

## ART & /IN ECOLOGY

### Human-Non Human Interconnections in Art, Visual Culture & Everyday Life. Tentative Lesson Plan (January 13<sup>th</sup> - April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021)

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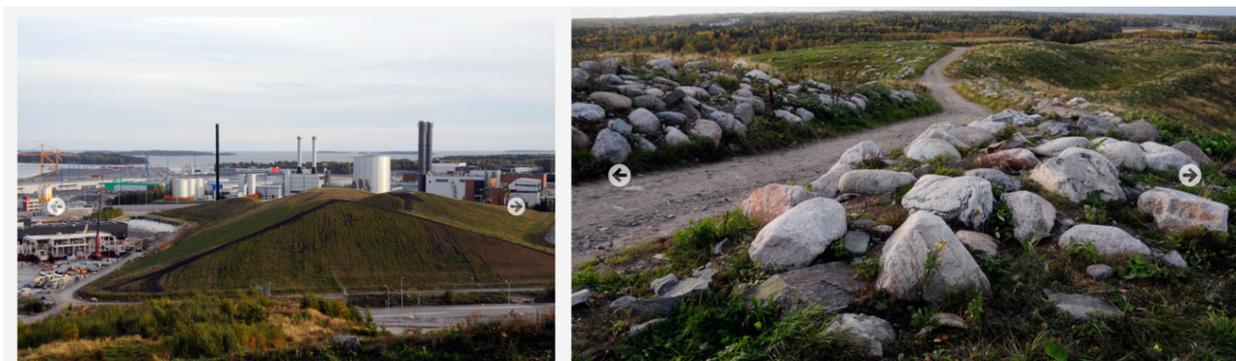


Uutelan luontomaisemaa / © Teemu Saloriutta, Citynature.eu  
<https://www.myhelsinki.fi/en/see-and-do/nature/uutela-the-largest-and-most-diverse-outdoor-recreational-area-in-eastern-helsinki>

This iteration of this two period course will, due to COVID 19 be a hybrid experience with a combination of lectures online and an actual, site-specific premises in Villa Lil Kalvik, Vuosaari East Helsinki where I will meet you in small, staggered groups of 5-8 students (depending upon current COVID restrictions). You would therefore be required to travel to Vuosaari (zone B) most Wednesdays of the course

The area of Helsinki has been chosen as it presents a complex and troubled urban zone of contact between a diverse but unequal group of humans and non-humans.

The idea is that you will spend two periods from January to April devoting your time to researching an aspect of urban naturecultures in and around one particular site as the seasons change. You will also be expected to spend considerable time outdoors researching both built and vegetal environments.



Vuosaari Landfill Jukka Toivonen, 1980s–1990s From:  
<https://vihreasyliit.fi/en/vuosaarenhuippu/from>

<https://vihreasyliit.fi/en/lillkallvikinpuisto/>  
<https://www.taiteilijatalo.fi/villa-lill-kallvik>

Villa Lil Kalvik is keen that we hold an exhibition at the end of the two periods. This is however not compulsory and open for discussion among the group.



**Dress warmly! Prepare well!** You will need to have really good winter clothes, ski trousers and ice spikes for shoes as the next weeks look to be very cold. Pack an extra set of clothes in case you get wet or perspire too much while out on your walks. You will also need a hot water flask and a lunch pack if you do not want to purchase lunch from the local Columbus mall. **Do not walk on the sea ice unless it is officially agreed to be safe.**

It is expected that you take TAI-E3159 Ecology in Theory, Practice & Everyday Life 2 as well as 1 as the two courses are part of the same learning process. You cannot take part 2 without having taken part 1. There is no real cut off for Period 1

Please note that you **would often be expected to work in groups** during this course. First priority on this course will be given to ViCCA first years after that DoA, ViCCA minors and students with a proven interest in nature and urban cultures

## COURSE DEMANDS & GRADE BREAKDOWN

**Attendance:** You are required to attend 80% of the course in order to pass

### **Inside Course Time: Lectures & Workshop Exercises (25%)**

This includes compulsory participation in experiential exercises as well as attendance at excursions and workshops in class time

**Outside Course Time: Research, Readings independent exercises and project preparation. (25%)** You are all expected to complete the readings and participate in reading discussions. Work outside course participation in subsequent in-class reading-group presentations and discussions

### **Final Practice-Based Assignment & Essay (50%)**

-A group creative project with final presentation end of period 4. We can discuss exactly how the group project might be graded and whether for example you prefer a group or an individual grade for your project on a case by case basis.

-An individual reflexive/critical essay about your creative practice project.

The essay and your journal essay are due one week after the end of period 4

## TENTATIVE LESSON PLAN

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### 13 January: WHY ECOLOGY?

**MORNING ONLINE 9.30am- 11.30am** Introduction to course demands, parameters and frameworks. Introduction to main assignment

Division into 4-5 reading groups

**Introductory lecture: WHY ECOLOGY?**

Situated research beyond dualisms and across disciplines

**AFTERNOON IN PERSON 13.30:** Villa Lil Kalvik

EXPLORATORY EXERCISES (group and individual) and staggered check-ins with Lucy

**HOMEWORK COMPULSORY READING**

ALL: Tsing Anna: 'Unruly Edges: Mushrooms as Companion Species' For Donna Haraway  
*Environmental Humanities* 1. 2012. [web](#)

Supplementary (more like this) Tsing Anna: *The Mushroom at the end of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*. Princeton. 2016

Supplementary zoom session:

Botanical Speculations 'Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures'. Conversation with Merlin Sheldrake

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=5621706141188480&set=a.177454625613686>

### 20 January: ALWAYS ALREADY INTERSPECIES

**MORNING ONLINE 9.30am- 11.30am**

Group 1 leads discussion of Unruly Edges Anna Tsing

Lecture 2: INTERSPECIES INTERACTIONS Thinking about the non-human

**AFTERNOON IN PERSON 13.30:** Exploratory exercises

INTERSPECIES INTERACTIONS

**HOMEWORK COMPULSORY READING** (to be confirmed)

Ursula Le Guin Author of the Acacia Seeds

Haraway excerpt from When Species Meet/

Staying with the Trouble, Duke University Press. 2016

### 27 January: SITE SPECIFICITIES

**MORNING ONLINE 9.30am- 11.30am** Group 2 leads discussion of reading on interspecies Interactions \*Guest Lecturer: Anthropologist Eeva Berglund SITE SPECIFICITIES

**AFTERNOON IN PERSON 13.30:**

Tour of Vuosaari land fill

**HOMEWORK COMPULSORY READING** (to be confirmed)

Robin Lee Kimmerer excerpt from Braiding Sweetgrass

Tijuana Tomatoes: Selection from Bubandt, Gan, Swanson & Tsing eds. Arts of Living on A Damaged Planet. University of Minnesota Press. 2015

Supplementary podcast

### 3 February: INTERSECTIONAL POLITICS IN URBAN ECOLOGIES

**MORNING ONLINE:** Group 3 leads discussion of reading

Lecture 3: INTERSECTIONAL POLITICS IN URBAN ECOLOGIES

**AFTERNOON IN PERSON**

**EXERCISE** INTERSECTIONAL POLITICS IN URBAN ECOLOGIES

**HOMEWORK COMPULSORY READING** (to be confirmed)

Davis, Lucy *Gender Race & Cats* in the documenta #12 reader Taschen 2007

Or Haraway *Symbiogenesis, Symposia and Art Science Activisms for Staying With the Trouble*

### 10 February: MULTIPLE TEMPORALITIES/MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS

**MORNING ONLINE:** Group 4 leads discussion of reading

Lecture 4: MULTIPLE TEMPORALITIES/MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS

**AFTERNOON ONLINE? IN PERSON?**

**Brainstorm** of possible projects and group formation

**Homework reading:** (to be confirmed)

Andri Snær Magnason *On Time and Water*

Edouardo Kohn: *How Forests Think*

Kathryn Yusoff *1000 Black Anthropocenes or None*

[NB TWO weeks independent work:

17<sup>th</sup> Feb & 21<sup>st</sup> Feb:

Break for ViCCA compulsory writing module  
& end of period 3

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**GROUP FORMATION**

**READING TBC**

**on MEMORY, HAUNTINGS & SPIRITS**

### 3 March: MATERIALITIES & GEOPOLITICS

**MORNING ONLINE:** Discussion of reading MULTIPLE TEMPORALITIES & MEMORY HAUNTINGS & SPIRITS

**LECTURE:** MATERIALITIES & GEOPOLITICS: Intersecting temporalities, geopolitics and material ecologies

**AFTERNOON IN PERSON**

**EXERCISE:** TEMPORALITIES MATERIALITIES, GEOPOLITICS

**HOMEWORK COMPULSORY READING:** Bennet Jane, *Vibrant Matter, A Political Ecology of Things*. Duke University Press. 2010

**10 March: PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY PROJECT IDEAS** *READING & THEMES TBC*  
*DEPENDENT UPON GROUP PROJECT CHOICES*

17 March: SITE SPECIFIC PROJECT WORK READING & THEMES TBC DEPENDENT UPON GROUP PROJECT CHOICES

24 March: SITE SPECIFIC PROJECT WORK READING & THEMES TBC DEPENDENT UPON GROUP PROJECT CHOICES

30 March: SITE SPECIFIC PROJECT WORK READING & THEMES TBC DEPENDENT UPON GROUP PROJECT CHOICES

7 April: FINAL PRESENTATION AND OR EXHIBITION

14 April: *Essay due one week after presentation*

