

ART + ENVIRONMENTS
FIELD SCHOOL



University of Colorado **Boulder**

COURSE NUMBER: ARTS 4444/5444

Field Instructor: Aaron Treher CU-Boulder
aaron.treher@colorado.edu

Faculty Director: Richard Saxton, CU-Boulder
richard.saxton@colorado.edu

FIELD LOCATIONS

North Park Basin, CO
Mountain Research Station, Nederland, CO
818 County Road 116
Nederland, CO 80466
Phone: (303) 492-8842
email: MRS@colorado.edu

2026 FIELD SCHOOL Weeks and Locations:

WEEK ONE

5/11-13: Campus, CU-Boulder

5/14-15: North Park Basin

WEEK TWO

5/18-21: North Park Basin

5/22: Check in at Mountain Research Station

WEEK THREE

5/22 -5/29 Mountain Research Station

WEEK FOUR

6/01-05 Asynchronous Online

Anablog Organization 1-10, Reflection Paper I

WEEK FIVE

6/05-12 Asynchronous Online

Anablog Organization 10-20, Reflection Paper II

Portfolio Organization

WEEK SIX

7/15-19 Asynchronous Online

Portfolio Final Design

Submission of completed course PDF

FIELD SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF

Artist / Field Instructor:

Aaron Treher

aaron.treher@colorado.edu

Artist / Field Technician

Delaney Gardner-Sweeney

Delaney.Gardnersweeney@Colorado.EDU

Artist / Field School Faculty Director:

Richard Saxton

richard.saxton@colorado.edu

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SYLLABUS AND BASICS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Field School is a 6-credit, 6-week intensive field arts program available each summer. The structure is 3-weeks of on-site fieldwork followed by 3-weeks of asynchronous online work and reflection. The program puts students in touch with various landscapes and is focused on teaching site and context-based approaches to art creation. The Field School is designed as an experiential course, meaning that students learn about places and context through being in the field and making artwork on-site. While living and working in the field, students create and discuss various art-making approaches with environments such as prairies, forests and waterways. Students may explore many mediums including: writing, photography, sculpture, drawing and video and sound recording. Topics that are discussed and of which students work with in for this course are: nature and process; ecology; conservation; highways and byways; non-urban phenomenology; climate change; borderlands; pastoralism; wayfaring; waterways; pilgrimages; colonialism; ownership and identity; agriculture; idealized and ignored landscapes; and geomorphology. The 2024 session will travel to the Kansas State University Konza Prairie Biological Field Station, the University of Nebraska Cedar Point Biological Station and the Mountain Research Station at the University of Colorado. Please note this course is off-campus and involves out-of-state travel. A signed university waiver and active health insurance is required.

Students are required to complete several assignments each week that range from readings to projects in the field. You will keep a sketchbook and field journal for the duration of the program. This course focuses on the experience and learning to push your ideas in new directions. More than the final product, the journey is what's important here. At the end of the term you will formally write 2 reflection papers and organize a final portfolio of your artwork. All readings are provided online and each van has a binder of print copies. Students are responsible for materials costs outside of the tuition, but it is minimal. Tuition covers lodging and some meals. We do our best to accommodate dietary restrictions but expect those with strict dietary programs to plan accordingly.

TYPES OF CREATIVE WORK AND FIELD SCHOOL ATMOSPHERE

Environmental works can involve writing, sculpture, media art [photography, sound, video, etc], mapping, performance and other modes of making and being. Through a collaborative class atmosphere, students in this course will discover and discuss themes that include site, landscape, location, community, space, context, and environment. Students will learn about the history of many art practices that are locationally outside of the city and outside of the traditional gallery/museum model. Each student will be able to design and implement a context-specific art project during the Field School session.

The Field School is an intensive experience. It will be fun and also very challenging. If you aren't prepared to focus solely on the field school experience for the first three weeks, you shouldn't take the course. You must plan for weeks-long travel and submit a CU off-campus waiver to participate. Healthcare is also required and all of the paperwork and tuition has to be on file prior to the first day of the field session.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

Each student is responsible for assembling appropriate tools and clothing for this program. Students are responsible for their own materials for projects though we do have a small budget to help out when we can. See the schedule document for Packing and Tools list. Many tools are provided by the Field School at the MRS facility, some you need to assemble yourself.

GRADING

The Field School is a graded course. Your grade will be based on the effort put into the following:

- the level of participation you bring to the projects
- your level of ambition and resourcefulness
- the artworks that you create (inc. work habits, technique/craft, resolving projects, attitude, research, experimentation, new concepts)
- the quality of input to discussions and project critiques
- your ability to incorporate new ideas and suggestions into your development as an artist
- your overall attendance and commitment to the experience
- your ability to learn and adapt in challenging environments
- day-to-day journals and anablog documentation
- reflection papers and field discoveries
- final portfolios

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.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. If you are absent from class it is your responsibility to obtain notes, assignments or other missed information. If you accumulate 2 or more unexcused absences during the field session, you will fail this course. 1 unexcused absence will result in your overall grade being lowered. If you are unable to attend a class, you should inform the Field Technician and Field Instructor 3- days beforehand. I will make every effort to accommodate students, who because of religious obligations, personal, or familial issues have conflicts with scheduled critiques and other assignments provided you notify faculty well in advance of the scheduled conflict.

CRITIQUES AND CLASS DISCUSSION

Most assignments will be evaluated and discussed in the format of group critiques and discussions. Whether in the classroom or field you need to be prepared to discuss the readings, your work and the work of your fellow students in a constructive fashion. Each student is expected to put effort towards making the dynamics of this group-learning situation effective every single day. This involves being respectful of other student's work and ideas, as well as cultivating the ability to speak honestly and listen objectively. You also need to listen to yourself - when you need a break, a hand, and making sure you're healthy for the activities.

WORK SPACE ETIQUETTE

We work in both traditional and non-traditional academic art spaces during the Field School and this requires additional sensitivity to the space from you. Please clean up your living and work area regularly. Help us keep any of the studios and on-site work spaces clean by not leaving a mess. The MRS is a communal space - you need to be considerate of others and their work. You must return all tools to their proper storage areas at the end of each class session.

EACH LOCATION WE WORK AT HAS ITS OWN SET OF RULES FOR WORKING ON-SITE. THESE ARE EXPLAINED VERBALLY WHEN WE ARRIVE. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY ATTENTION AND WRITE THINGS DOWN. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN IMPLEMENT AN IDEA THAT YOU'RE HAVING AND ARE UNSURE ABOUT THE RULES - **ASK BEFORE YOU DO IT.**

SAFETY

All safety precautions will be taken to ensure safe operation as we move through different environments. Neither the University of Colorado, Mountain Research Station, Konza Prairie Biological Station, Cedar Point Biological Station any of the instructors, visiting artists, or staff are responsible for personal injury occurring during the field school session. Proper eye protection must be worn at all times and long hair tied back when working with power tools. Outdoor work often requires uneven terrain, you need solid shoes and to be mindful of your abilities and limits. Please inform staff of any condition that might affect your ability to participate in any activities, operate tools and equipment or any other needs that you may have.

BEHAVIOUR

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure 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 classroom behavior policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INFECTION DISEASE

Members of the CU Boulder community and visitors to campus must follow university, department, and building health and safety requirements and all applicable campus policies and public health guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases. If public health conditions require, the university may also invoke related requirements for student conduct and disability accommodation that will apply to this class. If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home and follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for isolation and testing. If you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19, you do not need to stay home but should follow the guidance of the CDC for masking and testing. Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical

Conditions, and Medical Isolation 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.

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 Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), 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 Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: honor@colorado.edu, 303-492-5550. Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit Honor Code for more information on the academic integrity policy.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits protected-class discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, reporting options, and support resources can be found on the OIEC website. Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the Don't Ignore It page.

RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS

Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. In this class, I require two weeks notice. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details. Mental Health and Wellness The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7 Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through Academic Live Care. The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.

PREPARATION

In order to attend the Art and Environment Field School, you need to assemble the following items into a small field kit or tool bag. Bring these items on the first day of the session in addition to whatever specifics you think you might need to serve your individual interests/projects (cameras, drawing utensils, paper, etc). You should have all of your supplies neatly and tightly packed so as to take up the least amount of room in the vehicles as possible.

Most of the session will be spent living on-site at Academic Research Stations. Accommodations will be in dorms and cabins, meals are prepared in a shared kitchen, studio work will be done outdoors, and there will be limited access to modern conveniences (prepare for times of no internet or cell phone service on site). Please pack appropriately for these rustic conditions. The first week of the course we will be traveling continuously on the road and you will want to streamline your gear and supplies for traveling in the van. At each location where we are staying there are modern conveniences including wi-fi. Following the first week on the road there is a day off to reset before starting at the Mountain Research Station near Nederland.

REQUIRED FOOTWEAR AND ADDITIONAL GEAR

Bring footwear appropriate for outdoor work. Closed-toe shoes are REQUIRED EVERY DAY of this course. We recommend boots that are lightweight, waterproof, made of protective leather, and can be taken on and off easily. You should also have a good pair of walking shoes and flip-flops/shower shoes. You need to pack clothing appropriate for unpredictable environments and prepare layers for quickly changing weather conditions. Rain jacket, coat, sweater, hat, gloves, etc. Think layers - prepare to add and subtract layers throughout the day as the temperatures change. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ASSEMBLE YOUR KITS USING WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE AVAILABLE TO YOU. THERE ARE ALSO SEVERAL USED GEAR STORES AROUND WHERE YOU CAN PURCHASE HIGH QUALITY GEAR FOR REDUCED PRICES. Field School lodging conditions are indoors but each location has the opportunity to camp. If you prefer to camp please let us know at one of the information sessions.



INDIVIDUAL GEAR TO PACK

- Sleeping bag (Rated between 0 and 30 Fahrenheit - compression bag)
- Pillow
- Flat sheet
- Extra blanket*
- Emergency blanket (orange mylar)
- Water bottle or canteen (32 oz)
- Camera (a good phone camera is ok)
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Bath towel(s)
- Sketchbook/notebook(s)
- Phone charger
- Flash drive
- Small backpack/day pack
- Soap/shampoo (preferably biodegradable)
- Laundry bag
- Toiletries - HYGIENE PEOPLE!
- Wristwatch*
- Folding camp chair*
- Deep Woods OFF (mosquito repellent)*

**optional but recommended*

INDIVIDUAL APPAREL TO PACK

- Sturdy closed-toed footwear (watertight hiking or work boots preferred)
- Warm layers (mid layers & outer layers--avoid cotton)
- Warm socks (wool is preferred)
- Warm hat
- Warm gloves
- Sun hat (straw or lightweight fabric)
- Quick-dry/wicking clothing (cotton not recommended)
- Durable long pants (jeans/Carharts)
- Lightweight long sleeve shirts (outdoor breathable [shirts](#))
- Handkerchief
- Camp shoes (Tennis shoes, sneakers, vans, etc)
- Shower shoes (flip flops, chacos, slides, etc)
- Rain jacket
- Thermal base layers

**optional but recommended*

ITEMS FOR YOUR FIELDWORK TOOL KIT

- Access to Field School Readings (Ipad, laptop, etc)
- Journal and sketchbook (recommend moleskine gridded or plain)
- Pens/Pencils (choose your favorites)
- Pair of work gloves
- Pair of Safety Glasses
- 1-Small first aid kit
- 1-Small flashlight
- Basic tools you like to use (ex. 16' tape measure, exacto knife, string, pliers, box cutter)

FIELD SCHOOL SHARED EQUIPMENT

- Digital cameras
- Data Projector
- Pico Projectors
- Tascam audio recorders
- Device chargers
- Computer Speakers
- Bluetooth speakers
- Microphones
- Headphones
- Tripods
- Binoculars
- Spotting Scope

FIELD SCHOOL CONTEXT

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open Spaces ● Ecology ● Systems & Maps ● History and Geography ● Industry ● Public and Private space ● Land Use ● Ornithology ● Mining Towns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cultural Identity ● Reservoirs ● Soundscape ● Rural Space ● Settlements ● Animals ● Borders ● Community ● Military |
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ANY OF THESE MEDIUMS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drawing ● Writing ● Field Recordings ● Video Works ● Experiential Actions ● Data Research ● Dialogical Works ● Soft Interventions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oral Histories + Interviews ● Photography ● Environmental Artworks ● Sculpture + Expanded Media ● Ephemeral Experiments ● Sound Installations ● Social Engagement Artworks ● Interpretive Installation |
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EMERGENCY PLANS

1. Everyone should keep all necessary contact information to call back to campus on hand - including that of CU Emergency Management and the AAH Office. **Call 911** in an emergency. CU Emergency Management: **303-492-6666**
Administration: 303-492-8168 AAH Office: **(303)492-6504**
Discuss "what to do's" and "what not to do's" from those appropriate offices at CU-Boulder via phone.
2. Use common sense. Provide the appropriate support if you have the skills and call the closest rescue squad and police agency by dialing **911**
3. When at the Konza Research Station, Cedar Point Station, or Mountain Research Station please follow the Emergency Plans from each of those facilities.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION			
<i>TYPE</i>	<i>PHONE</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>	<i>COMMENTS</i>
Emergency	911		In emergencies use your best judgment and never be afraid to call 911. While traveling, cell 911 calls go to the nearest tower. Be prepared to provide your specific location information as well as type of emergency.
Hospital	Boulder Community Health Middle Park Health - Kremmling Campus (Emergency Room): 214 S 4th St, Kremmling, CO 80459		Nearest medical facility for activity location.
Ambulance	911		Call if ambulance is needed.
Police/Highway Patrol	911		Call *CSP on cell phone for auto accidents on Colorado highways.
Fire Department	911		Nearest fire/emergency response for activity location
Campus/Department Contact	Richard: 303.249.5566 AAH Office: (303)492-6504		Michelle, Richard
CU Emergency Management:			
303-492-6666			

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND EMAIL A PDF COPY TO:

Delaney.Gardnersweeney@Colorado.EDU



Release from Responsibility, Assumption of Risk and Waiver pertaining to the following:

- ART AND RURAL ENVIRONMENTS FIELD SCHOOL /// ARTS 4444/5444 -
SUMMER 2024 COURSE AND FIELD WORK SESSION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number () _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number () _____

I exercise my own free choice to participate in any of the designated activities associated with the ARTS 4444 OR 54444, any on any fieldwork site and/or location of the course listed above (Activity). I understand and assume all associated risks. I agree to assume all risk of personal injury or loss, bodily injury (including death), damage to or loss or destruction of any personal property occurring in connection with or arising out of participation in activities in the ARTS 4444/5444 Field School, The Mountain Research Station, The Konza Prairie Biological Field Station, Cedar Point Biological Field Station, and Field Trips and other activities.

I hereby release and discharge, indemnify and hold harmless any guest speakers, field guides, community partners and visiting professionals of the including Faculty and Staff (including visiting artists) of the Art and Rural Environments Field School, the Regents of the University of Colorado, all visited field locations, their member officers, agents, employees and any other persons or entities acting on their behalf, including Field trip supervisors or drivers, lecturers, guest speakers, and their successors and assigns for any and all of the aforementioned persons and entities, against all claims, demands, costs and expenses, and causes of action whatsoever, either in law or equity, arising out of or in any way connected with any loss and/or bodily injury and/or disability or death.

I have had sufficient time to review and seek explanation of the provisions contained herein, have carefully read them, understand them fully, and agree to be bound by them. I have read through the course syllabus and understand it clearly. After careful deliberation, I voluntarily give my consent and agree to this Release, Assumption of Risk and Waiver and participation in the Art and Environments Field School.

In the event of an emergency, I grant the University of Colorado permission to authorize emergency medical treatment for _____, (you - participant) for the duration of his/her/their participation in this Activity. I understand that University of Colorado does not carry or provide health or accident insurance that responds to injury or illness as a result of my participation in this Activity.

Is there anything specific about you that we should know or that you'd like us to know? (Ex. food allergies, medical conditions, etc) _____

Your Medical Health Insurance Company _____

Policy # _____

Participant Printed Name _____

Participant Signature _____

Date _____