

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES			
TERM: SPRING 2017		COURSE NO: ART HISTORY 250	
INSTRUCTOR:		COURSE NAME: ART AND NATURE NOW: ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS	
OFFICE: E-MAIL:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
OFFICE HOURS:			

**COURSE FORMAT:**

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities (field trip, etc.) for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

None.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an in-depth look at art and the environment, in particular the changing perceptions of nature in art through time and, more currently, art activism and art collaboration in relation to climate change, ecological crisis, and the anthropocene. This course looks at how artists have examined the human relationship to the landscape and the planet, from earth art, to repurposing trash, to developing visual strategies to accompany protests and enhance advocacy. How have various community groups collaborated in common causes? How have First Nations artists used art to respond to environmental dangers? We will examine a number of case studies to understand the intersections of art and the environment and our examples will range from paintings to sculptures, earthworks to photography, and mixed-media installation.

The material in the course is presented as both a series of power point lectures (with visual examples) and class discussions of the readings. Be prepared to contribute to and/or lead group discussions of the weekly readings.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate a broad understanding of artistic interventions into questions of the landscape, the human connection to nature, to environmental activism, to species and animal survival;
- Express in speech and writing the ways in which art contributes to scientific and cultural investigations;
- Utilize the specialized vocabulary learned to describe and interpret art approaches,
- Apply this understanding to written work, including an exam and a final project.

**COURSE WEBSITE:**

A Moodle site accompanies the class and students are expected to check it regularly for messages, assignments, relevant links and suggestions for further readings. <http://moodle.capilanou.ca>

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Brown, Andrew. *Art and Ecology Now*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2014.

**Excerpts** from: Davis, Heather, and Etienne Turpin. *Art in the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Aesthetics, Politics, Environments and Epistemologies* (open access: <http://openhumanitiespress.org/art-in-the-anthropocene.html>).

**ADDITIONAL READING:**

Will be provided on the Moodle site.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

Week 1 An Introduction to Art and Nature

Week 2 The Sublime and the Picturesque

Week 3 Industrialization and its Discontents

Week 4 Reassessing Nature in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> C

Week 5 Accelerating Capitalism and Commodification

Week 6 Earth Art

Week 7 Trash Art

Week 8 A State of Emergency: Reassessing Nature in the Late 20<sup>th</sup> C

Week 9 Collaborations Between Art and Science

Week 10 Global Activism and Climate Change

Week 11 Local Activism and Climate Change

Week 12 Presentations of Final Projects

Week 13 Presentations of Final Projects

Week 14 & 15 FINAL EXAM PERIOD – No Exam, but Final Projects Due in Week 14

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

All students are required to complete 2 short think pieces, a midterm exam in class, and the final project (the project must also be presented to the

class). Together these will measure how well the learning outcomes are being achieved.

**EVALUATION PROFILE:**

Participation (5% Attendance, 5% Group Discussion)	10%
2 short think pieces (15% each)	30%
Midterm Exam in Class	30%
Final Project (25% content, 5% presentation)	30%
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<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**GRADE PROFILE:**

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

**OPERATIONAL DETAILS:**

*Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.*

Attendance: Attendance will be taken. Failure to attend classes regularly will inevitably result in poor grades.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be penalized 2 points per week, unless an extension is given. This must be requested in advance and is granted only under exceptional circumstances, usually requiring a doctor’s certificate.

Missed Exams: Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Students should be prepared to provide proof of inability to write the test on the scheduled date (e.g. letter from doctor).

English Usage: It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Incomplete Grades: Given at the discretion of the instructor. Generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, etc.) may be used during an examination. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.