

ARCH 4/584
LA 4/589

MINE / SEED

THE TEMPORAL AND MATERIAL SPACE OF
MINES AND SEEDS.

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Lithium, mercury, nickel, and uranium exist in Oregon beneath a surface of forests and sagebrush, cutthroat trout and mountain quail and where survey stakes, cultural memory, and toxic tailings all mark land scarified by industrial mining.

On the same land, uncountable numbers of plant seeds are transported by wind and water, animals, birds, insects, fish and humans. Where mining is a process of human-centered “using up,” seed dispersal represents perpetual cycles of renewal, and relationships that are more-than-human.

Both mines and seed dispersal exist in far-reaching, relatively invisible spatial networks. Mining brings thick geologic time to the surface, shifting minerals to distant landscapes and leaving new holes in local communities.

Seed dispersal occurs in seasonal cycles that are enmeshed with the lives of rivers, birds, animals, weather, and new growth. Taken together, the space and time of mines and of seed dispersal manifest a precarious, inseparable material whole.

In this studio, we will use the tools of architectural research, design and representation (model and drawing) to give form to these material and transpecies relationships with a focus on the temporality/spatiality of environmental justice and survivance.

The studio will include individual and collaborative production, a field trip starting Friday of week 1, and will include the design and fabrication of a pop-up realization of the studio work.

The course is offered jointly across architecture and landscape architecture. Students may register according to their major requirements for ARCH 4/584 or LA 4/589.