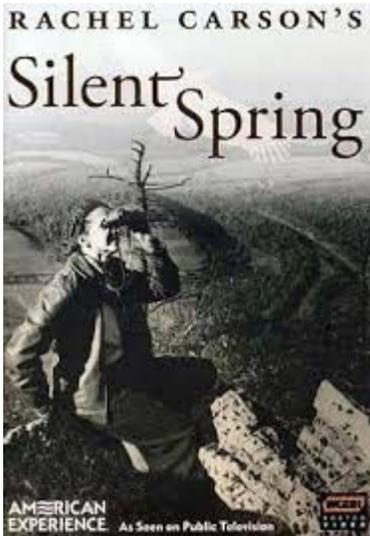


iGender and Environment (GEOG 466/566)
Spring 2015
M/W 2-3:20
Dr. Connie Johnston (Condon 165, cjohnst4@uoregon.edu)



Course Description:

We all interact as human beings with the biophysical and social worlds that we inhabit. We all benefit from and utilize these worlds to sustain ourselves physically and emotionally. However, many similarities end here. As we know, our human world is presently comprised of more than seven billion individuals who have many different life situations based on, among other things, geography, social position, economic status, and biology. All of these elements of individuals' lives contribute to their differential experiences of and interactions with their biophysical and social worlds. In this course we will explore one category that is commonly used to differentiate individuals—gender—and the ways in which different genders experience their socio-natural environments. We will begin the course by first examining the concepts of “gender” and “environment” themselves. Although not a feminist theory course, we will draw on salient feminist theoretical perspectives throughout the term.

Specific topics we will engage with include work and school, environmental toxins, and home life. We will look at a number of case studies (some of which students will be asked to research and contribute for class discussion) from around the world, as well as watch several films/videos that will help us to think about how our course topic applies in the real world.

Learning Objectives:

Drawing on course materials and each other's input and experiences, you will learn:

- To challenge assumptions about a universal “human” and her/his experience of “natural” and built environments, internal “bodily environments”, and spaces that are coded public and private;
- Several basic elements of feminist theory, particularly as relates to “the environment”;
- To consider and analyze ways in which individuals' bodies, social status, and socio-cultural classification(s) affect their experiences of their social and biophysical environments.