155-168); paper presentations

June

R 1 Harper, ch. 6, Probus, "Young, Black and Vegan"(53-57); paper presentations

T 6 Harper, ch. 25, "Veganism and Misconceptions of Thinness as 'Normal' and 'Healthy'" (169-186); paper presentations

R 8 Harper, Jones, "Afterword," (187-201); paper presentations

Finals Week: Final paper due Wednesday, June 14th at noon.