

Hamilton College: Spring 2000

**WS/ES 357 LIVING IN PLACE:
ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIES FOR ECOLOGICAL CITIZENSHIP**

Instructor: Professor Gwyn Kirk

Class time: Tuesday and Thursday 1.00-2.15

Prerequisite: A course in economics, environmental studies, government, sociology, or women's studies. Also note: This is a Writing Intensive course.

Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2.30-4.00. If these times are impossible, by appointment.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary, upper-level course explores a range of themes that contribute to an understanding of ecological citizenship including environmental values, environmental justice, ecological feminisms, and restoration ecology. We will draw from economics, environmental studies, feminist theory, public policy and sociology. The course will include readings, films, site visits, written assignments and student research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Examine social science, feminist, and anti-racist perspectives for understanding environmental issues
- Examine the practical applications of these perspectives
- Explore the connections and contradictions among gender, race, class and nation as theoretical lenses
- Understand how the personal, community, national, and global levels of interaction and analysis are interrelated
- Understand issues confronting policy-makers and community activists who seek to influence public policy on environmental matters
- Develop skills in writing, close reading, and critical thinking.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Descriptive writing about a place you know well & feel connected to. **Due Feb 8.**
- Analysis paper using theoretical frameworks to discuss selected readings. **Due March 9.**
- Topic paper and presentation. **Due: April 25.**
- Integrative essay: a longer essay incorporating material or opinions from your earlier papers and other written exercises. **Due: May 4.**

As this is a **writing intensive course** we will use writing in class and short homework exercises as an aid to thinking and understanding the course material. You should plan to do several drafts of your papers and allow time for this.

OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Reading all assigned readings
- Attendance and participation in class and on site visits
- Adherence to the Hamilton Honor Code

If you need particular attention or facilities on account of a disability please talk to me about it.

BOOKS

Winona LaDuke, *All Our Relations: Native struggles for land and life* (Boston: South End Press, 1999).

Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva. *Ecofeminism* (London and NJ: Zed Books, 1993).

Richard Hofrichter (ed.), *Toxic Struggles: The theory and practice of environmental justice* (Philadelphia and Gabriola Is. BC: New Society Publishers, 1993).

David L. Barnhill (ed.) *At Home on the Earth: Becoming native to our place, a multicultural anthology* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999).

Starhawk, *The Fifth Sacred Thing* (New York: Bantam Books, 1993).

Recommended: T. Bernard and J. Young, *The Ecology of Hope: Communities collaborate for sustainability* (Gabriola Is.: New Society Publishers, 1997).

Additional readings will be on reserve in the library

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan 18, 20) **Living in Place**

Theoretical Frameworks – race, class, gender, nation/ micro – global levels of analysis

Reading: Ann Filemyr, “Finding Heart, Making Home: personal reflections on the relationship between women and nature.”

Winona LaDuke, Intro and “Akwasasne” (Ch. 1, *All Our Relations*)

Faber & O’ Connor, “Capitalism and the crisis of environmentalism (Ch. 1, *Toxic Struggles*)

David Barnhill, Intro; Thomas Berry “The Hudson River valley”; Scott Russell Sanders, “Settling Down”; Peter Sauer “Water under American Ground (in *At home on the earth*)

Week 2 (Jan 25, 27)

Reading: O’Connor, “The promise of environmental democracy (Ch. 4, *Toxic Struggles*)
Bell hooks, “Touching the earth”; Wendell Berry “From a native hill” (*At home on the earth*)

Hamilton, “Environmental consequences of urban growth and blight” (Ch. 6, *Toxic Struggles*)

LaDuke, “Nitassinan” (Ch. 3, *All Our Relations*)

Videos: City Farmers (South Hawk Studios)

WEPROS (Detroit)

Week 3 (Feb 1, 3) **Environmental Values**

Reading: LaDuke, Ch. 5 Nuclear waste (*All Our Relations*)

Joni Seager, “Creating a culture of destruction” (Ch. 5 *Toxic Struggles*)

Gary Snyder, “The place, the region and the commons”; Richard Nelson, “The gift of deer (*At Home on the Earth*)

Martin Khor Kok Peng, “Rethinking North-South relations (Ch. 22, *Toxic Struggles*)

Chris Kiefer and Medea Benjamin, “Solidarity with the Third-World (Ch. 23, *Toxic Struggles*)

Video: the Environmental Impact of War (Center for Defense Information)

Week 4 (Feb 8, 10)

Reading: Vandana Shiva, “A crisis in science” (Ch.2, *Ecofeminism*)
Maria Mies, “The myth of catching-up development” (Ch. 4, *Ecofeminism*)
Shiva, “The impoverishment of the environment (Ch. 5, *Ecofeminism*)
Sharon Butala, “The subtlety of the land” and Gretel Erlich, pp. 180-87 (*At Home on the Earth*)
Mies, “Who made nature our enemy?” (Ch. 6, *Ecofeminism*).

Film: The future of progress (International Society for Ecology and Culture)

Week 5 (Feb 15, 17) **Environmental Justice**

Reading: Bullard Ch 2.; Chavez, Ch. 16, Moore and Head, Ch. 11 (*Toxic Struggles*)

Video: Film: No Grapes (United far Workers of America)

Week 6 (Feb 22, 24)

Reading: Hofrichter, Ch. 8; LaDuke, Ch. 9; Krauss, Ch.10; Miller, Ch. 12; Lavelle and Coyle, Ch. 13 (*Toxic Struggles*)

Guest Speaker: Martha Matsuoka, “Power analysis for organizing.”

Week 7 (Feb 29, Mar 2) **Ecological Feminism**

Reading: Gwyn Kirk, “Standing on Solid Ground” (on reserve)
Ynestra King, “Feminism and ecology” (Ch. 7, *Toxic Struggles*)

Film clips: Who’s Counting: Marilyn Waring on sex, lies and global economics

Week 8 (Mar 7, 9)

Reading: Mary Mellor, “Building a New Visions: femiist green socialism” (Ch. 3, *Toxic Struggles*)
Ann Filemyr, “Going outdoors and other dangerous experiments” (on reserve)

SPRING BREAK: March 13, 14, 20, and 21

Week 9 (Mar 28, 30)

Reading: Shiva, “Women’s indigenous knowledge”; “The Chipko women’s concept of freedom” (Chs. 11 & 16, *Ecofeminism*)
Maria Mies, “White man’s dilemma” (Ch. 10, *Ecofeminism*)

Week 10 (April 4, 6)

Reading: Starhawk, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*

Week 11 (April 11, 13) **Restoration of Land, People, and Spirit**

Reading: LaDuke (Chs. 6-10, *All Our Relations*)

 Maria Mies, “Liberating the consumer” (Ch. 17, *Ecofeminism*)

 Shiva, “Decolonizing the North (Ch. 18, *Ecofeminism*)

 Maria Mies, “The Need for a new visions” (Ch. 20, *Ecofeminism*)

Week 12 (April 18, 20) Work on projects

Week 13 (April 25, 27) Presentations

Week 14 (May 2, 4) Review: **Principles of Ecological Citizenship**