



Project Grow

AVT 385 | George Mason University
Term: Summer 2020. Session 1
Class Days - MTW, 1:30 - 4:10

Professor: Mark Cooley
Office hours: By online appointment
Contact: mcooley@gmu.edu

Project Grow focuses on issues of agriculture, conservation, sustainability, and the ways that artists have explored human relationships with the land through acts of growing.

Assignment | Research: Information & Issues

Review, take notes, and be ready to discuss the following:

- Submit notes to your professor by email

- Gaia's Garden, Chapter 2, A Gardener's Ecology, Pgs. 21-35
- Gaia's Garden, Chapter 3, Designing the Ecological Garden, Pgs. 36-67
- "How Stupid Is Our Obsession With Lawns?" [Ep. 289] Freakonomics Radio

Assignment | Research: Artwork

Review, take notes, and be ready to discuss at least 2 of the following projects*:

- Submit notes to your professor by email

- Exhibition – Vegetation as a Political Agent, Curator: Marco Scotini (2014)
- Joseph Beuys – 7000 Oaks (1982-87)
- People's Park, Berkeley, Calif. 1, 2 (1969-present)
- Liz Christy Community Garden (1973-present)
- Alan Sonfist – Time Landscape – To Life. pgs. 111 – 116
- Patricia Johanson – House and Garden (1969)
- Bonnie Ora Sherk – Living Library, EcoArtSpace Interview – To Life. pgs. 105 – 110
- Crossroads Community, The Farm, (1974-present)
- Future Farmers – Victory Gardens (2007) – To Life pgs. 171 – 177
- Shelley Sacks – Exchange Values (1996-ongoing)
- Fritz Haeg – Edible Estates (2005-13), Animal Estates (2008-13)

- SporaStudios – [Migrant Sanctuary Garden](#) (2018)
- Dan Halter – [Mesembryanthemum Space Invader](#) (2014)
- Critical Art Ensemble – To Life. pgs. 147 – 153. [Molecular Invasion](#) (2002-04)
- Susanne Cockrell and Ted Purves – [Temescal Amity Works](#) (2004-07)
- Beatriz Da Costa – Dying for the Other [1](#), [2](#), [The Life Garden](#) (2011)
- Matthew Moore – [How Art Can Change the Way We Eat](#)
- Sam Van Aken – [Tree of 40 Fruit](#)
- Yoko Ono – [Wish Tree](#) (1996-ongoing)
- [Mooswand](#) – Kilian Lingen & Florian D. Schneider
- [Die Klause](#) – [essbaresdarmstadt.de](#)
- Guerrilla Gardening [guerrillagardening.org](#)

* Please keep in mind that links provided here are a starting place for research and that additional sources may be required for a fuller understanding of the works. Additional sources can be found online, library resources, or in the optional textbook To Life: Eco Art in Pursuit of a Sustainable Planet by Linda Weintraub. Please report broken links to mcooley@gmu.edu.

Resources: Garden Design

- Gaia's Garden, Chapter 9, Designing Garden Guilds, Pgs. 134-143
- Gaia's Garden, Chapter 10, Growing a Food Forest, Pgs. 145-156
- [How to Lay a Square Foot Garden Bed](#), The University of Florida Polk County IFAS Extension
- Container Gardening, [part 1](#), [part 2](#), University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- [Pandemic Gardening with Kids](#), Sierra Club
- [9 Ways to Get Your Pandemic Victory Garden off the Ground](#), Sierra Club
- [Virginia Zone 7 Planting and Harvesting Calendar](#).
- Annual garden seed [Southern Seed Exchange](#) (see [Virginia heritage seed collection](#))
- Perennial Plants for Edible Landscaping, [Edible Landscaping](#), Afton, VA
- [Buy Fresh, Buy Local, Virginia](#)

Resources: Docs

- [Future of Food](#) dir. Deborah Koons. (2004)
- [The Garden](#) dir. Scott Hamilton Kennedy. (2008)
- [Food Inc.](#) dir. Robert Kenner (2008)
- [Dirt! The Movie](#) dirs. Bill Benenson, Gene Rosow, Eleonore Dailly
- [Symphony of the Soil](#) dir. Deborah Koons Garcia

Assignment | Design

Create a proposal (including Theme, Issue, Approach, Genre, and Strategy). Include a visual.
- Submit to your professor by email.

Assignment | Make & Present

Complete Artwork Documentation and Project Summary. Submit to your professor by email before class meeting. Please use file sharing service for files over 10 MB. In-class Presentation & Critique.