



Venice International University
VIU Graduate Seminar
How Can Humanities Save the Planet?

10 - 14 June 2019

Day One, Monday 10 June

Morning: *Lecture 1*

Discovering alternative worlds in the Middle Ages; Human versus divine imagination; The breakthrough of the new science.

Prof. Dorit Tanay, Tel Aviv University

Readings may include:

- Amos Funkenstein, *Theology and the Scientific Imagination from the Middle Ages to the Seventeenth Century* (1985);
- Timothy Reiss, *Knowledge, Discovery and Imagination in Early Modern Europe* (1997).

Afternoon: *Breakout sessions* on topics related to readings and lecture

Lagoon Field Trip with Prof. Carlo Giupponi, Dean of VIU

Day Two, Tuesday 11 June

Morning: *Lecture 2*

New Materialisms and the integration of scientific and humanistic thinking.

Prof. Elizabeth Wallace, Boston College

Readings may include:

- Barad, Karen. "Posthumanist Performativity: Toward an Understanding of How Matter Came to Matter." *Signs* (2003), 28: 801-831;
- selections from Bennett, Jane. *Vibrant Matter*. Duke UP, 2011;
- Frost, Dianne and Samantha Coole, editors. *New Materialisms*. Duke UP, 2010;
- Latour, Bruno. *Pandora's Hope*. Harvard UP, 1999;
- Harraway, Donna. *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*. Duke UP, 2016.

Afternoon: *Breakout sessions* on topics related to readings and lecture



Day Three, Wednesday 12 June

Morning: visit to TBA21 Ocean Space exhibition “Joan Jonas: Moving Off the Land II”

How does contemporary art world respond to the environmental crisis?

Afternoon: visit to the 58th International Art Exhibition “May You Live In Interesting Times”

Day Four, Thursday 13 June

Morning: *Lecture 3*

**Fiction and climate change; environmentalism and social justice;
Pedagogies for environmental action.**

Prof. Shaul Bassi, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Readings may include:

- Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*. University of Chicago Press, 2016;
- Amitav Ghosh, *Gun Island*, John Murray, 2019;
- Salvatore Settis, *If Venice Dies*, New Vessel Press, 2016.

Afternoon: *Breakout sessions* on topics related to readings and lecture

Day Five, Friday 14 June

Morning: *Lecture 4*

Title tbd

Prof. Helmuth Trischler, Director Rachel Carlson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

Afternoon: *Workshops presenting final projects and proposals*

What is each one of us taking away from the seminar in the form of pedagogies to share, work to be researched and published, and/or ideas for broader engagement with the movement for environmental awareness?
How does our work move towards an ideal of environmental justice?