Course Name: Rise Above Plastics
Partner: SurfRider
Faculty: Lara Hoad
Mentor: David Russell

Course Description: Rise Above Plastics: Ways to reduce global pollution from single-use plastics
Students develop ideas and strategies to reduce global single-use plastic pollution. Starting with research on the impact plastic trash has on our local oceans, wildlife, and communities, they will then work in multidisciplinary teams to develop proposals to educate and encourage the reduction, reuse, and refusal of single-use plastics such as plastic bags, bottles, and packaging.

Partner Description: Exxpedition, 5 Gyres
The 5 Gyre Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2017. Our mission is to empower action against the global health crisis of plastic pollution through science, education, and adventure. www.5gyres.org

Exxpedition is an all women’s voyage to make the unseen seen, from the toxins in our bodies to the plastics in our sea, and which aims to engage women in scientific narratives relating to the consumer choices they make, and their long-term health impacts on themselves and our environment. www.exxpedition.com
Course Name: Girls Rock LA
Partner: Girls Rock LA
Faculty: Emma Kemp
Mentor: Laura Burhenn

Course & Partner Description: Girls Rock LA

The mission of Rock n' Roll Camp for girls in Los Angeles is to empower girls through music, nurturing self-esteem and self-expression in a world that doesn’t always give girls the permission, space, or tools to do so. As part of the Girls Rock Camp Alliance, an international membership network of youth-centered arts and social justice organizations, Rock n' Roll Camp L.A. transcends borders as part of a global effort to promote collaboration, build confidence, and celebrate unique and diverse voices. In this class we will listen to the needs and concerns of the organization and respond accordingly, utilizing our art & design skills to collectively serve as a practical ally to Rock n' Roll Camp L.A.
Course Description: **Wild in the City** The Ballona Wetlands occupy a largely forgotten swath of Los Angeles ground. Though representing a rare example of wilderness within LA sprawl, the Wetlands have historically endured assault and encroachment from increasingly dense surroundings. During the urban development of Los Angeles, they were deeply altered. The last 50 years have brought a clearer understanding of their ecological significance, thus spurring desire for their preservation and restoration. Concurrently, surrounding Los Angeles neighborhoods boast sharp increases in real estate prices, an indication of their desirability. The current growth of Silicon Beach will rapidly increase the demand for housing in this area. The development of Playa Vista occupies former wetlands, thus eliminating some of the landscape, but also providing much needed high-density housing in addition to innovative green development solutions. This course will investigate general issues of environmental compromise as well as specific issues that arise from this seemingly oppositional relationship. We will work together to explore the capacity of art and design in mitigating or highlighting those issues.

Partner Description: **Ballona Wetlands** Friends of Ballona Wetlands’ mission is to champion the restoration and protection of the Ballona Wetlands, involving and educating the public as advocates and stewards. Formed in response to proposed urban development that threatened to destroy the wetlands, Friends of Ballona Wetlands has developed into a prolific supporter of wetlands ecology. It provides school tours, clean up opportunities, and advocacy for the Ballona Wetlands. Their offices are located in Playa del Rey. [http://www.ballonafriends.org](http://www.ballonafriends.org)
**Course Description:** Comic Heroes
Visual storytelling through sequential art using both traditional and digital skills. Students collaborate to create videos, games, comic books about socially relevant topics. Students share these materials with non-profits to aid in their outreach efforts.

**Partner Description:** It Gets Better Project & Camp Brave Trails
Camp Brave Trails: Brave Trails is more than just your average summer camp. While we have a lot of elements of a typical camp, our main focus is helping our campers grow into the brave leaders they are destined to be. Our program focuses on four key elements: Leadership, Community Building, Self Realization, and Service. We use workshops, adventure and artistic programming, service projects, peer connections, and positive role models to create a safe space where youth can thrive.

The It Gets Better Project is a nonprofit organization with a mission to uplift, empower, and connect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth around the globe. Growing up isn’t easy, especially when you are trying to affirm and assert your sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It can be a challenging and isolating process – but, the good news is, no one has to do it alone.
Course Description: Otis Students will participate in inclusive, experimental and reflective processes while collaborating with adult artists challenged by developmental disabilities. Resulting art and design projects, meant to inspire and enhance their lives, will be exhibited publicly at ECF’s Downtown Art Center Gallery.

Partner Description: Exceptional Children’s Foundation’s Westside Art Center and DAC Gallery. (ECF) Exceptional Children’s Foundation’s mission is “to provide the highest quality services for children and adults who are challenged with developmental, learning, and emotional disabilities — empowering them to reach their greatest potential.” (http://www.ecf.net/about/)

“The Art Center program encourages, assists and supports personal artistic development for adults with developmental disabilities. The Centers provide full-day programming five days a week with professional art instructors in studio facilities. Art instruction is offered in a variety of mediums, such as, watercolor, oil, pen and ink, printmaking, [media arts] and ceramics. ECF artists express themselves and build on their innate artistic abilities. In addition to art instruction, the Art Centers offer independent living skills, counseling, and behavior management. Through juried art shows, gallery and museum exhibitions, silent auctions, and online sales, artists are given exposure and the opportunity to benefit financially from their work, which helps cultivate a sense of accomplishment and self-worth… Further, to display, exhibit, and sell artwork produced by our artists from our four Art Center program studios, our Downtown Art Center (DAC) Gallery is a storefront gallery that serves as hub for ECF’s artwork. Artists work is featured and showcased throughout the year; and exhibitions and fundraising events help to promote the sale of art work.”
HOME: Scaffolding Safe, Secure, Spirited Space for All of Us.
Whether it’s a bird nest, beaver lodge, mansion, refugee shelter, shopping cart or psychological habitat, the idea of home is embedded in human consciousness. “Home is home, and everything else is not-home.”. All classes begin with breakfast, and chill conversation, in this wall-less, mobile classroom. Looking for: thought-leaders, thinkers and social designers to make new spaces, art, product, motion, wearables, toy and communications to re-define what HOME means to us now and in the future.

Partners: A Tiny Design Team of Third Graders, The Refugees of Rap from Syria, Invisible People: Filmakers Working with the Home Insecure. visit: patriciakovic.com
**Course Description:** Made for Kids

In “Made for Kids”, Otis students collaborate in interdisciplinary teams in a studio setting to conceive and execute diverse projects with our community partner, Westport Heights Elementary School. Students learn to think conceptually about issues of design/art from multiple points of view; to conduct projects outside the traditional boundaries of the classroom; to work in service of and in collaboration with clients; to gain experience in writing proposals, generating budgets and taking a “real” project from concept through production/ installation. Our goal is to utilize the methodologies of art and design to positively affect the environment and daily life of the students of Westport Heights Elementary School.

**Partner Description:** Westport Heights (WHES) is a local LAUSD public school that serves the Westchester (90045) neighborhood. We celebrate our more than 400 students, many who are first-generation Americans with families from dozens of different countries with an annual Multi-Cultural Festival! Our students are encouraged to share their family traditions in a safe and loving environment in our 18 classrooms and 1 Resource Specialist Teacher, under the creative instruction of our talented faculty. https://westportheightses-lausd-ca.schoolloop.com/
**Course Description:** Branding with a Cause  This course investigates art as it intersects with social justice and activism. Students have a unique opportunity to work within Los Angeles City Hall through the Community Justice Initiative (CJI). In this course, we will study how art and design has been used to promote social justice and change. Using Human Centered Design as the process frame, the first part of the semester will be focused on research and ideation. During the second half of the semester, students will implement various projects including an opportunity to create a cohesive brand identity that bridges 7 departments within CJI. We will create, design and exhibit fine and socially engaged art projects in site-specific communities, The Bridge Gallery and/or the Tom Bradley Room atop City Hall.

**Partner Description:** Community Justice Initiative is a first of its kind “idea incubator” affiliated with a large prosecutor's office in the United States. We research, experiment, pilot, and implement various projects for the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office that lead to evidenced-based results in the hope to keep people OUT of the criminal justice system.
Course Description: Moving Art: Parade Class
In this fun hands-on summer intensive, we create artwork that physically moves along our streets and conceptually moves the community. We collaborate, drawing upon our individual talents, exploring possibilities, and having fun, to create Otis’ official entry in the Westchester 4th of July Parade.

We take fascinating field trips to explore sites and methods of fabrication: sustainable, large & small scale, paper-mache, kinetic, puppetry, animatronics, masks, costuming, painting and design.

Drawing from the official parade theme, we develop our concept to address a social message. In the past, in colorful ways, we’ve done: endangered species, ocean conservation, and ethnocentric history.

Cheers from the community are fantastic. Each year, we’ve won the Chairperson’s Choice Award. It’s a wildly fun summer art experience, fulfills your CAIL requirement, adds a new dimension to your portfolio and we’re awesome!

Partner Description: Westchester 4th of July Parade
This course will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays
10am - 3pm from June 4th - July 9th
*Attendance at Westchester 4th of July Parade is Mandatory