

A R T + E N V I R O N M E N T
F I E L D S C H O O L

Instructor: Aaron Treher CU-Boulder
Faculty Director, Richard Saxton, CU-Boulder
Course Number: ARTS 4444/5444
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Mountain Research Station
2023 FIELD SCHOOL Dates:
June 05-23 (3 weeks in the field)
(3 weeks online - independent portfolio)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mountain Research Station
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Phone: (303) 492-8842
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FIELD SCHOOL STAFF

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Artist/Instructor:
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2023 Field School Graduate Assistant:
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SYLLABUS AND BASICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Field School is an intensive 3-week summer program that puts students in touch with various rural landscapes while focusing on site and context-based approaches to art creation. The Field School is designed as an experiential course, meaning that students learn through the experience and process of understanding place, and through the process of making of new artworks on-site. While living and working in the field, students create and discuss various approaches to art creation. Students may explore many mediums including: writing, photography, sculpture, drawing, sound recording, and land-based art; oral histories. Post-studio art practices such as dialogical and context-based actions are also artforms that work well in the Field School environment. Topics that are discussed and of which students have explored include: nature and process, phenomenology, borderlands, pastoralism, wayfaring, walking, pilgrimages, ecologies, colonialism, ownership and exploitation, conservation, cultural representation, settler-scapes, reconciliation, idealized landscapes, dualities, centers and peripheries.

Students are required to complete a number of 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. The focus on this course is on the experience and on 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. A binder of all readings for the course is provided. Students are responsible for some costs outside of the tuition, however it is quite minimal.

TYPES OF CREATIVE WORK AND CLASS ATMOSPHERE

Environmental works can involve writing, sculpture, media art [photography, sound, video, etc], proposals, mapping, environmental art, collaborative projects, social actions, and other modes of making and being. Through a collective 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 progressive art practices that exist outside of the city and outside of the traditional gallery/museum model. Each student will have the opportunity to design and implement context-specific art projects during the Field School session.

The Field School is an intensive experience. It will be fun and also challenging. If you aren't prepared to focus solely on the field school experience for three weeks you shouldn't take the course. You need to plan for travel and submit a CU off-campus waiver to participate. All paperwork and tuition has to be turned in prior to the first day of the summer 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. Some tools are provided by the Field School, 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
- reflection papers and research paper
- final portfolio

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. It is crucial that you attend class and be prepared. 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, you will fail this course. 1 unexcused absence will result in your overall grade being lowered by a 1 letter. If you are unable to attend a class, you must inform me 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 me 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. As a student 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. This involves being respectful of other student's work and ideas, as well as cultivating the ability to speak honestly and listen objectively.

WORK SPACE ETIQUETTE

We work in both traditional and non-traditional work spaces during the Field School. Usually these are not "our" spaces and often require additional sensitivity to the space. Please clean up your 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. 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, or if you leave the studio for a long period of time.

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 environments. Neither the University of Colorado, Mountain Research Station, or 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 make sure that long hair is tied back when working with power tools. Outdoor work often requires unusual terrain, please be mindful of your abilities and limits. Please inform the GA of any condition that might affect your ability to participate in any activities, operate tools and equipment or any other special needs that you may have. ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE INSURANCE INFORMATION AND WAIVERS ON FILE.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303- 492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

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 if you will have a scheduling conflict within this course.

STUDENT AND FACULTY 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.

DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

The University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of

Discrimination and Harassment at 303-492-2127.

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; 303-725-2273). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>

PREPARATION

In order to attend the Art and Environment Field School, you need to assemble the following items into a small field kit or toolbox/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 the Mountain Research Station. Accommodations will be in dorms and cabins, meals and studio work will be done outdoors, and there will be limited access to modern conveniences (no internet or cell phone service on site). Please pack appropriately for these rustic conditions. The second 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.

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 are handy. 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 while in Colorado - add and subtract layers throughout the day as the temperatures change (weather can be 80 during the day and 40 at night). YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BUY NEW THINGS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ASSEMBLE YOUR KITS USING WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE AVAILABLE TO YOU.



INDIVIDUAL GEAR TO PACK

- Sleeping bag (Rated between 0 and 30 Fahrenheit - no cotton)
- Pillow
- [Mosquito net](#)*
- Extra blanket*
- Emergency blanket (orange mylar)
- Water bottle or canteen
- 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/work boots preferred)
- Warm layers (mid layers & outer layers-- no cotton)
- Warm socks (wool)
- 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 ([fishing shirts](#))
- Handkerchief
- Camp shoes (Tennis shoes, sneakers, vans, etc)
- Shower shoes (flip flops, chacos, slides, etc)
- Rain jacket
- Long underwear/ thermal base layer

**optional but recommended*

ITEMS FOR YOUR FIELDWORK TOOL KIT

- Field School binder
- 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
- Flash drive
- Basic tools you like to use (ex. 16' tape measure, exacto knife, string, pliers, box cutter)

FIELD SCHOOL SHARED EQUIPMENT

- Digital cameras (2)
- Projector (3)
- Tascam audio recorders (3)
- Device chargers
- Computer Speakers
- Bluetooth speakers (6)
- Microphones (various)
- Parabolic microphone (2)
- Headphones (2)
- Tripods (4)

**There is one macbook available for shared use and can be checked out through the GA.*

FIELDWORK SITE EQUIPMENT

If you're in the CU campus woodshop system you can access the workshop tools. There are also many hand and portable power tools available for check out through the GA.

NOW BEGIN TUNING INTO THE CONTEXT

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| • Wide Open Spaces | • Mining Towns |
| • Ecology | • Cultural Identity |
| • Systems & Maps | • Reservoirs |
| • History and Geography | • Landscapes |
| • Industry | • Relationships |
| • Ownership | • Settlements |
| • Public and Private space | • Animals |
| • Logging | • Borders |
| • Agitation | • People |

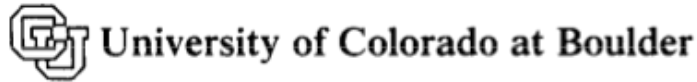
NOW BEGIN TUNING INTO YOUR MEDIUMS

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Drawing | • Oral Histories + Interviews |
| • Writing | • Photographs |
| • Field Recordings | • Environmental Artworks |
| • Video Works | • Sculpture |
| • Experiential Actions | • Ephemeral Experiments |
| • Data Research | • Soundscapes |
| • Dialogical Works | • Social Engagement Artworks |
| • Soft Interventions | • Interpretive Installation |

IF YOU AGREE AND ARE EXCITED BY THIS COURSE OFFERING:

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

Ana.Gonzalez-2@colorado.edu



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

ART AND ENVIRONMENTS FIELD SCHOOL /// ARTS 4444/5444 - SUMMER 2023 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 fieldwork site and/or the course listed above. 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 at the MRS and Art and Environments Field School, Field Trips, and any other activities.

I hereby release and discharge, indemnify and hold harmless any community partners and visiting professionals of the including Faculty and Staff of the Art and Environments Field School, the Regents of the University of Colorado, M12 Inc., Mountain Research Station, their member officers, agents, employees and any other persons or entities acting on their behalf, including Field trip supervisors or drivers, instructors, guest speakers, and the 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. After careful deliberation, I voluntarily give my consent and agree to this Release, Assumption of Risk and Waiver. 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 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.

Medical Health Insurance Company _____

Policy # _____

Participant Printed Name _____

Participant Signature _____ Date _____