

Course evaluation

Gender & Sustainability: Introducing Feminist Environmental Humanities (KTH & LiU)
Instructors: Cecilia Åsberg, Janna Holmstedt, Marietta Radomska, Meike Schalk

Please type your responses directly under the questions below. The pad saves your text automatically. You can work on it simultaneously and anonymously, or with pseudonym, if you like.

Many thanks!

1. Please comment on the course: did it meet your expectations? (What were your expectations? What were you hoping to learn?)

-yes! :) I agree! Very good introduction to a broad and very important field! Please do the course again! I can warmly recommend it.

-Yes - it was a great introduction to post humanism/new materialism and environmental humanities - thank you!

-This course met my expectations by far! it opened up many doors and thoughts worlds and ways of thinking otherwise. I found also the code of conduct and setting a tone on how to be together really wonderful. It opened up to a very warm sharing environment.

-This course was great for opening up a new academic world of ideas and theories. It also functioned well as a way of enthralling me to delving into the area further.

-This course has introduced me to so many interesting texts and concepts that was new to me. Very much to digest, but also very inspiring.

-Amazing reading list; fantastic conveners; lovely lectures with broad range of topics. Really liked how everyone was from different backgrounds. I only wish it could have been in person, but on the other hand, how amazing that so many could join us from all over the world - myself included. I absolutely agree about the professors doing a great job of setting a caring and kind tone which made all feel welcome. Thank you SO much!

-The course met my expectations in many levels. Perhaps the most interesting, in addition to all fantastic knowledge acquired, was the structure, discussion methodology and group work experience. Such a rich space of exchange!

-Yes!!! thank you for this amazing course and structure! I really loved how you fostered an environment of constructive critique.

-Yes. The course delivered what I expected. The engaging communications among course participants and teachers are extra bonus.

-Over and beyond! Have gotten so much more understanding theorywise. Perhaps expected a bit more focus on concrete methods than I experienced to be the case

-The course was fantastic and gave a great overview on theory, also as the comment above, would have been great to explain the methods more in detail (for people coming from non-humanities based backgrounds)

-It has been incredible, I have learnt a lot, revisited things that I knew but now saw anew, it was a little more intense (time wise) than I had expected, but this wasn't a bad thing, it was just juggling it with my other commitments.

-Yes, it has been such a pleasure, and has helped move my phd research forward immensely. It has both met expectations and exceeded them.

-Yes, the course met my expectations and more. I learnt immensely through the course literature, guest speakers, course organizers and fellow course participants. All contributed to help enrich and organise my thoughts and knowledge that I had previously acquired.

-The course was really great and it helped me a lot to position different concepts and theories. Very good introduction to the topic!

-No, it far exceeded my expectations => Because I was quite unfamiliar with the environmental humanities, I was concerned that my research 'might not fit' or it would be difficult to apply course objectives, but from the beginning it has easily become the most applicable and influential course I've taken (I'm about 70% within a 5 year PhD). I was hoping/expecting to learning about environmental humanities and new materialism, but was also especially interested within the call about how to connect theory to methods and research questions. While it met my expectations regarding all of those learnings, how it exceeded is in how it has helped me not only apply learnings to my broader PhD and to a particular design project within, but it also has helped me understand relations across my other design projects (not presented in class) and between design projects and my broader PhD "research program."

-Yes and more than exceeded expectations! I find the literature helpful toward my first single-author publication and the conversations and connections I have made valuable to my career. This is also the most female scholars I have ever had the chance to work with, and feel that I found professional connections that will be valuable throughout my career. Having the support of this course gives me the confidence to bring these ideas into my field, which would feel so much riskier without knowing the field of feminist posthumanities and having these connections.

2. Please comment on the organization of the course: what worked well, what worked less well?

-I think that the spacing from session to session worked perfectly well for the course. Maybe a stricter rhythm between zoomtime and breaks would be good, if that is manageable

-Communication and scheduling worked really well. But more strict keeping to the schedule would be better for our managing of our time.

-It was useful having sessions spaced with relevant reading material and other tasks. I think the the feedback sessions in the last module were great and learnt so much through sharing. I think we could have had smaller more organised groups for the feedback sessions though. It would be great to have closure with everyone or most people present too - didn't get that right this time - so perhaps more thought with that.

-Great set-up with everything from lectures, readings, conversations, writing, field work. I personally prefer smaller groups when discussing and engaging. I find, particularly in zoom chat with the performative aspect. But it was mostly very comfortable sized groups!!

-It was very good and worked very well.

-It worked well but I would suggest to have more half-days with lectures, if this course will be run on-line again. I would not have a problem with having a week of halfdays if I just have the schedule in advance - or meeting in between with lectures. This because of back-problems and sitting in front of the computer on such a tight schedule was sometimes bodily hard.

-Worked well> sandwich method, opponent& respondent method, group sessions worked less well> cant think of anything haha

-I feel it all works out.

-Sessions every month or every few months was a nice time pace. I would have enjoyed meeting more and talking with the rest of the students --> I agree.

-Fabulous!

-It was a great mix of people geographically, I would consider keeping it online --> yes! agreed.

-Schedule was well balanced, not too much or too little time for most elements.

-I liked very much the smaller group work as it was the only thing that came close to replicating a real-life experience of getting to know smaller groups. I found the long days quite hard; 5-6 hrs of lectures is a lot to do online! So perhaps consider breaking it up a bit. But I liked the pacing so that we met every few months.

-Perfect. Schedules, timeframe of the sessions, coffee-breaks, guest-speakers. 5* Organizers. Yes I agree with in opening up the course internationally, online. Considering the urgency in communicating the interdisciplinarity and interseccionarity of subject(s) - Feminist Posthumanities in Sustainability, in the 21st century.

-I struggle sometimes with concentration and attention span, so I would had appreciated more breaks or ability to listen while walking (I guess that was my own choice to sit still by the computer) It would had worked better for me to have only half days, for instance only morning sessions and divided to more days but that's just perhaps my preference.

-I also agree with an above comment on keeping it online - it was so inspiring to see research taking place all over the world! A couple things I think worked especially well: clear caring environment of exchange established from the first minute, wonderful zoom chat dialogues, spacing of sessions, and lots of potential readings yet being asked to read and discuss a smaller number more closely. Full days of Zoom were quite taxing... perhaps half days or a strict 10am to 3pm schedule would be more manageable.

-I enjoyed the end with having feedback from one student rather than a group and think more times to work together one-on-one could be valuable to get detailed feedback and build off each others ideas.

3. Comment on lectures, field studies, group work, seminars, presentations and other course activities. Please be as specific as possible about one or each of these items!

-I agree with "great lectures, not enough time" and "played out beautifully together"

-These were all thought through really well and I enjoyed it. A bit less relevant to me was the architecure readings and focus but great to have exposure to this field too.

-Very interseting lectures! I would love to have a ´reading circle´session as a moment in the course.

-The lectures were great. Perhaps not enough time for them though.

-Fantastic lectures! in bredth and width and traversing differrnt fields. They played beautifully together also. Well arranged!

-It would be really appreciated by people like me, who can learn in a slow motion style, so it would be great to have presentations available in the box to recap again later if needed.

-Fantastic lectures, it is always a little limited doing things online with zoom, but in the circumstances it worked well.

-Nice mixture of lectureas and group discussions. Liked that you did a thorough introduction during the first module for those not so acquainted with FEH.

-Selection of lectures vere extremely well picked out and all together made a wonderful mix of voices! It worked well to have group conversations on paper progressings and I could use comments from fellow course participant directly in my project and further research. To encourage us to work with field studies was a great anchor and a way to allow all to "do their own thing" while still sharing some aspects in terms of methodologies

-The field studies were my favorite part!

-Great quality lectures!

-Enjoyed listening to all the speakers lectures, fellow course students during the group work, and presentations. Again 5*

-Lectures were really great and I really enjoyed them. Some feedback sessions would had perhaps been more fruitful if we knew beforehand the groups. Perhaps having an assigned student discussant in each feedback session would had been helpful, but also small groups and

open discussions were really meaningful and important. It would have been nice to also have small group discussions on specific texts, maybe scheduled an hour here or there outside of the official module format.

-I would have liked more time to discuss texts in small groups. While it was nice to at times meet with new people during breakout rooms, I wonder if for each module we could have assigned groups, so that prior to a scheduled course day during which we might discuss readings, we could know in advance we would be discussing with to refamiliarize ourselves with their research. I loved the field studies! Field studies were really critical for me in drawing connections between theory and practice.

4. Comment on the assignments

-Assignments gave me courage to create something of what have been cooking in my brain
#brainfood

-The assignments were very useful with the stage I am at for my PhD in helping formulate my proposal.

-Great how they all built on top of each other, with the group check ins and the teacher feedback, it was very well supported.

-I agree!

-The assignments were very good and were well-thought out. They worked well to expose us to a vast array of important concepts and writers in the field.

-They were in themselves really meaningful, I personally would have loved more time to do them considering the external situation. But I would not change them!

-Very good quality!

-Loved how the field work in module 2 were encouraging us (or me at least) to get out of my comfort zone. I thought the difference between the task in module 2 and 3 was a bit unclear, but the module 4 was really good.

-The assignments were very good opportunities to periodically link the themes discussed with our objects of study

-Set up of the written assignment worked really well for me, it was great to develop collectively and over more iterations via feedback. The presentation rounds at module 4 were good and it worked well that course participants were opponents to each others paper, although the days felt very long. Perhaps there could be something other than presentations/opponents comments in the programme on these days to make it a bit varied somehow. And perhaps be good over three day instead of 2.

-I really enjoyed hearing others; presentations (sadly internet issues prevented full participation) but I very much appreciated the format and the chance to reflect on my own work alongside someone else's - this is immensely valuable. As a small suggestion it might be good to group people more by their topics, because then they can really help one another. On the other hand, I love interdisciplinarity!

-Looking forward to reading about the assignments presented in the course, in journals or in the Future Sustainability Generation Network...

I enjoyed listening to what other course colleagues were working on and researching. In my case, it was a testing ground - prototyping - for future curatorial project(s) and solidifying my research for my PhD thesis.

-It was a really great opportunity to engage with the literature and concepts and applying those to own project and then getting feedback! Also listening others presentations was really interesting.

-I agree with a comment above on the task between module 2 and 3 being slightly unclear, but overall all assignments sat very well together regarding course expectations. I've also saved

all assignment documents (especially the final one) to be used in regards to revisiting my other projects and broader PhD topic. The presentations and feedback for the last assignment was brilliant, and I think the timing of 5 min presentations and 10 min critique worked really well in terms of workload and being able to absorb the other pairs.

-I appreciated that the assignments were specific to thinking about my own project. It makes the class very valuable for my PhD.

5. Comment on the course literature: was there enough reading - too little? Was it the right kind for you? What did you not expect to read?

-Amazing reading material and resources.

-Definitely the right kind of readings! But a lot. I guess it depends on how one works with a text in various ways.

-Great coverage on the literature, will carry all of the references with me in my future work

-The course literature was good and represented a good spread of different areas across the field. I do, however, feel that due to the sometimes impenetrable nature of a lot of the writing in these fields, it would be very beneficial to include some more of Cecilia's texts, as she is very good at getting to the heart of the matter and communicating that.

-Amazing reading list, I wish I just had more time to digest! but the list does not go away so one can always return :)

-Truly excellent and well organised reading list, so easy to access it all, I really appreciated all the different directions you could take in the readings.

-Very good readings, a lot of them too! Great to have them with me, since I could not cover all the recommended text that also was included.

-Amazing reading, thank you! So much more to read!

-The literature was wonderful! Although I didn't get to read everything of course, I will consult the list later on in my studies

-Very good, and very extensive, it will be nice to have in my future digital library, and I am sure I will be coming back to it.

-Very good, extensive, feminist - extremely helpful for my thesis, I came into contact with so many wonderful authors. I'd say there was a little too much reading for module 1 and not quite enough for the other modules.

-It was a comprehensive reading list. However, it's never too much reading when researching in this interesting field(s) of knowledge.

-Really appreciated the extensive reading list! Although I did not have time to read everything, I can continue from there with relevant literature. Perhaps some of the materials from module 1 could have been also for module 2 to divide the workload.

-Wonderful reading! Definitely not too much and would love more. I also really appreciated having lectures by text authors, it's really helpful to both read and then listen to their presentations of their research (and of course have opportunities to engage with them).

-Definitely plenty of useful reading and more to get to or finish reading from the list still

6. Leave us suggestions for improvements (everything is welcome!)

-Yes, more breaks!

-Include more of Cecilia's texts as they expertly make sense of directions within the field.
YES! Yes

-Yes, would have liked to see more of Cecilia's texts in the reading list - 5 different texts.

-It's always going to be tough will long days, but important with more regular breaks, perhaps also some mini music breaks or meditation etc.

-I believe that in this last module we could have been better prepared in terms of the synthesis of the presentations, with regard to our work and the feedback on the work of colleagues, to

make better use of the time. Maybe even more precise instructions than the ones you've already done can help with that.

-I mentioned before, I prefer smaller groups when engaging in others work, so one has time to read ahead of time and prepare. But maybe the big round also has its function to see how to pitch an idea project and find resonance.

-I could imagine having opponent groups - not just one text to be opponent on. I did not have time to read all the final papers, but some, but reading the one I had to opponent on was the most giving part - so I would have loved to have two more or so to really give comments on. But then a week for preparation would have been needed.

-Hopefully we can meet sometime outside zoom, I think most improvements comments i could share are zoom-related, but guess next time world should be less pandemic (hopefully)

-Working online presents a lot of challenges, but most definitely the hardest was concentrating for the full sessions - for me the maximum is 2 x 1 hr lectures followed by 2hr discussion in a small group.

-Same as comment on smaller groups when engaging in others work (that perhaps changes for each modules, or just twice during the course). So for example, when we would have breakout rooms to discuss readings, knowing before who you will be paired with perhaps.

-Time zones are difficult even when no actual air travel takes place, so the improvement could have been the scheduling, but I think the way to improve it would have to depend of the geographical locations of who is attendign to find best time slots based on the international group

7. Would you recommend this course to other PhD students? If so, why?

-Yes! Fantastic resources and access to experts in the field sharing their knowledge and experience - and also learning form peers.

-I would recommend it at any time. Extremely important field, good teachers, good lectures e.a

-I already have!!

-Definitely, it's truly useful to look at your work through the generous lens of feminist environmental humanities.

-Yes, definitely.

-YES

-yes definitely

-Yes

-Yes, especially people who are not familiar with environmental humanities - I love how this field can transcend all disciplines!

-Totally, I've already done, in fact!

-Absolutely. And please create the network.

-Yes.

-Definetely, yes it's been very useful and inspiring

-100% yes! Fantastic sharing space and lovely organisers.

-Yes, in a time where these issues of sustainability and gender of the utmost importance.

-Yes!

-Definitely! I wish I could take it again =)

-Yes definitely, friends wished I had told them about it because it's so awesome! This is so valuable for scholars in so many disciplines.

7. Other comments

-Thank you to everyone!

-hearfelt thank you

- Wow - thanks you!
- Thank you very much for a very inspiring and 'full' (In the best way) course!
- Thank you ! :-)
- It there room to bring some practitioners in this subject to the course? for example,I am aware of some practicing professionals have expertise in gender analysis in their fields.
- How can we have a continuity? Networking but where and how?
- I really appreciate how warm and inclusive you made this space.
- Thank you so much! It would be wonderful to keep in touch somehow. Really curious about the development of everyone research
- Yes please can we have some kind of network set up? how?
- Would love to meet you all in person sometime. Other than that, a HUGE thank you, especially for allowing me to participate as an RMa student.
- Loved meeting you all and hearing about your research(s).
- Was really nice to meet you all and hear about wonderful and inspiring projects you are working with.
- Thank you so much!!!
- I loved hearing about everyone's projects and loved the instructors and the supportive feedback! Thank you everyone!

8. Overall assessment of the course (Give us your adjectives, or if you prefer a numbered grade, or a formula that indicate your overall assessment)

- Caring, fostering, hopeful, interesting, encouraging, pushing, mindblowing, just great
- Inspiring, nurturing, inclusive.
- Brilliant! Outstanding course, really well structured, truly cross disciplinary, great to be part of a group of minds that work in very different but the same kind of approaches, truly joyous to learn together, also such a luxury to have four teachers, all with engaging manners and differing pedagogical approaches, really inspiring, thank you.
- Welcoming, inspiring, including, encouraging, interesting, broad. Extremely knowledgeable teachers with lots of encouragement. (I second this!) (third this!)
- Inspiring and felt hopeful.
- Mind-blowing! Still need time to digest it
- Generous!
- Fantastic!
- Really impressed by the feminist ethic of care cultivated in the very classroom. You all practiced what you preach :)
- Joyous, inspiring, caring, organized, knowledgable, and encouraging are just some of the adjectives that encapsulate the Gender & Sustainability course organizers and participants.**
- 5 * course. Hlghly recommend the course to future Feminist Environmental Posthumanties participants.**
- Really great and inspiring! I want more!
- Generous x 10! Caring, nurturing, inspiring, challenging
- Very supportive, inspiring, and valuable for my career