**First Year Seminar**

**Fall Semester 2016**

**UNIV 1200-14**

**OUTDOOR SCHOOL**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Diane Borsato, Studio Arts

**LOCATION:** MacKinnon Building, Rm. 119

**TIME:** Tuesdays 2:30-5:20pm

**OFFICE:** Alexander Hall, Rm. 370

**PHONE:** Ext. 52324

**EMAIL**: [dborsato@gmail.com](mailto:dborsato@gmail.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Meetings by appointment

**COURSE BLOG: https://experimentalstudio.ca/outdoorschool/**

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

Have you ever wished you could have all of your classes outside? Or attend a seminar in a flower-filled greenhouse, visit an active apiary, or get hissed at by a cockroach? In this field-based course we will be visiting and learning from several of the labs, gardens, and facilities on campus, and the educators, technicians, and artists that work at them. Reading seminars will be held outdoors, where we will discuss and consider a wide range of cultural perspectives on nature, climate, and the environment. Taught by an artist and amateur naturalist, we'll have hands-on encounters and workshops about the flora, fauna, and environment around us and look specifically at the interrelated ideas of contemporary artists, activists, nature writers, and environmental researchers. No outdoor experience is necessary.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

OUTDOOR SCHOOL will introduce students to some of the complex relationships of culture and nature from the perspectives of various disciplines. Our understanding of nature is heavily constructed by various cultural forces, with different interests and values at play - and different outcomes for the environment, the planet, and for us at stake. Together in OUTDOOR SCHOOL we will read and analyze critical texts from contemporary art, cultural geography, indigenous ecology, and literary non-fiction. We will participate in field-based activities, performances and workshops. Some of the places we will work at include The Honey Bee Research Lab, the Bovey Research Greenhouses, the Arboretum, and Wild Ontario along with their researchers, farmers, educators, conservationists and technicians. Students will contribute to a class blog that documents and archives many of our activities. Students will be evaluated on summaries and discussions on readings, participation in class activities and on-campus clubs, collaborative art practices, their contributions to the class blog, and on in-class presentations.

COURSE BLOG: https://experimentalstudio.ca/outdoorschool/

**NOTE*:******This is a 0.5 credit course. Each week, students are expected to spend approximately 4 – 6 hours on average outside of class on related course work.***

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

* To introduce students to analyzing and discussing readings from a variety of disciplines in a critical context.
* To introduce students to some of the complex relationships of culture and nature from the perspectives of various disciplines.
* To introduce students to practicing hands-on and field-based research in a variety of disciplines.
* To introduce students to environmentally themed contemporary artists, art works, and practices.
* To introduce students to outdoor-related research and activities, facilities, resources and personnel on campus.
* To introduce students to positive and sustainable relationships with the natural world.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

* Students will develop basic skills at analyzing and discussing readings from a variety of disciplines in a critical context.
* Students will begin to understand some of the complex relationships of culture and nature from the perspectives of various disciplines.
* Students will develop a basic familiarity with practicing hands-on and field-based research in a variety of disciplines.
* Students will develop a basic familiarity with environmentally themed contemporary artists, art works, and practices.
* Students will develop a basic familiarity with outdoor-related research and activities happening on campus.
* Students may develop a deeper connection to the outdoors, and an increased interest in developing positive and sustainable relationships to the natural world.

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**EQUIPMENT:**

## Students in OUTDOOR SCHOOL must have appropriate clothing and footwear for all kinds of weather. You must come prepared to get wet, cold, hot, or dirty in every class. Details will be announced in class before various activities, but some essential items include:

Waterbottle

*Raincoat*

*Warm hat/mitts*

*Warm winter coat*

*Closed toe shoes/runners or hiking boots*

*Comfortable clothing you can get dirty/muddy/wet*

*Sunscreen, sun hat*

*Notebook for field notes*

Other recommended equipment:

*Digital camera*

*Foraging basket*

***Safe foldable*** *pocket knife*

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**SAFETY AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Safety is our first priority in our class at all times. Because of the nature of our activities, students must follow all instructions in labs and during activities, and maintain special attention to keeping themselves and others safe at all times. Ask questions about how to stay safe when you aren’t sure. Speak out if you are concerned about yours or anyone else’s safety. You will not ever be required to do something you are not comfortable with or feel is unsafe. Talk to your instructor about any concerns.

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**EVALUATION:**

**5 Reading Responses: 30%**

Students will submit a 500-word discussion of two of the main ideas in the day’s readings. Highlight two passages – and discuss your responses based on the authour’s evidence, personal experience, and references to artworks, other reading and activities in the course.

*Deadlines ongoing. Refer to course schedule.*

**Participation: 20%\***

Attending all classes, contributing to class discussions and critiques, and participating in all course activities is integral to your learning in this class. We will read and discuss complex works from various disciplines, make artworks, and participate in tours and hands-on activities on campus. Students must also refer to the daily schedule and come prepared to each class for the day’s seminar and field-based activities.

*\*Because of the experiential and participatory nature of the class, any students missing 2 classes or more will receive 0% in participation. Missing more than 2 unexcused classes may result in a failing grade in the course. Discuss any extenuating circumstances with the instructor.*

**Kilometre Project: 20%**

Students will make an artwork involving walking, and present a single image and description of their work on the class blog.

*Deadline: Tues. Nov. 8th, 2016.*

**On-Campus Club Participation and Blog Post: 20%**

Students must join and participate in the activities in an on-campus club: Options include the Horticulture club, Organic Farm, Junior Farmers, Aboriginal Resource Centre, Astronomy Club, Guelph Students for Environmental Change, or the Wildlife Club. Other options will be discussed in class. Students will post documentation of one of the club activities on our class blog and discuss the group’s activities in a final in-class presentation.

*Participation ongoing, and blog post due: Tues. Nov. 29th, 2016.*

**Survival Skills Workshops: 10%**

In collaborative groups, students will lead a 10-15 minute workshop for the entire class on a selected nature-related outdoor activity. Options will be discussed in class.

*Deadline: Tues. Nov. 29th, 2016.*

E-mail Communication  
As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement  
When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml)

Drop Date  
The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Nov. 3, 2016 .  For [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml).

Copies of out-of-class assignments  
Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility  
The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](http://www.uoguelph.ca/vpacademic/avpa/checklist/mailtocsd@uoguelph.ca) or see the [website](http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/).

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2014-2015/c01/index.shtml)

Academic Misconduct  
The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.  University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct.  Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. [The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml).

Recording of Materials  
Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources  
The [Academic Calendars](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index) are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.