

Classes: **Wednesdays 14:30-17:30pm**

Room: **JLVAC 249**

**Professor: Kelly Wood**  
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Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
or by appointment

### **1. Course Description**

Organized as a creative research group, *Making Art with Environmental Awareness* explores artistic responses to ecology, sustainability and related social issues. This time, this course is dedicated to investigating PLASTICS in the environment. In the first half of the semester, the course examines select themes in environmental discourse through readings and lectures, paying particular attention to how artists have engaged with them. In the second half of the semester, students develop individual projects that may take the form of **a**) a research paper (or, curatorial project), and a presentation; or, **b**) an artistic project in any media and a presentation. Other options for final projects may be possible if you discuss your idea with the instructor early in the course.

### **2. Course Objectives**

as per expanded outline

### **3. Expectations**

This upper-level course is structured to be responsive to students' backgrounds, interests, and existing creative practices and/or curatorial, or, historical research. In contrast to the "expert" model typically found in higher education - in which a professor determines everything that will be presented and discussed in class - this course is structured as a collaborative, creative laboratory. Beyond several weeks of background reading, select slide lectures/screenings, the specific content of the course will be student driven, with the instructor acting as a resource person, respondent, and creative facilitator for student work. This structure demands that everyone - students and instructor alike - be exceptionally cooperative, respectful, good-humored, and well-prepared. Students are expected to make a serious, sustained commitment to individual and group research, which includes taking notes on readings, contributing to discussion, and developing your project over the course of the entire semester. Students should expect to spend at least four hours per week on this course outside class meeting times.

### **4. Course Requirements**

Each student is responsible for knowing the assignments, procedures, and due dates. Students are expected to complete all assignments by the due date; failure to do so may result in a failing grade

(F). Requests for deadline extensions cannot be considered unless approved by the instructor before the assignment is due and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Attendance is mandatory and missing 15% or more of class time can result in a failing grade. All students are expected to be present and available for discussions at the **beginning** of each class meeting. Students are also responsible for the preparation, installation, and de-installation of final projects.

**5. Evaluation**

Evaluation will be based upon the demonstrated ambition and resolution brought to meeting the creative, conceptual, and formal demands of assignments and studio work, and/or research, as well as in the level of participation demonstrated in all other aspects of the course. Students will be evaluated on their understanding of relevant theoretical issues introduced in class and their ability to integrate these ideas in their own practices.

| <b>Term Assignments Quantified</b>  | <b>Grading Weight</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| Reading Responses [5 responses] (due January 16-February 13 <sup>th</sup> ) | 25                    |
| Presentation (due Feb 27 <sup>th</sup> -April 3 <sup>rd</sup> )             | 20                    |
| Participation   | 15                    |
| Final Project (all projects due last day of class for exhibition)           | 40                    |
| Total   | 100                   |

**8. Learning Outcomes**

- A. Application of Knowledge
  - Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects in order to create a body of work
  - Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to a knowledge of scholarly works
- B. Communication Skills
  - Students will be able to communicate in writing and orally regarding their projects and regarding relevant art and culture, and will recognize the range of language suited to differing communication opportunities (i.e. a grant application vs. a grad school application)
  - Students will be able to communicate orally and in writing with regard to their art history research, and will be able to utilize different genres of writing for different purposes (i.e., to write an academic paper, or a magazine article)
- C. Awareness of Limits of Knowledge
  - Students will be aware of the field of research/inquiry in relation to which their studies are situated, and will understand the limits/opportunities inherent to their research capacities within the framework of their studies