SOCI 525

Current Issues in the Sociology of Genders and Sexualities: Gender, Justice, Power, Environment and Climate Change

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Instructor: Dr. Martha McMahon

Course Description[1]:

Building on feminist sociologies this course approaches gender less as an issue of identity and more as a theoretical and politically enabling conceptual resource. Engaged as central to intersectional analysis it allows us to see things we would otherwise not see and to act personally and politically in ways we otherwise would not have been able. As such, gender becomes a key political and analytical resource for us in figuring out how to engage with life, in what some feminists call, the ruins of capitalism and other blasted landscapes. Thus, intersectional gendered analysis brings new understandings to issues as diverse as climate change, food, environment, other-than-human animals, gender, justice and power, but also emotions, bodies, and motherhood. This course invites you to engage new feminist ontologies and epistemologies as keys to personal and social transformation in these troubled times.

Course Objectives and Skills Development:

- The first part of this course will be organized around the ethical, intellectual and political projects identified by some contemporary feminist theorists: the challenges of how to live well with others—including, with our multispecies kin—in what is diversely identified as late modernity, capitalism, or the Anthropocene.
- What modes of life can guide us in living ethically with diverse humans and more-than humans in finding new ways to live and thrive in what seems like social and planetary ruins. We will draw on the help of Indigenous feminist scholars, Chicana scholars, feminist queer theory, and many others. We will always look for possibilities, not just problems.
- The second part of the course centres students' research interests and engages participatory pedagogical practices.
- This graduate course challenges students to develop pedagogies of praxis, as well as undertaking an area of independent research building on but going beyond the material provided. Given the wide range of different substantive issues, students are interested in or working on, the course is designed to give participants resources that can be widely used in very different kinds of work.

Course Organization and Coursework

This is a seminar-style course.

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[1] This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students before the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.

Required Resources: Most required course readings will be made available via CourseSpaces.