This is a graduate seminar in environmental and ecological politics, ethics, and political economy, on Green political thought and practice. It is intended to permit examination of the question: What does it mean to “think Green? In it, we shall examine the origins and content of ecological politics, ethics and political economy, and ask whether they offer a “realistic” alternative to neo-liberalism and other political ideologies. In addition to intensive reading, students will be expected to write weekly 2-3 page synthesis papers on the readings, to organize and make a presentation during one of the class meetings, and to prepare a 5 page synopsis of a longer research paper, to be presented during the final class meeting. Those who might wish to actually write the paper can sign up for an independent study during Spring Quarter.

Readings (All texts are on reserve at McHenry Library, and I will make materials available for copying. * indicates selected chapters)
Robyn Eckersley, *Environmentalism and Political Theory* (SUNY, 1992)
Thom Kuehls, *Beyond Sovereign Territory* (Minnesota, 1996)
*David Harvey, *Spaces of Hope* (UC Press, 2000)
Val Plumwood, *Feminism and the Mastery of Nature* (Routledge, 1993)

Syllabus

**Week 1 (1/8): What is “Green Thinking?”**—an incomplete overview of approaches, controversies, and contradictions.
Eckersley, ch. 1-2; Luke, Introduction & ch. 1; Meyer, ch. 1-2

Additional reading:
Andrew Dobson, *Green Political Thought* (Routledge, 2000, 3rd ed.).
Ramachandra Guha and Juan Martinez-Alíer, *Varieties of Environmentalism. Essays North and South* (Earthscan, 1997).
Week 2 (1/15): Constructing nature and culture—how do we know what is “nature” and what is “culture,” and what about hybrids and metaxa?

Additional reading:
I.G. Simmons, Interpreting Nature (Routledge, 1993).
Kate Soper, What is Nature? Culture, Politics and the Non-Human (Blackwell, 1995)

Week 3 (1/22): Making nature political—where are the politics in green thinking?
Harvey (1996), Part II; Meyer, ch. 4-6; Kuehls, ch. 2-4; Plumwood, ch. 6

Additional reading:
Kerry Whiteside, Divided Natures—French Contributions to Political Ecology (MIT Press, 2002)

Week 4 (1/29): Knowing nature—knowledge of nature and the nature of knowledge
Wright, Introduction and ch. 1; Plumwood, ch 3-5; Karen Litfin, OzoneDiscourses (Columbia, 1994), ch. 2; Haraway, ch. 9.

Additional reading:

Week 5 (2/5): Deep Ecology—can one “think like a mountain?” And so what?

Additional reading:
Week 6 (2/12): Women and nature—varieties
Haraway, ch. 8; Plumwood, ch. 1 & Conclusion; Eckersley, ch. 5

Additional reading:
Ariel Salleh, *Ecofeminism as Politics* (Zed, 1997)
Vandana Shiva and Maria Mies, *Ecofeminism* (Fernwood, 1993).

Week 7 (2/19): Liberalism & green thought—if everything must have a price to be valued, what is anything worth?

Additional reading:

Week 8 (2/26): Conservatism & green thought—conservatives love nature, too!
Peterson, ch. 7-8; Luke, ch. 4-5; Plumwood, ch. 7

Additional reading:

Week 9 (3/4): Humanism & green thought—people and nature together, will never be defeated!
Luke, ch. 7-8; Harvey (2000), ch. 10-11; Eckersley, ch. 4, 6-7

Additional reading:

Week 10 (3/11): Student presentations