

THE RURAL | ART6933 | Spring 2020

Instructor: Katerie Gladdys

Email: kgladdys@ufl.edu

Class Meeting Time: M 11:45-2:45 (5-7)

Classroom: FAC306

Office Hours: W 11:45-1:45 or by appointment

My Office: FAC301

Phone: 273-3073

Credits: 3

Course Description

Travel ten miles in any direction from downtown Gainesville and look around, you will be in a place considered rural. This seminar invites students to re-examine the rural-urban interface as a binary, learning how artists and theorists create works and writings that complicate the rural by connecting local sites to global networks. The seminar seeks to make connections between students' personal art practice and topics such as mapping, agriculture, food systems, extractive industries, the military, and incarceration within the context of space defined as rural. We will read selections from The Rural from the Whitechapel Documents of Contemporary Art series as well as The Mushroom at the End of the World. Class format will consist of discussion, collaboration, group critique as well as studio visits/individual meetings. In this class you will be required to read, to make work and to engage physically with the environment. This class meets mostly once a week with a 2-3 additional meetings over the course of the semester for small group critique at a mutually agreed upon time. We will meet together on Mondays to discuss readings and at other times we may also go outside the classroom on field trips to places in and around Gainesville to become aware of local systems and institutions that shape our everyday experience of the rural as people who live and work in north central Florida. There also may be one weekend day field trip. Students will be asked to create one piece as part of their art practice that responds to the methodologies and readings from the seminar.

Course Format

Class format will consist of discussion, creative experiments, field trips, collaborations, and critiques, as well as studio visits/individual meetings. In this class, you will be required to read, write, make work and engage physically with the environment. This class meets once a week

with an additional 2-3 meetings for small group critique at a mutually agreed upon time as well as a two-day overnight field trip to Seahorse Key. We will meet together on Mondays, interact with guest speakers, discuss readings and the outcomes of the "experiments" and interventions with place/landscape. During this time and at other times we may also go outside the classroom to explore the aspects of mapping and or to practice the activity of mapping. You are expected to create a piece or intervention individually or as part of collaboration associated with the field trip and to create a work as part of your own studio practice that uses the methodologies and readings from the class as a source for inspiration.

Objectives

Students will:

- Formulate a definition of what is meant by the term rural
- Create personal and collaborative work that considers the rural as both a site and a set of relations.
- Experiment with a variety of techniques, ideas, and research methods as ways of understanding what is meant by rural.
- Consider both the physical and virtual environments that form the "rural" as subject matter for informing art practice
- Employ systems of organization to better understand the many interpretation of the rural and how they potentially impact your art practice and research.

Course Structure

The interface for this class is on Canvas. The materials associated with each class are placed in modules. In each module is a dated page that topics covered and relevant links to artists, etc., the assigned weekly discussion where you will post your response to readings, screenings, etc. There is a calendar where we will schedule small group critique. Discussion assignments can also be found in the assignments section of Canvas. There is built in redundancy which can be confusing. Please do not start your own discussion on Canvas. Post your reading reflection/response to discussion started by me for the week.

Required Course Materials

The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins - Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing

https://www.amazon.com/Mushroom-End-World-Possibility-Capitalist/dp/0691178321/ref=sr_1_2?keywords=matsutake+mushroom+book&qid=1577483181&sr=8-2

This book is also found at the UF library as a single user e-book and to be checked out. The cost of this book on Amazon is \$12.57 as kindle or \$14.89 as paperback. It is also an audio book on Audible if that works better for you. The book has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, German, and French.

The other book we will use in class is the Whitechapel Documents of Contemporary Art: The Rural

https://www.amazon.com/Rural-Whitechapel-Documents-Contemporary-Art/dp/0262537168/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Whitechapel+documents+of+art+the+rural&qid=1577483797&sr=8-1

There is one copy at UF and I can put it on reserve. The cost on Amazon is \$17.49. This book is only available in English.

Necessary technical resources can be found in the FAC306 lab and cage.

Analog and digital means to make art.

Access to Equipment and Facilities

As a student in this class you can checkout equipment from the Cage.

Here is a URL with the FAC306 Lab Hours and Cage Equipment Checkout Schedule.

<http://plaza.ufl.edu/mchristo/306-schedule.html>

Distribution of Grades

Class attendance and participation (15% (showing up and staying) + 15% (actively participating in in-class discussion) = 30% total weighted. Attendance counts. This is an experiential learning course. If you are not here, you will not benefit. Participation is critical in order to engage with the topics and the materials.

Reading/screening/activity and writing in preparation for weekly class activity or discussion (25%) In order to be engaged, we need to be informed. We become informed by through reading, listening, tasting, smelling and touching, watching/observing. As artists, we engage and process information through making and writing and discussing. Every week you will have readings, screening, podcast and/or experience in preparation for the next class. You will submit a written piece (3-5 paragraphs) to the Canvas Discussion that thoughtfully responds the assigned readings/screenings/podcasts/experience prior to class. As part of your writing, please include at least two questions based upon the assigned materials that could generate discussion or address topics in the materials that need clarification. Weekly writing is graded on its completeness and expression of thought, as well as a demonstration of critical consideration regarding the readings/media under discussion.

Small group critique (15%) In addition to our meeting time on Monday, we will meet in smaller groups (3-6) at people's studio or communal critique spaces for small group crit. These critiques are scheduled at mutually agreed upon times outside of our Monday session. Each critique generally lasts from 30-40 minutes per person. Each person should plan on attending three of these sessions. If you are being critiqued, you need to have work that is ready to be discussed. Those attending need to be prepared to offer constructive criticism and thoughtful feedback.

Art piece/artwork Responding to themes of the Rural (30%) You will create a work or a body of work that responds specifically to themes of this seminar. We will collaboratively work on an opportunity to exhibit this work publicly. Projects are graded on their ability to communicate conceptually and aesthetically your intent, as well as demonstrate mastery of the technical apparatus you chose to employ.

Grading and Evaluation

The purpose of grading is to clearly and accurately pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses of your progress. Education is an ongoing process of self-reflective synthesis of course content, individual research and art practice. You should take every opportunity to take advantage of this and extend this class in a direction that is most valuable to your singular needs as you make work at part of your MFA and beyond.

For more information on UF policies on grade points, see <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Grading Scale

A	100–94: superior work, all criteria have been surpassed in a distinguished manner
A-	93–90: superior work, all criteria have been surpassed
B+	87-89: very good work, all criteria have been surpassed
B	83-86: above average work
B-	80-82: slightly above average work
C+	77-79: adequate, average work
C	73-76, adequate work
C-	70-72, less than adequate work
D+	67-69: barely meeting criteria
D	63-66 barely meeting criteria
D-	60-62 barely meeting criteria
E	59–0: failure to meet criteria

Weekly written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Each day that they are late, you lose 10% from the maximum possible grade. Work turned in after class on the due date is counted as one day late (-10%).

A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements.

PARTICIPATION + ATTENDANCE

What constitutes participation?

- complete readings for the associated assignment prior to class

- contribute to class discussions
- ask relevant questions
- respond thoughtfully
- show consideration for classmates
- attend every class period
- positive attitude and open mind

Expectations for Class Participation

Participation by all members is critical to the success of this class. Participation includes contributing to ongoing discussions and critiques, suggesting alternative ways of approaching projects, along with a thoughtful process and strong work ethic. Participation is evaluated with respect to both quality and quantity.

This class is very experiential and experimental in nature. We will do a lot of in class activities for which you will get credit. Many of these activities cannot be "made up" outside of class. You will miss out on a great deal if you do not come. There is a correlation in studio classes between attendance and final grades. You have a better chance of doing well if you come to class. A total of seven absences will result in a grade of "E" for the class. Absences can include sickness, religious holidays, and doctor's appointments in addition to not attending class for personal reasons. It is your responsibility to come and talk with me if there are extenuating circumstances that would result in more than three absences.

Lateness and Leaving Early

I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. If you are not present at that time, you will be marked as absent unless you see me at the end of class letting me know that you came so I can correct my attendance sheet. You are expected to stay for the entire class period. I generally check to see who is around after the break. If you leave, your attendance will be recorded as late. Four late marks count as an unexcused absence. If you know that you will be late or absent, please let me know in advance by contacting me at kgladdys@ufl.edu.

Late Assignments

The two mini projects and two major projects for this class need to be completed on time. If you turn a project after the deadline, 10% will be deducted for each day the project is late. In-class assignments that are 10 points or less may not be made up unless you have contacted me in advance. If you arrive late and miss the better part of an in-class assignment, you are welcome to do the assignment on your own time, but I will not give credit for it. It is not fair to the students who were on time.

Keeping and Making Up

If you are having difficulties for any reason in understanding the material and completing the work for this class, you need to make an appointment to meet and talk with me. Do not wait until the last minute (right before an assignment is due) or until you are totally lost to contact me. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

ENGAGING WITH ONE ANOTHER

In our structured and unstructured discussions and dialogue, we also will have many opportunities to explore some challenging issues and increase our understandings of different perspectives. Our conversations may not always be easy; we sometimes will make mistakes in our speaking and our listening; sometimes we will need patience or courage or imagination or any number of qualities in combination to engage our texts, our classmates, and our own ideas and experiences. Always we will need respect for others. Thus, an additional aim of our course necessarily will be for us to increase our facility with the sometimes difficult conversations that arise as we deepen our understandings of multiple perspectives – whatever our backgrounds, experiences, or positions.

I want this class to be fun and meaningful with everybody feeling comfortable to contribute to the dialogue. This is how we learn. Effective learning/teaching is a creative and co-constructed experience with give and take between teacher and student and between student and student. Key to facilitating an environment for learning is respect. Disruptive and disrespectful actions make for stressful atmosphere which is not conducive to learning.

Here are some thoughts and suggestions for cultivating community.

- Treat every program interaction, both in and out of class and critique, as if you were professional colleagues who need to work together to be successful.
- Be an active listener who seeks to understand.
- Honor multiple perspectives and experiences that others bring to the program.
- Take responsibility (for your statements, actions, interactions, academic performance).
- Assume good intent on the part of others.
- Pause and reflect before reacting.
- Use every class session and every interaction with peers to think about your future as an artist and teacher.
- Conduct yourself with personal integrity and honesty. See UF Student Honor Code policies below.
- Communications outside of class with individuals as well as the class are done via email, please check your @ufl.edu email account regularly for updates and additional course information.

- When collaborating with others for group projects, you are expected to do your share of the work and communicate effectively with others in your group i.e. providing correct contact information to the rest of the group, responding to emails and phone calls regarding the group project, attending meetings to work out assignments and schedules.

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture.

Electronic Device Policy

A note on cell phones, texting, and checking one's email during class: Research has shown us that even having our cell phones on the table in front of us diminishes our ability to learn well; further, taking notes via computer diminishes one's ability to process information. Checking texts, emails, and messages is also unprofessional and disrespectful to our class community. Please put your phones on vibrate, do not check email, Facebook etc. via computer during class; I will do so as well. I appreciate your cooperation with this important aspect of creating a class of which we all want to be a part. No sound or visual recordings may be made during class time unless the recording is part of a class assignment or the instructor grants prior permission.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME

- End class on time or within two minutes of scheduled ending time unless previously notified
- Answer student email within 24 hours or less (usually a lot less) unless I am out of the country or in a place where there is no email. My office phone is NOT the best way to reach me as I am often in the lab teaching or in my studio working. Face to face communication in class or email are the preferred methods of communication.
- Return assignments in a timely manner
- Be available during my office hours. If I am not in town, I will let you know in advance if I am not able to attend office hours.
- Listen to student concerns and questions.
- Explain, answer and research questions regarding the topics of the class. The nature of technology and learning is ever evolving. If I do not have an immediate answer, I will research your question and get back to you in a timely fashion with a solution or a reference to a relevant resource.
- Abide by the grading scale above and not change dates for turning in assignments unless the class as a whole has agreed upon the change.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in the course by completing course evaluations via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner can be found at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. You will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES

UF STUDENT HANDBOOK

This resource covers most policies and procedures important to students - <https://dso.ufl.edu/resources/student-handbook/>

contact for the Disability Resource Center and accommodations

I will make every attempt to accommodate students with disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Disability Resource Center -- <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

contacts for Counseling Wellness Center

includes personal, academic, crisis and career services. Dial 352-392-1575. <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

contacts for U Matter We Care

If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or call 352-392-1575 or visit <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>. A team member will reach out to the student in distress.

contacts for Student Health Care Center

Dial 911 for medical emergencies. Dial 392-1161 for urgent after-hours medical questions. Dial 392-1171 for after-hours mental health assistance. <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>

contacts for UF Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center

Dial 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL, 32608 <https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>

contacts for Safety and Security

University Police Department - <http://police.ufl.edu/>

Dial 911 for emergencies.

Dial 392-1111 otherwise.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

<https://arts.ufl.edu/site/assets/files/37319/saahhealthandsafetyhandbook.pdf>

Each student must complete a H&S STUDENT WAIVER FORM (available next to the copier in the SAAH office) and on-line (see address above). Waivers must be turned into the SAAH Director of Operations before the end of the 2nd week of classes. Because we use some hazardous materials as part of the electronic components that become part of our projects, please pay particular attention to the guidelines below.

Appendix I:

Area Specific Information: Art + Technology

1. Hazards of Materials

Batteries, old monitors, lamps from digital projectors if broken may release mercury.

THERE ARE NO KNOWN HEALTH HAZARDS FROM EXPOSURE TO LAMPS THAT ARE INTACT.

2. Best Practices

Though not much waste is generated, the Digital Media technician is certified for handling Hazardous Waste by the University of Florida. For installations or sculptural elements, please cross-reference with other area specific information as needed.

3. Links

n/a

4. Area Rules

All users of the studio classrooms are expected to follow studio area rules at all times. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

- Follow all SA+AH Health and Safety handbook guidelines (the handbook should be reviewed by your instructor and can be found at: www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety)
- Follow the SA+AH Satellite Waste Management Chart in the classroom and other health & safety guidelines posted for your media.
- In case of emergency, call campus police at 392-1111
- File an incident report (forms may be found in the SAAH H&S handbook, the SAAH faculty handbook and in the main office.) Turn completed forms into the SAAH Director of Operations within 48 hours of the event.

- Alcohol is forbidden in studios
- Familiarize yourself with the closest eyewash unit.
- No eating or drinking in computer the lab.
- Do not use spray adhesive in the studios or in the building. There is a professional and safe paint spray booth in FAC-211A for your use.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Protective equipment must be worn for hazardous work.
- Do not block aisles, halls or doors with stored items or when working. This is a violation of fire codes.
- Do not store anything on the floor. This impedes cleaning and creates a hazard.
- Installations must be removed as soon as possible after critique.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Take items which do not fit into the trash to the dumpster, follow dumpster guidelines.
- Follow the **SA+AH CONTAINER POLICY** (see policy below)

LABELS

There are 2 types of labels used in the SA+AH-- yellow and white. Both labels are found at the red MSDS box and are supplied by the SA+AH. Each is used for a different purpose.

White:

All new and or used products in containers (hazardous or what might be perceived as hazardous -i.e. watered down gesso, graphite solutions, satellite containers of solvents, powders, spray paints, fixatives, oils, solvents, etc....) must be labeled within the SA+AH to identify their contents. Labels can be found at the MSDS box in each studio and work area. All containers must be marked with your name, contents and date opened. All secondary/satellite containers for hazardous materials must be marked with content, your name and the date opened. All unmarked containers will be disposed of with no notice.

Yellow:

WHEN HAZARDOUS ITEMS ARE DESIGNATED AS WASTE.

All containers must have a yellow label identifying the contents that are designated as trash for weekly EHS pick up.

- Flammable solid containers (red flip top) must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top).
- 5 gallon jugs must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside.
- Fibrous containers must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top).
- Each item in the blue bin must have a yellow hazardous waste label.

Note: Hazardous Waste labels should include all constituents in the waste mixture as well as an

approximate

2 percentage of the total for that item and must add up to 100%.

Labels should also include the Bldg and room number of the shop generating the waste along with the Waste

Manager for your area, this is located on the SWMA sign posted at the sink or at the Waste Management Area.

Reading Days

The two days prior to the start of examinations in the fall and spring semesters, generally a Thursday and Friday, are designated reading days. No classes or exams are held on these days. Instead, students are encouraged to use these days for study and review.

Twelve-day Rule

Students who participate in official athletic or scholastic, extracurricular activities are permitted twelve (12) scholastic day absences per semester without penalty. In any case, it is the student's responsibility to maintain satisfactory academic performance and attendance.

Absences for Religious Holidays

Students, upon prior notification of their instructions, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. A student who believes that he/she has been unreasonably denied an education benefit due to religious beliefs or practices may seek redress through the student grievance procedure.

Honesty Policy

An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student's duty to report observed academic honesty violations. These can include: cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy, or fabrication.

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Computer Use and Acceptable Use Policy

All faculty, staff, and students of the University of Florida are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

<https://it.ufl.edu/policies/acceptable-use/>

Disruptive Behavior

Faculty, students, Administrative and Professional staff members, and other employees [hereinafter referred to as "member(s)" of the University], who intentionally act to impair,

interfere with, or obstruct the mission, purposes, order, operations, processes, and functions of the University shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by University authorities for misconduct, as set forth in the applicable rules of the Board of Regents and the University and state law governing such actions. A detailed list of disruptive conduct may be found at <http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/4.040-1.pdf>

Be advised that you can and will be dismissed from class if you engage in disruptive behavior.

Critical Dates on the University Calendar

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/dates-deadlines/>

Class announcements, homework assignments, critique dates, and special events are communicated verbally in class, through email, and on our class website in the announcement section. Assignments will be submitted through Canvas as assignments and discussions. Supplementary resources and extra credit opportunities will also be posted on the Canvas.