

School of Arts & Sciences Prospectus Syllabus: Rights of/for Nature: Critical Engagements from Latin America

Course ID and 7-digit Number: LALS 5745-401

Course Description and Level

This course delves into various approximations of the Rights of Nature movement. It is mainly dedicated to dissecting a range of legal strategies that have come into existence to ensure the preservation of life forms beyond just humans, forging a profound connection between humanity and the diverse entities that constitute the natural world. The course will concentrate on Latin American cases as a burgeoning global movement, although the philosophical and theoretical exploration extends far beyond this region. Some topics we will discuss in class are: Earth Jurisprudence and the Rights of Nature; Bringing Nature to Court and the Law; and Animal Rights. For instance, are animals part of the Rights of Nature movement? Students will understand how legal systems can be leveraged as powerful environmental conservation and advocacy tools by analyzing legal and judicial actions. Students will also learn the importance of bridging the legal practice with how the social sciences approach these questions.

Class Structure for Fall 2024

- Use of time:

We will be meeting once a week for our class, which will be divided into two sections. We will discuss the readings and explore the course's core concepts during the first part. This section will be structured as a lecture. We will have workshops, lab sessions, and seminars in the second half of the class. Most of graded class activities will be done during class time, so attendance and active participation are crucial. Therefore, it is highly recommended that students attend and participate actively in the class, as most of the work will be done in this setting.

- Out-of-class Activities

Students will be required to work on practices for connecting with their environments. These are some examples of the required work.

Practice on a shifting world

<https://emergencemagazine.org/practice/navigating-a-shifting-world/>

Encountering trees

<https://emergencemagazine.org/practice/encountering-trees/>

The aromas of trees

<https://emergencemagazine.org/practice/the-aromas-of-trees-five-practices/>

Listening to the language of birds

<https://emergencemagazine.org/practice/listening-to-the-language-of-birds/>

- How to prepare for in-person sessions, including (but not limited to):
 - It is necessary to read and watch the material that is included in the syllabus.
 - To make the most of your group sessions during class, it is recommended that you complete the assigned out-of-class activities beforehand. This will allow you to actively participate in the group discussion and maximize the time together.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

- Types of assignments & assessments:
 - Visual/audio/text representations from the connecting practices.
 - In-class workshops
 - Final Essay

- Points of value for assignments and assessments: For this seminar, in-class assignments will be part of the graded workload. The final essay will have a greater point value.

Essential Course Policies

- Required books, equipment, or special items to engage in class
 - All reading materials will be made available through Canvas.