

Art 241: Inside the Outside

Thursdays 3:00-5:45PM

Art & Ecology, The University of New Mexico

Spring 2011, 107 Mitchell Hall

Instructor: Andrea Polli, apolli@unm.edu

This course introduces students to ecological research and art practice in seminar format. The course explores both ecological issues and artists' work and responses. Guest lecturers are invited from the Environmental Sciences, Geography, Biology, Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Planning and other disciplines, as well as outside the University. The philosophy of this course is to engage with the conversation of ecological art and through reading and analyzing the original texts of American ecology, the words of ecological artists, and critics and through the hands-on exploration of art and ecology research practices.

Expectations:

- Complete research projects of observations, reflections, ideas and other notes as assigned, hand in on paper and submit to the class blog as a research field notebook
- Serve as reading discussion leader in a team at least once during the semester
- A 1000-1500 word analytical midterm paper with references and 15-20 minute powerpoint (or other visual aid) presentation comparing and contrasting two approaches to the environment
- A final analytical paper of 3000-5000 words with references comparing and contrasting two approaches or perspectives on art and ecology.
- At least one object/image/action/artwork or project plan for an artwork including significant completed research. Though this is a seminar class, it is meant to feed into your art practice.

Objectives:

Students should finish the course with a working knowledge of several research methods that can be used to create art and ecology projects and some of the artists who have successfully used these methods. Students will also hone writing skills with weekly writing assignments, a final analytical paper and skills of conceptualizing and creating works.

Grading Policy: Student's grades will depend on the TIMELY completion of all assignments, final project, attendance and participation. If a student has any emergencies or difficulties in completing an assignment, THEY SHOULD CONTACT ME AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. My e-mail is apolli@unm.edu- no excuses.

Grading:

Field notebook/Research assignments	10%
Attendance (inc. field trips and special meetings)	10%
Midterm Presentation	10%
Short Midterm Paper (1500 words)	10%
Reading discussion leader	10%
Total	50%

Art project/project plan	10%
Project in process presentation	10%
Total	20%

Final paper outline	10%
Final paper draft	10%
Final paper (3000-5000 words with references)	10%
Total	30%

Attendance: The weekly class time will serve as an official time for students to meet. Class time will be used for presentation, discussion, consultation, problem solving and project development. Students are expected to be punctual, and to attend all classes unless informed otherwise by the professor. If a student is too ill to come

to class, or has an emergency conflict, he or she must notify and speak with the professor. If a student misses a scheduled meeting, it is the student's responsibility to make up any work missed. More than three absences will result in an 'F' (failure). Lectures and discussions will be held at the beginning of class so you must be punctual. Two late arrivals equal one absence! The student will be in regular contact with the professor throughout the process. All due dates are final; no late work will be accepted. Part of your final grade will be determined by class attendance.

Make-ups: If a student finds they will not be able to hand in a project on the scheduled day, it is the student's responsibility to notify me prior to that day. Under no circumstances will I accept the work if I have not been notified and arrangements made prior to that day.

Participation: Lecture must be interactive. To this end, I encourage an open atmosphere where back-and-forth communication is the norm. Students are free to speak up when they need clarification or wish to make observations. Always let me know if you are having difficulties mastering a technique presented in class and I will help you. Plus, you will be expected to work several hours outside of class time each week. You will not be able to finish your assignments during class!

Homework: Since the nature of this class demands that assignments vary between students, students will be responsible for the specific requirements of their project and will be expected to complete necessary content gathering and formatting and design. Unfinished final projects will NOT be accepted. ALL work will be expected to be formatted as appropriate including online work.

Required Textbooks:

Planning Research, John C. Gordon
American Earth, Bill McKibben
Land and Environmental Art, Kastner

References

Artists and Art Projects (NOT exhaustive):

Joseph Beuys
Robert Smithson, Spiral Jetty
Basia Irland
Olafur Eliasson
Simparch
Brett Stalbaum
Mel Chin, Fundred Dollar project, and reclamation
Matt Coolidge and the Center for Land Use Interpretation
Trevor Paglen
Christian Nold
Merle Laderman-Uekeles
Helen and Newton Harrison
Future Farmers
ArtFarm
This is Not a Cornfield
Fallen Fruit
Mary Miss
Bread and Puppet Theater
Patrick Dougherty
Betty Beaumont
Alan Sonfist
Bruni & Barbarit
Herman de Vries,
Mike MacDonald
Jerilea Zempel
Bill Gilbert

Lucy Raven
Molly Sturges
Catherine Harris
Szu-Han Ho

Books for Reference:

Art Nature Dialogues: Grande
Environmentalities: Linda Weintraub
Wanderlust, Rebecca Solnit

Links for Reference:

<http://eyebeam.org/research/sustainability>
<http://www.greenmuseum.org/>
<http://www.free-soil.org/>
<http://www.treehuggerproject.com/>
<http://ecologicla.blogspot.com/>
<http://ecoviz.org/>
<http://depave.org/>
<http://www.oaec.org/>
<http://www.longnow.org/>
<http://www.ecoarttech.net/>
<http://canary-project.org/>
<http://www.ecoartspace.org/>
<http://www.sustainablepractice.org>
<http://www.art-ecology-education.org/>
www.ecoartsofla.org
<http://www.artport-project.org>
<http://www.sitkacenter.org/>
<http://www.fritzhaeg.com/garden.html>
<http://www.futurefarmers.com/>
<http://www.rebargroup.org>

Course Outline: This schedule is subject to change!! Please feel that you have a say in the tempo and the extent to which material is covered.

January 20 Introduction, course outline and schedule

Discuss reading assignments

Discuss 1st research project - ecological footprint

Readings:

Planning Research, chapters 1-3 pages 1-31

American Earth:

Buckminster Fuller, Spaceship Earth, pages 464-468

Kenneth Boulding, The Economics of the Coming Spaceship Earth, pages 399-404

R. Crumb, A Short History of America, pages 591-594

January 27 1st research project due (ecological footprint), 3 pm

Fine Arts library Art & Ecology research introduction with Nina Kay Stephenson

Discuss reading

Establish schedule for reading discussion leaders

Review 1st research project ecological footprint

Assign 2nd research project - energy audit

Readings:

Planning Research, chapters 4-5 pages 32-52

American Earth:

Pollan, Omnivore's Dilemma, pages 948-960

Caroline Henderson, Letter from the Dust Bowl, pages 239-244

February 3 2nd research project due, 3 pm (energy audit)

Visit to Lobo Food Gardens led by Andrew Marcum amarcum@unm.edu

Ortega 243 or Lobo Garden at Real Estate office

Review 2nd research project energy audit

Discuss reading (first one led by student team)

Assign 3rd research project photographic survey

Readings:

Planning Research, chapters 6-7 pages 53-80

American Earth:

Thoreau, pages 1-36

Rebecca Solnit, The Thoreau Problem, pages 971-974

February 10 No class meeting, instructor out of town

February 17 3rd research project due, 3 pm (photographic survey)

Introduction to the Map Room and digital mapping, Centennial Library, Jeff Dickey

Digital mapping demo and experiment using 3rd research project photographic survey materials

Student led reading discussion

Assign 4th research project - map

Readings:

Planning Research, chapters 8 pages 81-90

American Earth: Howard Zahniser, The Wilderness Act of 1964, pages 392-394

Land and Environmental Art: Preface, Survey and Works, pages 1-103

Saturday, February 19, Field Trip

1PM Museum of Natural History Bioscience Collection tour with Collections Manager Patricia Gegick

patricia.gegick@state.nm.us

February 24 4th research project due, 3 pm (map)

Zimmerman library Center for Southwest Research/Special Collections research introduction Char Peery and Ann Massmann, Zimmerman computer classroom B30
Environmentalism legal movement, standing for the environment
Student led reading discussion
Review 4th research project - map
Assign midterm presentation, reference list and short paper

Readings:

American Earth: Julia Butterfly Hill, The Legacy of Luna, page 907-918
Land and Environmental Art, page 104-end

March 3

Visit to Museum of Southwest Biology, CERIA, Catherine Osborn, Joe Cook and Thomas Turner
*Catherine Harris, Bill Gannon and Terri Koontz
Student led reading discussion
Discuss midterm project ideas

No specific assigned reading this week, complete midterm for presentation next week

March 10

No formal class meeting, individual appointments about Midterm as needed

March 17 Spring Recess

No formal class meeting, individual appointments about Midterm as needed

March 24

Midterm presentations

Assign 5th research project observing/taxonomy
Discuss Hot Spots video and poster exchange - www.hot-spots.net
Assign Final Paper, Project and Presentation

Readings:

American Earth: Amory Lovins, Energy Strategy: The Road not Taken? Pages 559-569
Handout: Robert Smithson Spiral Jetty article

March 26 Field trip

Visit to smart house with Olga Lavrova

March 31 No formal class meeting, individual appointments about Final as needed

April 7 5th research project due, 3 pm (observing/taxonomy)

Tour of UNM engineering with Olga Lavrova and/or Andrea Mammoli
Student led reading discussion
Review 5th research project - observing/taxonomy
Assign 6th research project interviewing
Assign final paper and project/project plan proposal

Readings:

American Earth:
Rachel Carson, Silent Spring, pages 365-376
Gene Stratton-Porter, The Last Passenger Pigeon, pages 192-204
Philip K. Dick, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? Pages 451-453

April 14 6th research project (interviewing) and final paper proposal and project/project plan proposal due, 3 pm

Student led reading discussion
Review 6th research project interviewing
Discuss final paper and project/project plan ideas as group
Assign final paper outline

Readings:

American Earth:

Bill McKibben, *The End of Nature*, pages 718-724

Carl Anthony and Renee Soule, *A Multicultural Approach to Ecopsychology*, pages 849-854

April 21 final paper outline due, 3 pm

Student led reading discussion
Individual meetings reviewing final paper outlines
Assign final paper draft and presentations of projects-in-process

Readings:

American Earth:

Aldo Leopold, *The Sand County Almanac*, pages 265-294

April 28 final paper draft due, 3 pm

Student led reading discussion
Projects-in-process presentations/discussion

No specific assigned reading this week, work on final papers and creative projects/project plans

May 5

Projects-in-process presentations/discussion
In-class meetings reviewing final paper drafts

No specific assigned reading this week, work on final papers and creative projects/project plans

May 12

Final papers and creative projects/project plans due, 3 pm