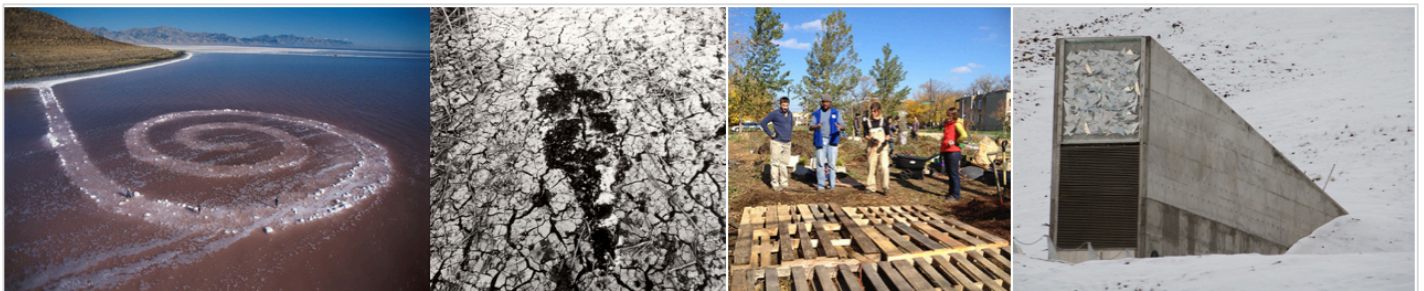


northwestern university  
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

---

Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Spring 2017	ART-HIST 390-1	R 2:00-5:00pm	Zorach
Course Title			
Undergraduate Seminar: Art, Ecology, and Politics			

---



This course studies art that is motivated by ecological concerns, exploring how artists and activists have adapted artistic strategies to address environmental issues over the past 50 years. Themes to be addressed may include sustainability, materiality, labor, and recycling; how artists collaborate with natural processes; how art can address crises such as industrial toxins and global warming; and the place of human ecologies and political struggles in relation to gender, race, poverty, territory and indigeneity. The class will involve some film screenings, meetings with artists, and field trips outside of class hours. In particular, a required field trip (all expenses paid by the Art History Department's Warnock Fund) to Carbondale, in downstate Illinois, will be held from the afternoon of Thursday, May 11 to the morning of Sunday, May 14. Students must be available for this trip in order to take the class.

---

#### Required Textbooks

Amanda Boetzkes, *The Ethics of Earth Art* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2010); A. Laurie Palmer, *In the Aura of a Hole: Exploring Sites of Material Extraction* (London: Black Dog Publishing, 2014); Sue Spaid, *Ecovention: Current Art to Transform Ecologies* (Cincinnati, OH: Contemporary Arts Center, 2002).

#### Assessments

Short writing exercises (1 of 2-3pp and 2 of 3-5pp) and a final research paper of 10-12pp, 60%. Active participation in discussion and group projects, 40%.