

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

**2021**

**HOMEPLACES**

Field School Director and Associate Professor, Richard Saxton

Course Number: ARTS 4444/5444

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[www.ruralenvironments.org](http://www.ruralenvironments.org)

Visual Arts Complex 283, Boulder, CO 80309

2020 FIELD SCHOOL Dates:

May 18 - June 4 (3 weeks online)

June 7 - June 28 (3 weeks in the field)

**FIELD SCHOOL STAFF**

Field School Director and Associate Professor:

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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 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: phenomenology, borderlands, pastoralism, wayfaring, walking, pilgrimages, ecologies, colonialism, ownership and exploitation, conservation, cultural representation, settler-scapes, reconciliation, idealised landscapes, dualities, centers and peripheries, physical to metaphysical spaces and terrestrial to extraterrestrial inhabitants.

Students are required to complete a number of assignments each week that range from readings to critical on-site observations. 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 images. 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

Rural context-based 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. 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 Feed Store 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 when done working, or if you leave the studio for a long period of time. No food, no drinks with open lids, no drugs or alcohol allowed in studios, period. 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 - **The best policy is to ASK BEFORE YOU DO IT.**

**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 policy may include: plagiarism, 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 the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES**

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](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further

assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

### **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please notify well in advance (min. 2 weeks) of possible conflicts so that reasonable alternatives may be determined.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

### **ZOOM**

**Zoom Etiquette:** We're all learning... Different sites share best practices when it comes to Zoom and other video conferencing. These are [highlights from CU Leeds School of Business](#) that will help us throughout the semester.

- **Show up on Time:** A Zoom class is the same as a regular class. You should show up on time by clicking the link BEFORE class starts.
- **Background:** It does matter where you are sitting because others on the call will see what is behind you. Do not sit with your back to a bright window as it will drown out your face and may be uncomfortable for the other callers.
- **Sound:** Be sure you test your sound on your computer before using Zoom. Microphones can be thrown off by Bluetooth on your phone or just not be configured correctly. Check to be sure you can be heard. While on a call, best practice dictates that you keep your microphone on MUTE at all times unless you want to say something. Background noise is easily picked up and can interfere with the call. Even noise from a room next door can be heard. Just keep clicking your microphone button on/off for when you want to be heard.
- **Animals, Roommates, other Distractions:** While it may be cute for a minute, it can take time to admire or visit with animals or other distractions while on a Zoom call. Know your audience and keep your door closed (if you can) if other elements in your house can end up in your space.
- **Wait your Turn:** Think of a crowded phone call and everyone talking at once – Zoom can be similar if enough people are on the call. Put a note in the chat to say that you have a question and have the host moderate people in turn. It can be frustrating if everyone wants to talk over others so be polite and wait your turn using the chat feature to be heard.
- **Eating & Drinking:** It is inevitable that you may want a drink of water or coffee while on a Zoom call. Best practice indicates that taking a drink is okay so long as you keep it to a minimum, keep the cup out of the view of the call, and do not make unnecessary noise.
- **Posture:** Even in a Zoom call, it is important to be engaged and sitting up (just like class or another meeting). Position your computer on a desk and sit in a chair for the best posture. If you want to be on a couch or bed, sit up straight as possible and try to get the computer in front of you and not down below.
- **Typing or other work:** do NOT be typing on your computer, your phone, or any other device when on a Zoom call. You have to sit still and pay attention to whomever is talking or to the presentation on the screen. Other callers can see you typing and if you forget to mute yourself, the clicking of the keyboard is very distracting. If you need to take notes, take them in hard copy using a paper/writing instrument in front of you. Look down from time to time but spend most of the time looking at the screen so the presenter sees you are paying attention. Just like in class.
- **Moving with the device:** It can be very distracting for someone to be moving with the video going on a Zoom call. If you feel you have to move while on the call, best practice suggests you turn off the video until you are settled again.

**SAFETY**

All safety precautions will be taken to ensure the safe operation of any equipment. However, neither the University of Colorado or the instructor are responsible for personal injury occurring on the grounds or within the sculpture facilities. Proper eye protection must be worn at all times when operating power tools. Make sure that long hair is tied back when working with power tools. Follow all rules in the Metal Shop and the Woodshop. Please inform the shop technicians or instructor of any condition that might affect your ability to operate tools and equipment or any other special needs that you may have. If you have asthma or if you are sensitive to saw dust, plaster dust, or other materials, please let me know.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu). If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (<http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>) and discuss your needs with your professor.

**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 of any religious observance that you will have a scheduling conflict within this course.

**CLASSROOM 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. Students need to be aware of the campus 'Classroom Behavior' policy at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> as well as faculty rights and responsibilities listed at <http://www.colorado.edu/FacultyGovernance/policies/Professional Rights and Duties.pdf>

**DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

In compliance with the federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, the University of Colorado Boulder (University) prohibits the unlawful manufacture, possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance (illicit drugs and alcohol) of any kind and of any amount. These prohibitions cover any individual's actions which are part of any University activities, including those occurring while on University property or in the conduct of University business away from the campus. Full University guidelines pertaining to drugs and alcohol is here: <https://www.colorado.edu/hr/alcohol-drugs-guidelines>

**DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation

against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>

### **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](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>

It is important that you fully understand all of what is expected of you at the beginning of the semester. I expect you to act responsibly according to the parameters that I have identified in this syllabus. I will not track you down and reprimand you if you are not fulfilling your responsibility to this class. You will receive periodic evaluations that will give you a fair understanding of why you are receiving the grade that you are and you may always make an appointment with me to discuss your performance. This schedule is subject to change at any moment as will happen with everything else in real life. It is your responsibility to stay up to date on those changes.



## PREPARATION

In order to attend the Art and Rural Environments 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 as to take up the least amount of room in the vehicles as possible.

### 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 - 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 FIELD GEAR TO PACK**

- Sleeping bag (Rated between 0 and 30 Fahrenheit - no cotton) OR we can supply you with a [Patagonia Sleeping Bag](#) but you need to buy a bag [liner](#) to bring along. Please let the Graduate Assistant know your preference asap.
- Sleeping pad (thermarest)\* You will be sleeping on a cot.
- Pillow
- [Mosquito net](#)\*
- Extra blanket\*
- 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
- Handkerchief
- Camp shoes (Tennis shoes, sneakers, vans, etc)
- Shower shoes (flip flops, chacos, slides, etc)
- Rain jacket
- Long underwear\*

*\*optional but recommended*

**ITEMS FOR YOUR FIELDWORK TOOL KIT**

- Field School binder
- Journal and sketchbook (recommend moleskine gridded or plain)
- Tote bag or tool bag to hold all your stuff
- Pens/Pencils (choose your favorites)
- Laptop or tablet \*
- 16' tape measure
- 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. screwdrivers, exacto knife, duct tape, pliers, hammer, box cutter)

**FIELD SCHOOL SHARED EQUIPMENT**

- Digital cameras (4)
- Data, Pico Projector (1), (3)
- Tascam audio recorders (4)
- Portable loud speakers (2)
- Portable Bluetooth speaker (10)
- Microphones (4)
- Parabolic audio recorder(2)
- Headphones (2)
- Tripods (4)
- Cables and adapters

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

**OBSERVATIONS AND CONTEXT**

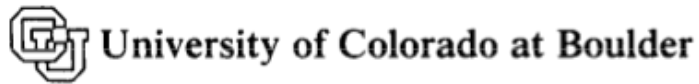
- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| • Wide Open Spaces         | • Farm towns        |
| • Ecology                  | • Cultural Identity |
| • Systems & Maps           | • Highways          |
| • History and Geography    | • Landscapes        |
| • Industry                 | • Relationships     |
| • Ownership                | • Settlements       |
| • Public and Private space | • Animals           |
| • Irrigation               | • Borders           |
| • Agitation                | • People            |

**INTERPRETATION AND ART 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   |

**NOW PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND EMAIL A SIGNED COPY TO:**

[RICHARD.SAXTON@COLORADO.EDU](mailto:RICHARD.SAXTON@COLORADO.EDU)



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

ART AND RURAL ENVIRONMENTS FIELD SCHOOL /// ARTS 4444/5444 - SUMMER 2020

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 Conejos Fieldwork Site and Rural 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 University of Colorado, Faculty and Staff of the Art and Rural Environments Field School, the Regents of the University of Colorado, M12 Inc., Mountain Research Station, 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 \_\_\_\_\_