

Module code	ARH616	Level	6
Module title	Art and the Environment	Credit value	20
Common/Core/Elective	Core	ECTS Credits	10
Courses on which the module is taught	BA (Hons) Art History	Notional learning hours	200
		Teaching Period	Spring

1. Module description

This module responds directly to our ongoing climate catastrophe, tracking art's engagements with the natural world from the fifteenth century to the present. From Alberti's window metaphor to current debates around the Anthropocene, the natural world has been central to art's development within and beyond the west. As scholars question whether planetary warming has already crossed a threshold of irreparability, this course will introduce you to the different ways in which the natural world has framed the way meaning is constructed and communicated in the visual arts. Organised around a series of key historical moments, the module will convene a diverse ensemble of geographies, temporalities and discourses. Throughout the module, you will consider how the art you encounter threads together different bodies and practices of knowledge, and you will be encouraged to explore trans- and inter-disciplinary perspectives in your own studies.

2. Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module you will be able to:

Collaboration (MLO 01)

Collaborate and build networks to solve challenges regarding how artists represent the environment

Communicate (MLO5)

Communicate effectively both orally and in writing on a range of works of art that engages with the environment from across the world

Interdisciplinary perspectives (MLO 09)

Integrate perspectives from different disciplines in your investigation into works of art

Human & Environmental Impact (MLO 010)

Evaluate the impact of human activity, including your own, on people and on the environment through the study of works of art engaging with the natural world

3. Learning and teaching methods

This module takes an active-learning approach where you will be required to read and consider ideas before coming to class to debate and discuss with your peers. The module will take place both in and out of the classroom. During in-class sessions, you will be introduced to how different artists at different times approached the natural world, followed by discussion and debate in which you will be asked to analyse works of art and give short presentations. You will collaborate with your peers and reflect on your learnings. Field trips will give you the opportunity to study the artworks in person, introducing you to how to use key primary research methodologies alongside secondary source reading when evaluating a work of art and there will be guest lectures by practitioners in the field.

Learning hours	
Directed learning	48 hours
Workshops/classes	48

Guided/Self-guided learning	152 hours
Total	200

Reasonable adjustments will depend on a Student Support Agreement and will acknowledge accrediting body requirements. In urgent or serious situations, reasonable adjustments might be required before the Student Wellbeing & Disability Team has been able to complete a full assessment. This will usually be where a student has a severe or urgent condition and either communicates this condition to a member of staff or their behaviour is suggestive of an adjustment need. Staff may put temporary reasonable adjustments in place to support the student. These adjustments must then be promptly communicated to the Student Wellbeing & Disability Team by the staff member who made the temporary adjustments. The Student Wellbeing & Disability team will capture and confirm appropriate reasonable adjustments (which may include changing the temporary adjustments, adding in other adjustments and outlining the period of time for which they apply) in a Student Support Agreement ('SSA').

4. Assessment, formative feedback and relative weightings

Assessment 1: (Group Assessment) Presentation

Weight (%): 40

Word Count or Equivalent: 10-15 minutes

You will collaborate with your peers to give a presentation on a contemporary work of art or exhibition that addresses the topic of the environment. In preparing your presentation, you will consider logistical, ethical, and conceptual considerations of the artwork and take the opportunity to network with practitioners in the field to reflect a wide range of views.

Assessment 2: Journal

Weight (%): 60

Word Count or Equivalent: 2,500 words

You will write a journal exploring the works you study and the ideas that you discuss during the module. You will address the impact of art on people and on the environment and integrate perspectives from different disciplines.

Each summative assessment will be preceded by an opportunity of formative assessment accompanied by formative assessment.

Mapping of assessment tasks for the module				
Assessment tasks	MLO1	MLO5	MLO9	ML10
Presentation	x	x		x
Journal		x	x	x

5. Indicative resources

Berger, John (2018) *Landscapes* London: Verso

Crary, Jonathan (2022) *Scorched Earth* London: Verso

Fowkes, Maja and Reuben (2022) *Art and Climate Change*, London: Thames and Hudson

Heather, David and Etienne Turpin (eds) (2015) *Art in the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Aesthetics, Politics, Environments and Epistemologies*, London: Open Humanities Press

Huyghe, Pierre (2014) *Human Mask* [Single channel video] Jointly owned by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Jarman, Derek (dir) *The Garden*, (1990) [Feature film] London: Artificial Eye

Patrizio, A (ed.) (2018) *The Ecological Eye: Assembling an Ecocritical Art History*, Manchester: Manchester University Press

Pih, Darren (ed.) (2022) *Radical Landscapes: Art, Identity and Activism*, London: Tate Publishing

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt, (2015) *The Mushroom at the End of the World* Princeton: Princeton University Press

Zylinska, Joanna, (2017) *Exit Man*, (2017) Available at <https://vimeo.com/203887003>