



Ragini Bhow



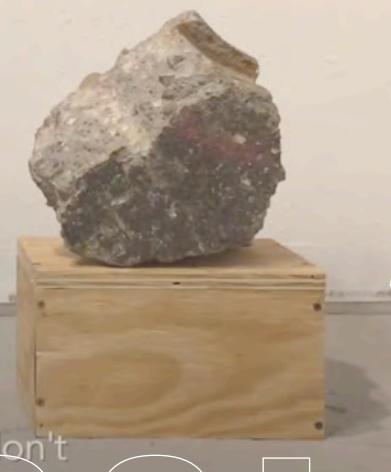
Jessica Zeglin



Rowan Willow



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are lost because we don't

Art & Ecology Faculty

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Art & Ecology Undergraduate Curriculum

Art & Ecology courses encourage students to investigate, question, and expand upon inter-relationships between cultural and natural systems. Our courses place emphasis on methods and tools from many disciplines—including the fine and performing arts, design, the sciences, and activism—to foster collaborative and field-based research and art-making. We view art as an agent of analysis, critique and radical change. We are less bound to traditional media and more to stimulating ideas and new forms of public engagement and aesthetic experience.

Suggested Undergraduate Courses

ARTS 141 Introduction to Art & Ecology

ARTS 400 Land Arts of the American West

ARTS 400 Art & Ecology Studio/Topics

ARTS 441 Computational Sustainability

ARTS 442 Site-Specific Art

ARTS 444 Creating Change

ARTS 445 Grant and Proposal Writing

ARTS 446 The Politics of Performance

ARTS 448 Bio Art + Lab

ARTS 499 Art & Ecology Independent Study (Capstone)

Art & Ecology Courses

ARTS 1143: Introduction to Art and Ecology

Faculty: A&E Faculty

This studio course will investigate the relationship between artistic practice and ecological thinking, asking what we mean when we use these terms and where the areas of overlap between them occur. Through lectures, readings, study trips, and projects, we will explore these fields as complex systems of interrelationships between cultural and natural systems.

ARTS 400 / 500: RAVEL Lab

Faculty: Jeanette Hart-Mann and Kaitlin Bryson

Offered with SUST, LA, CRP, BIOL. RAVEL Lab is a creative research community engaged in regenerative practices and committed to situated, biophilic and relational ecologies. RAVEL inspires and supports environmentally and socially engaged art practices through collective learning, interdisciplinary research, community collaboration, and creative forms of publication and exhibition. RAVEL course themes alternate each Fall and Spring semester, but are oriented towards Agroecology, Food and Seed Justice, Regenerative Ecology, and Environmental Justice.



Image: Dylan McLaughlin, Jessica Zeglin, Marisa Demarco

ARTS 442 / 542: Site-Specific Art

Faculty Kaitlin Bryson

Offered with LA 511, This course engages with Site-Specific Art as a relational practice, centered on creating locally adapted art works and cultivating authentic partnerships with place and multispecies. In collaboration with the Albuquerque Museum, this class is oriented around the site/project “A Garden” on the northwest side of the museum. Throughout the course, students interface with emergent properties of the living site through multimedia, low-tech infrastructure, biomaterials, sculpture, sound, performance, and technology. Together we work towards generating contemporary land and place-based practices that are relational and enroot decolonial, interconnected, and responsible site-based practices.

ARTS 444 / 544: Creating Change

Faculty: Kaitlin Bryson

Offered with UHON, SUST, LA, CRP, CE, FA. Creating Change is a multi-disciplinary course oriented towards creating cultures of change in response to present and projected challenges within our world and shared futures. This course facilitates creative practices ranging from applied arts and sciences to art and landscape design to generate community-engaged projects and local change. We ask: what role does collaboration between artists, planners, designers, and policy-makers have in envisioning alternative futures? From here, we dream and propose a future that is relational, responsible, inclusive, creative, and adaptive. A series of intensive modules led by faculty from the Art & Ecology area will offer students the skills of collaboration, communication, learning through a community process, developing a site-based plan of action, and addressing economic value and sustainability. Students will have the opportunity to engage with existing change-oriented projects within the region and hear from guest speakers in diverse contexts.

ARTS 446 / 546: The Politics of Performance

Faculty: Szu-Han Ho

In this seminar we will explore the politics of performance: how the presence of bodies in space and time implicates a ‘viewer’ of aesthetic experience; how performance points to communities to come; how performance destabilizes both singularity and collectivity. We will discuss a broad range of works from 20th century avant-garde traditions in theatre, music, and visual art to those of the contemporary moment.

We will hear from invited artists, both in person and via skype. Readings will include texts by Antonin Artaud, Bertold Brecht, Agosto Boal, Susan Sontag, Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, Jacques Rancière, Judith Butler, Jill Dolan, Fred Moten, José Esteban Muñoz, Jan Verwoert, Diana Taylor, Paul Chan, and others. Students from art studio, art history, and other disciplines are welcome.

ARTS 429 / 529: A&E Topics

Survival Skills for Artists

Faculty Szu-Han Ho

This course is designed to investigate what it means to be a practicing artist under late capitalism: the course will give students the practical skills necessary for survival while delving into ways that cultural producers are actively subverting capitalism and building alternative futures. Being an artist now goes beyond making your work (the fun part); it requires understanding many aspects of accounting, graphic design, communication, promotion, and administration. We will cover skills such as talking to curators, promotion, funding your projects, residencies, portfolios, applications, contracts, budgets, building your web presence, and doing your taxes. We will hear from guest speakers who are practitioners and experts in their fields who will share practical advice. Our aim is to demystify the processes and skills that are integral to being a professional artist while also collectively brainstorming how to change the conditions for the world we want to live in.

ARTS 429 / 529: Biodiversity, Justice, and Visual Culture: A&E Topics

Faculty Subhankar Banerjee

This interdisciplinary (arts, humanities, science) semi-nar course will focus on the intensifying crisis of ‘biological annihilation’, and various models of conservation, including fortress and rights-based. The course materials—drawn from visual arts and culture, environmental humanities, and science-based conservation—will span from local (with a particular focus on New Mexico) to the global. You will engage in readings and conversations, research and creative production. Working individually and/or in small interdisciplinary teams, your research-based creative projects will aim to address such concepts as multispecies kinship, coexistence, caretaking, and justice.

ARTS 429 / 529: Materials in Art & Ecology: A&E Topics

Faculty Kaitlin Bryson

Materials in Art & Ecology Takes a circular approach to materials worked with in contemporary environmental art practices. The circularity of these materials emphasizes the inevitable return of the material to the Earth, so great care is taken when considering what we make art with. Our focus is to reduce landfill waste and over-production through careful production planning, growing-your-own materials, and working with biodegradable, found, recycled, and repurposed materials. In this class/lab we will create materials such as bioplastics, 3D fungal materials, kombucha paper and leather, as well as work with plants and insects for natural dyes.

ARTS 448 / 548: Bio Art (affiliated with Art & Ecology)

Faculty: Andrea Polli

What does it mean to design nature, and how do artists and designers fit into the process of making machines from biology? In this studio course students explore shared and new territory between synthetic biology, art and design. Students will gain a basic background in some of the tools and techniques of bio art and design through hands-on experiments, cross-disciplinary collaboration and individual and group project development.