



Creative Tools for Saving Biodiversity: Transdisciplinary Practices

HDA 494/598

HPS 494/598

BIO 494/598

Spring 2021 | ASU Sync | Fridays, 10:45am - 1:15pm

This course approaches human creativity as an innate gift and a cultivatable practice that is essential for addressing the biggest societal challenges we face today. Students will learn how creativity can be supported by practical tools, habits of mind, and modes of action in the context of developing effective responses to global biodiversity loss as a transdisciplinary problem. The class will introduce key concepts, such as productive ambiguity and boundary objects, that aid our understanding of and participating in current efforts to monitor and halt extinctions and population declines. Co-taught by Liz Lerman and Beckett Sterner, the course offers a series of creative tools for laboratory-style application in a hybrid format. These tools are useful for interdisciplinary practices crossing the arts and sciences. Students are supported in their investigation of all aspects of creative processes from generating ideas to shaping final products. Readings will touch on the theory and philosophy of creativity itself. Students engage in extreme reflection to help them in the evolution of their own tools.

Prerequisites: We are looking for students from diverse backgrounds to work together and discover creative solutions for today's biodiversity challenges. Students who are not in HDA or SOLS can email one of the instructors to get an override.

Course Details: 3 Credits. The ASU Sync format means students will explore course material on Canvas throughout the week and meet as a class in real-time over Zoom on Fridays. Students interested in pursuing honors contracts can contact Beckett Sterner.

Instructors: **Liz Lerman**, School of Music, Dance Theater
Beckett Sterner, School of Life Sciences

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