Ecofeminism (GSWS 179/ENVS 179), 3 credits, Online, May 23 - June 17

Like all environmental movements, ecofeminism is concerned with relationships between humans and the natural world. Exploring the connection between environmentalism and feminism, the field of ecofeminist studies specifically addresses the traditional interpretation of "nature" as female (or feminine), the connection between the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature, and ways in which environmental issues often affect women in particular. In this course we will read from a broad range of ecofeminist texts. Our goals will include learning about ecofeminist approaches to literature, studying various feminist theoretical responses to environmental issues, as well as developing our own personal views on women, nature, sustainability, and patterns of environmental domination. Our reading list will include authors such as Vandana Shiva, Val Plumwood, Wangari Maathai, Alice Walker, Barbara Kingsolver, Rachel Carson, and Carolyn Merchant.