

GEOGRAPHY*3090

GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT

University of Guelph
Department of Geography

DRAFT OUTLINE Fall 2025 SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Class time:

Location:

Instructor: Roberta Hawkins

TA: TBA

Email: rhawkins@uoguelph.ca

Office:

Office hours: TBA

Description

The course applies feminist theories of, and perspectives on, nature and space to explore how gender mediates experiences of the environment. The course spans a number of interrelated themes, including gendered interactions with nature, gendered body politics, and gendered production and use of space. It draws on geographical case studies from multiple and diverse contexts to demonstrate the importance of gender in understanding human interactions with the environment.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe major ideas related to gender and environment/place themes
- Compare and contrast varying perspectives on gender and environment/place and assess their explanatory potential of society
- Apply feminist theoretical ideas and critical perspectives to “real world” scenarios and everyday life
- Demonstrate critical reading, writing and thinking using gender analysis and feminist thought

To get the most out of this course, students will:

- Approach the course content with an open mind
- Attend lecture, take notes and participate in in-class discussions on course material
- Do the course readings before each lecture and engage with these readings thoroughly for course assignments
- Participate in in-class lecture activities and in-class writing exercises
- Leave enough time to reflect on, write and edit assignments
- Visit the Instructor’s office hours or participate in online discussion boards to clarify any questions throughout the semester

Final Grade Breakdown

In-class activity deliverables = 10% (2% each x 5 activities)

My gendered life assignment = 20%

Relief mapping = 15%

Photo voice assignment = 15%

Take-home exam/Final Portfolio = 30%

Commented [RH1]: - Gender explorer

- shipman murders
- image analysis
- should do one on the report
- shop and other place re-design
- caring university

Details:

1. **In-class activities** - There will be 5 classes throughout the semester (see schedule for dates) in which seminar/lab-type exercises will take place. Students are required to prepare for the in-class activity, attend the class and fully participate in the in-class activity to submit a 'deliverable' after the activity. See detailed instructions in separate document.
2. **Assignment # 1** – Reflections on the social construction of gender – Personal reflection and short essay
3. **Assignment # 2** – Written report on Relief Mapping exercise
4. **Assignment #3** – Photo voice assignment – short reflective paper
5. **Take-home exam** – Connecting class content to your portfolio of work

Respect and openness

Respectful communication with one another is imperative in this class. We may have discussions and broach topics in our class that are difficult to communicate about or that you have not encountered before. We must keep in mind that we all come to this course with different lived and intersecting experiences when it comes to gender, sexuality, race, Indigeneity, class, and disability, and where some of our identities may be invisible. Our work as a class is to listen so that what we share can be received with care and openness, and to acknowledge and learn from each other's stories and knowledge. Please know that you will never be asked to share more than you are comfortable with and you can choose not to respond or share at any time. Additionally, note that offensive language will not be tolerated and students can be asked to leave the class at any time by the instructor if she feels they are not engaging respectfully. As your instructor, it is my responsibility to ensure you are comfortable, so I invite you to contact me if there's anything that comes up that you'd like me to know about and respond to.

Course Readings and Resources:

All course readings are available for downloading and printing through our CourseLink website.

A PDF of the PowerPoint slides used in lecture will be available on CourseLink. However, these are not a replacement for coming to lecture. If you miss a lecture you can coordinate with other students (not the Instructor or TA) to catch up with what you missed.

Sample course schedule and topics

Week	Topics
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Welcome and semester plan
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Theorizing sex and gendero Feminist principles
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o In-class activity 1o Feminist critiques of science
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Feminist research ethicso Case study: Love Canal
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Gender and nature overviewo Feminist political ecologies
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Resource extractiono In-class activity 2
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o NO CLASSo Gendered bodies
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Power and surveillanceo In-class activity 3
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Gendered spaceso Racialized spaces
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Inclusive designo Critical disability studies
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Queer spaceso In-class activity 4
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Feminist futureso Hacking and glitches
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o In-class activity 5o Conclusion