

ARTS 4017: Special Topics-
On Location: Art and Environment in the Field

M-Th,M-Th,T-Fri 8am-5pm
June 20-July 8, 2022

COURSE DESCRIPTION

On Location: Art and Environment in the Field provides a survey of art practices related to the land and environment while living and working in Roosevelt National Forest at the CU Mountain Research Station. "Land" and "Environment" are used very broadly and will be explored experientially, along with hands-on projects in the outdoors and classroom. Focusing on themes of site, environment, landforms, weather, climate and earth materials, students will design and realize a number of new artworks. In this course you will complete 3 creative projects and engage in discussion and critique of each of those projects. You will also submit a final portfolio for this course. Room, board, and field trips are included in total course cost.

Prerequisites: ARTS 1010 and 1020

The Sculpture and Post-Studio Area (SPS) encourages an experimental and interdisciplinary approach to art making. Our curriculum synthesizes a commitment to the studio and the field, emphasizing the interplay between concept, material and context. In this course we will explore various philosophies related to Land and Environmental Art - you will learn many new things about making art, and hopefully be encouraged to continue learning through additional SPS courses. Please talk with me or stop by the SPS resource room on the second floor to learn about recommended courses and degree tracks.

Suggested Books to Purchase or Download for this Course

Land and Environmental Art by Jeffrey Kastner and Brian Wallis (Themes and Movements, Phaidon Press, 1998)

Undermining: A Wild Ride Through Land Use, Politics, and Art in the Changing West by Lucy R. Lippard (The New Press, 2014)

Art and Ecology Now by Andrew Brown (Thames and Hudson, 2014)

Readings for this course are also shared digitally through our shared Google folder.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Projects – 75% of your grade

You will create and present 3 creative projects for this course. These projects will represent your understanding and willingness to execute each of your individualized project goals. Your individual project grades are also based on your preliminary research for each project and whether or not your project is completed on time, and presented professionally. Your work needs to be completed professionally and ready for critique prior to the beginning of the class period of which you are scheduled to present your work. If you are not prepared for your critique, your time slot will be cancelled and you will need to reschedule to individually submit your project to me. There will not be extra class time for make-up critiques, it is not fair for those who have worked hard and are ready to go on critique day to do so.

Throughout this course you will embark on a number of art experiments outside of the studio. You should expect to spend more time outside of the studio and off-campus for this course than a typical studio art course. You will be asked to create a number of works in a limited amount of time, sometimes around a particular theme. These works might be “creative moments in time” or physical, tangible objects. As most of the work for this class will be done outside of the traditional studio environment, you will need to be diligent about documenting your work. The more you document your experiences through photographs, drawings, maps,

interviews, or whatever media is most appropriate to your working idea, the more successful your work and presentations will be.

Class Readings/Small Assignments/Discussion/Participation – 15% of your grade

A number of readings and smaller assignments will be given to you throughout the semester. You are required to complete each of them, thoroughly digest the material and come to class prepared for discussion. With each reading and throughout other aspects of the class, there will be numerous opportunities for you to participate in, and lead class discussions. This may include formal and informal conversations with your studio mates, Q and A sessions, presentations, critiques, impromptu panel discussions, and class lectures.

Final Portfolio – 10% of your grade

At the end of the semester you are required to turn in a final portfolio. Your portfolio will include images of all of the work you made during the course and will be submitted digitally. Your portfolio should be well organized and include work identifiers such as the title, dimensions, and material, the site, and/or method used to create the work. More on the Final Portfolios will be discussed later in the semester and you will be provided a checklist.

Course Projects

Project 1 - Land Art Prompt - Integration – (25%)
Project 2 - Land Art Prompt - Interruption -- (25%)
Project 3 - Land Art Prompt - Involvement -- (25%)
Readings and Class Discussions -- (15%)
Final Portfolios -- (10%)

Artists Covered in this Course

Carl Andre, Ant Farm, Art & Language, Alice Aycock, Heather Ackroyd, John Baldessari, Lothar Baumgarten, Herbert Bayer, Betty Beaumont, Vaughn Bell, Joseph Beuys, Doris Bloom, Alighiero Boetti, Cai Guo Qiang, The Center for Land Use Interpretation, Mel Chin, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Nicole, Dextras, Walter De Maria, Herman De Vries, Anselm Kiefer, Denes, Jand Dibbets, Mark Dion, Toshikatsu Endo, Harriet Feigenbaum, Peter Fend, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Richard Fleischner, Hamish Fulton, Paula Hayes, William Furlong, Avital Geva, Andy Goldsworthy, Hans Haacke, Helen Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison, Michael Heizer, Nancy Holt, Douglas Huebler, Peter Hutchinson, Patricia Johanson, Nadav Kander, William Kentridge, Richard Long, Gordon Matta-Clark, Ana Mendieta, Cildo Meireles, Kathryn Miller, Mary Miss, Robert Morris, Eve Mosher, Christian Philipp Muller, Nils Norman, Viet Ngo, Isamu Noguchi, Yoko Ono, Dennis Oppenheim, Platform, Richard Serra, Bonnie Sherk, Kazuo Shiraga, Charles Simonds, Buster Simpson, Robert Smithson, Alan Sonfist, Paul Shortt, Leonid Tishkov, James Turrell, Meirele Laderman Ukeles, Meg Webster.

REQUIRED READING

Readings will be assigned and made available to you as PDF documents in the course Google Folder. You will need to use your CU email for this course to access the readings folder and come to class with notes and questions prepared. I have included the books for this class at the top of the syllabus. Some of them are available to download, some you can purchase if you are a person who likes books.

GRADING

Your grade will be based on your successful completion of the previously mentioned COURSE REQUIREMENTS. This includes the quality and quantity of your work, your participation in class discussions and project critiques, your ability to incorporate new ideas and suggestions to your overall development as an artist, your attendance, and the final portfolio. You may contact me at any time via email to schedule an appointment to discuss your grade. Following are some of the things I look at when assigning grades.

Work habits: How effectively are you using class time? How much work do you do outside of class time? What is your level of commitment to the work?

Technique/craft: Is your work crafted at the high level that it needs to be? Are you making conscious decisions about the craftsmanship in the work?

Punctuality: Do you come to class on time? Are your projects completed in a timely manner?

Resolving pieces: Do you go back and rework pieces after the critiques in order to make them better or try something new with them?

Attitude: Are you taking the class seriously? How high is your level of ambition? What kind of goals are you setting for yourself?

Research: What kind of research are you doing in addition to your work? What artists are you learning about? How are you bringing other information or disciplines into your work?

Class participation: Are you participating constructively to the class? Are you adding helpful comments to the critiques?

Experimentation: How far are you pushing the methods and materials? What is the level of creativity in the work? Do you take the project past the basic requirements?

Concepts: How well are you grasping concepts discussed in class? How much thought are you giving each element of your work?

Written Materials: Are you writing and reflecting on your work? Are you writing clearly? Are you putting enough time and thought into your artist and project statements? Are you supplementing your visual work with creative writing?

Following are the assigned letter grades for this course and a description of what each letter grade encompasses.

A – Superior. Exceptionally high achievement. This grade is reserved for those students that put an extraordinary amount of time and effort into all aspects of the class. The project exceeds all requirements of the assignment, demonstrates independent thinking and innovation in realizing the project.

B - Above Average. Students receiving this grade are doing above average work, bringing interesting and constructive information to class and working beyond the requirements of the class. Their projects meet all and exceed some of the assignment requirements.

C- Average. These students are completing all work in a timely manner and up to the expectations set out by the course/project objectives. Students are participating in class and have proven through both discussion and their work that they understand the concepts that are being discussed. Students demonstrate independent thinking during projects.

D – Below Average. Passing, but unsatisfactory. Students receiving this grade are not creating work that is up to the class standards. Work is not turned in on time, not taken seriously or not fully completed. The student is not participating constructively in class, is late to classes or leaves early. Project meets few of the requirements of the course/project objectives.

F – Failing. The student has failed to meet the requirements of the course/project.

VAC Requirements, Campus Policy on COVID-19, and Student Code of Conduct:

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on Campus Policy on COVID-19 and Student Code of Conduct. Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more information, see the policies on COVID-19 Health and Safety and classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct. If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the Accommodation for Disabilities statement below.

Additional University Policies:

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns: CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code: All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation: The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, anonymous reporting, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website.

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Accommodations for Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services

website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see Temporary Medical Conditions on the Disability Services website.

Religious Observance: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please notify well in advance (min. 2 weeks) of possible conflicts so that reasonable alternatives may be determined. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

Studio Clean Up and Etiquette:

Please clean up your work area after each work session. Help us keep the studio clean by not leaving a mess for the next person. Students are responsible for removing their projects within a reasonable amount of time after they have been graded. If projects are not removed they will be thrown out without notice. Any materials left in disarray, unclaimed or unmarked will also be discarded.

The sculpture studio is a communal space so you need to be considerate of others and their work. If you get sawdust, material shavings, plaster or paint on the floors, clean it up immediately and do not let liquid materials harden on the floors. You must return all tools to their proper storage areas at the end of class. If the studio becomes excessively messy we will use class time (your studio time) to clean the studio. No Food or Drink in the Studios.

Safety:

All safety precautions will be taken to ensure the safe operation of any equipment. However, neither the University of Colorado or the instructor are responsible for personal injury occurring on the grounds or within the sculpture facilities. Proper eye protection must be worn at all times when operating power tools. Make sure that long hair is tied back when working with power tools. Follow all rules in the Metal Shop and the Woodshop. Please inform the shop technicians or instructor of any condition that might affect your ability to operate tools and equipment or any other special needs that you may have. If you have asthma or if you are sensitive to saw dust, plaster dust, or other materials, please let me know.

Students with Disabilities:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (<http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>) and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious Observances:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please let me know well in advance of any religious observance that you will have a scheduling conflict within this course.

Classroom Conduct:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I have been provided with a class roster with each student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Students need to be aware of the campus 'Classroom Behavior' policy at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> as well as faculty rights and responsibilities listed at http://www.colorado.edu/FacultyGovernance/policies/Professional_Rights_and_Duties.pdf

Discrimination and Harassment:

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>

Academic Integrity:

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>

It is important that you fully understand all of what is expected of you at the beginning of the semester. I expect you to act responsibly according to the parameters that I have identified in this syllabus. I will not track you down and reprimand you if you are not fulfilling your responsibility to this class. You will receive periodic evaluations that will give you a fair understanding of why you are receiving the grade that you are and you may always make an appointment with me to discuss your performance. This schedule is subject to changes.