

Art and the Environment: A Regulatory Workshop

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Ecological Responsibility in Art and Design

1. Evolution of the Course
2. Goals of the Course: To Place Today's Environmental Problems and Proposed Solutions into Historical/Philosophical Context
 - a) Critical Examination of the Roots of Today's Environmental Problems
 - Religious
 - Philosophical
 - Cultural
 - Economic
 - Legal
 - Psychological
 - b) Critical Examination of the Worldview/Attitude behind Different Design Approaches
 - Imagining Nature as Machine v. Imagining Machine as Nature
 - Human Control and Power over Nature v. Human Submission to and Utilization of Nature's Workings
 - Universal Solution v. Site-Specific Solution
 - c) Integration of the Theoretical and the Practical
 - Field Trips
 - Guest Speakers
 - Group Presentation
3. Pitfalls We Try to Avoid
 - West- and Technology- Bashing and Romantic Attraction to Non-Western Traditions
 - Unexamined and Indiscriminate Worship of Nature
 - Exclusive Focus on Ecological Issues - Neglect of Other Important Issues
 - Green-Washing

4. Reading Materials (in addition to various articles in philosophy, religion, literature, etc.)

- *Ecology of Commerce: A Declaration of Sustainability*, Paul Hawken (1993)
- *From Eco-cities to Living Machines: Principles of Ecological Design*, Nancy Jack Todd and John Todd (1994)
- *Ecological Design*, Sim Van der Ryn and Stuart Cowan (1996)
- *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*, Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins (1999)
- *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*, William McDonough and Michael Braungart (2002)
- *The Nature of Design: Ecology, Culture, and Human Intention*, David W. Orr (2002)

Excerpts from:

- *The Reenchantment of Art*, Suzi Gablik (1991)
- *Fragile Ecologies: Contemporary Artists' Interpretations and Solutions*, Barbara C. Matilsky (1992)
- *Visions Of America: Landscape as Metaphor in the Late Twentieth Century*, Denver Art Museum (1994)
- *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*, ed. William Cronon (1995)
- *Ecological Aesthetics: Art in Environmental Design: Theory and Practice*, ed. Heike Strelow (2004)

5. Looking toward the Future

- Urban Environment
- Campus Activism
- Eventual Demise of the Course