

Syllabus  
Fall 2019

## LA 4/539 Art of the Landform Reclaiming the Vance Pits



Vance Quarry  
Rockwood | East Multnomah County | OR

**Time** MWF | 1:00pm - 4:50pm  
**Required weekend field trip on Friday/Saturday, October 11th-12th**

**Location** TBD

**Credits** 6

**Instructor** Michael Geffel  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
Lawrence Hall, Room 214  
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**Prerequisites** None

**Studio Description** Primarily developed in the mid-20th century before state land-use planning, Rockwood is one of the densest and most diverse neighborhoods in the Portland metro area. Currently, the neighborhood is engaged in an innovative community-centered design process to retrofit their suburban urban form based on the needs of existing residents who aspire for “development without displacement.” At the edge of all of this is the Vance Pit, a former quarry and landfill. Continuing a partnership with Multnomah County DCS, students will develop schematic designs to reclaim this degraded site using the fundamental medium of earth, staging new conditions for its public use and ecological function.