

**Western University**  
**Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies**  
**Winter 2024**

**GSWS 3325G: FEMINIST EMBODIED THINKING**

Wednesdays 1:30-4:30  
Instructor: Prof. Helen Fielding  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course we will ask how we come to know the world as embodied from feminist perspectives. Thinking that does not assume mind/body dualism and instead comes out of lived experience clearly differentiates from calculative thinking which prioritizes efficiency. Calculative thinking, that sees the world as a storehouse of resources on call for human use, has brought the earth to a point of climate catastrophe. It also separates us from the particular worlds we experience, from the relational worlds, the ones our bodies connect. Beginning from the insight that thinking follows experience, we will focus on concrete, experiential and relational approaches to thinking. We will reflect on how we perceive (hear, see, feel etc.) by recording environmental sounds, creating images, and perceiving alongside artworks. We will bring our embodied contact with the world in dialogue with feminist, Indigenous, and decolonial texts.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To be able to articulate embodied ways of theorizing  
To understand what it means to subvert mind/body dualism  
To become more proficient in working with feminist theoretical texts  
To further develop ways of communicating ideas effectively  
To be able to articulate more clearly the interrelatedness of all beings (human and more-than-human)

**EVALUATION**

Participation		10%
Group Project		15%
Artwork discussion Paper	(3 pages)	15%
Essay	(8-10 pages)	30%
Final Exam		30%

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

With the The Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Neutral peoples, on lands connected to several Treaties including Treaty 6 London Township, Treaty 7 Sombra Township, Treaty 21 Longwoods and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This place continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples who are recognized as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors to society.