



# How to Live? Art, Ethics, and the Everyday

[figs.wisc.edu/2019fall34](http://figs.wisc.edu/2019fall34)

**FIG 34 • Fall 2019**

main class instructor: **Michael Peterson**

**10 credits**

**MAIN CLASS**

Art Department 448  
**Art, Ethics, and the Everyday**

**LINKED CLASS**

Interdisciplinary Courses  
(SOHE) 201

**Belonging, Purpose and the Ecology of Human Happiness: EcoYou**

**LINKED CLASS**

Geography 139  
**Global Environmental Issues**

How does daily life inform creativity? How can creative practice sustain and transform how we live? How can engaging with creativity tie our individual well-being to the beauty and happiness of others? What are the politics of fun? And can learning how to survive as a college student also help us face the global challenges of surviving and thriving together?

This FIG uses “art/life” questions to open a broader political and ethical inquiry into “how to live?” Because aesthetics (like ethics) are a daily challenge and opportunity for *all* people, students from

all backgrounds and interests are welcome; arts experience is *not* required, but life experience is.

This class will draw on the two linked classes and on readings on art/life, ethics, creativity, and other topics to explore the daily activities of living: our actions as citizens, friends, consumers, and loved ones, and the value in considering ethics and aesthetics as social rather than individual challenges. We’ll question “college life” both as a case study and as a specific set of puzzles that students face in their first year. We’ll explore the relation of individuals to social justice. And we’ll pursue student-initiated themes such as how an aesthetics of the everyday can inform personal health, public policy, business practices, or political action.

This class uses the art “studio” model, meaning that it meets for an extended session and that much of the required work happens during that time. We will use writing, blogging, casual sketching, photography, and other creative practices to explore mindful choices in our daily lives (around living spaces, food, consumption, socializing, and civic participation). Each student will develop and pursue art/life practices, and together we will experiment with place-making, cooking,

researching, culture-making, and social connection. We will meet in an art studio, a kitchen classroom, on the street, and in a nature preserve, as well as other places where we make art and life.

**Interdisciplinary Courses (SoHE) 201: “Belonging, Purpose, and the Ecology of Human Happiness: EcoYou”**

— This class explores the art and science of purposeful living by integrating academic knowledge with issues real and relevant to students’ lives including: identity and belonging; happiness, purpose and meaning; self-awareness and self-presentation; romantic, peer and family relationships; material culture, consumer behavior and financial well-being; and connections to community, culture, and society.

**Geography 139: “Global Environmental Issues”** —

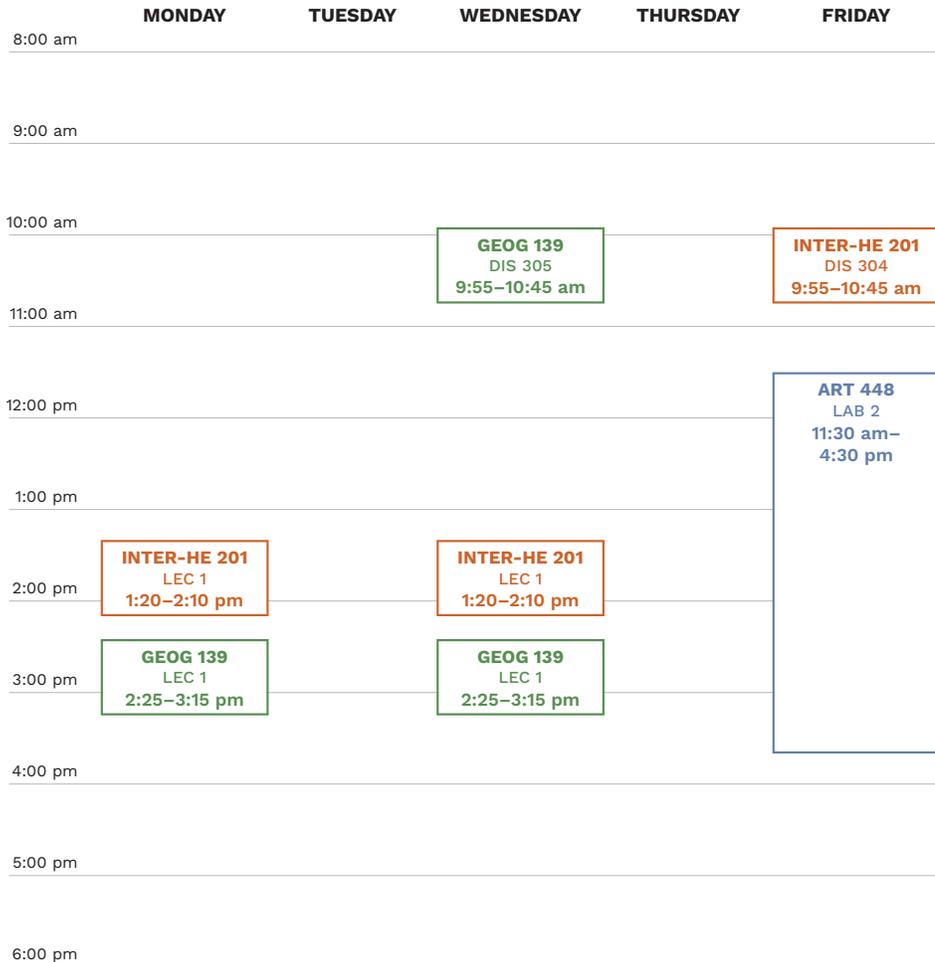
Provides an exploration of the global and local nature of environmental problems facing us, including issues of climate change, food, energy, economic globalization, deforestation and land use change, biodiversity loss, resource scarcity and access, environmental justice, and population. ●

[more on the other side](#)

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**FIG 34 • Fall 2019**



## MAIN CLASS

Art Department 448

## Art, Ethics, and the Everyday

LAB 2: F 11:30–4:30

credits: 4

class number: **56436**

## LINKED CLASS

Interdisciplinary  
Courses (SOHE) 201

## Belonging, Purpose and the Ecology of Human Happiness: EcoYou

LEC 1: MW 1:20–2:10 +  
DIS 304: F 9:55–10:45

- Social Science
- Elementary

credits: 3

class number: **55714**

## LINKED CLASS

Geography 139

## Global Environmental Issues

LEC 1: MW 2:25–3:15 +  
DIS 305: W 9:55–10:45

- Social Science
- Elementary

credits: 3

class number: **51372**

## Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

### Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.

So, here's what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

- You can drop all the classes on your own at [enroll.wisc.edu](http://enroll.wisc.edu). Any non-FIG class will not be affected.
- After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.
- **Wednesday, September 11, 2019** is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.
- **Friday, September 13, 2019** is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.



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