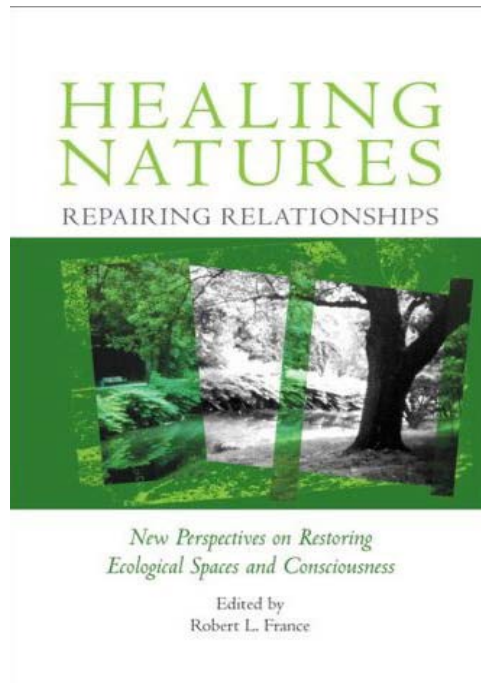


—Winter Term Module **Online Course** for Graduate Students—

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION DESIGN



Environmental Restoration Design is a fully online, graduate level module course that offers basic knowledge about the social-ecological restoration of degraded landscapes. It is a non-quantitative course that has a “Humanities” designation. The course will appeal to students with interests in the environmental management, landscape architecture, sustainability policy and science, regional planning, architecture, urban design, environmental education, and eco-philosophy, with a focus on the design and transformation of post-industrial sites into centres of ecotourism and environmental education. See overview of course topics below. By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- Understand the link between restoration design and ecotourism
- Foster an appreciation for inter-disciplinarity, in particular the ability to study and analyze projects holistically in terms of deliverables through the co-dependent lenses of science, sociology, and landscape architecture
- Develop and hone critical skills in reviewing, synthesizing, and distilling information in the form of digital presentations and written assignments

The next offering of this course will begin on February 14th, 2022 and run for 5 weeks.

A face-to-face version of this course has been taught at Harvard, Ca'Foscari Venice, and Dalhousie Universities. An extended version of the present online format has been taught for a half decade and has developed a reputation among students and distance learning professionals for being one of the best organized online courses offered at the university. Its reputation is such that it has attracted students enrolled at other universities.

*[University students whom have taken this course before include those in Graduate School from the faculties of **Agriculture, Management, and Architecture & Planning**, and undergraduate students in Environmental Science, International Development Studies, Landscape Architecture, Earth Sciences, Biology, Integrated Environmental Management, Philosophy, Marine Biology, Sustainability and Society, and Plant Science.]*

Textbook

France, R.L. (Ed.) 2008. *Healing Natures, Repairing Relationships: New Perspectives on Restoring Ecological Spaces and Consciousness*. Green Frigate Books/Libri Publishing.

Module professor

Robert France is an ecologist and environmental scientist with a specialized interest in landscape processes and design. For more than a decade he taught in the Landscape Architecture Department at the Harvard GSD (Graduate School of Design). He has published over two hundred papers and two dozen books which have been cited ten thousand times in the professional literature. Among his books are a handful that have helped to define the emerging field of restoration design. These include:

- *Environmental Restoration and Design for Recreation and Ecotourism*. CRC Press. (2012)
- *Restorative Redevelopment of Devastated Ecocultural Landscapes*. CRC Press. (2011)
- *Handbook of Regenerative Landscape Design*. CRC Press. (2008)

Course format, expectations and assessment

Graduate students taking *Environmental Restoration Design* are enrolled into and take the second module of the full-length 'Watershed Management & Environmental Restoration' course simultaneous to other Dalhousie students. (Note: it is possible for graduate students to take an upgraded version of the complete undergraduate course for full grad course credit by enrolling in a linked Special Topics Grad course).

For each week, learning material is presented in several different formats. First, a set of power point presentations (PPTs) are provided that contain information distilled from many pertinent sources. These PPTs contain voice-over dialogue by the professor to guide the participant through, while emphasizing the most important elements therein.

Next, one or several video lectures are viewed. These are our virtual guest speakers -- representing some of the world's leading practitioners and researchers -- who were filmed previously at a series of conferences run at Harvard and Dalhousie Universities.

Students have to produce a list of short salient points that demonstrate they have viewed the online material and have clearly understand its take-away lessons. These are submitted several times during the module.

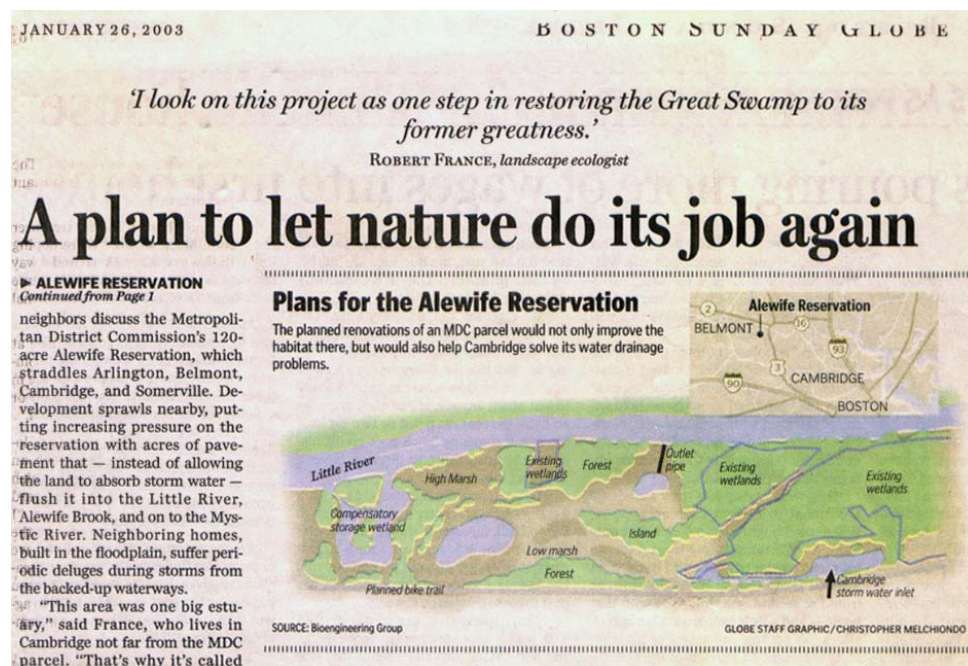
There is no final exam. Detailed instructions will be provided for the assignments.

In addition to the salient points (25%), students will have to:

- Engage in a weekly philosophical discussion about the nature and culture of social-ecological restoration (25%).
- Write a thematic essay about one element of interest concerning environmental restoration design based on material covered in the module (50%).

Module

Environmental Restoration Design:



Noted American environmentalist Aldo Leopold once remarked that we live in a damaged "world of wounds." Today, one of the most rapidly expanding environmental fields is that of restoration. By replacing apathy with action and therefore fatalism with hope, environmental restoration may be the best means of saving environmentalism from itself. Such restoration is as much about process as product, sociology as ecology, and artful design as empirical engineering or science. Critics, however, warn that restoration is a slippery and dangerous slope, only providing bandage fixes while creating new natures that are mere fakes of the real things lost. This module will review the theoretical and philosophical debates concerning environmental restoration and consider why it is the most intellectually challenging of all forms of contemporary environmental management. The module will also specifically examine case studies involving the return of damaged land to a 'natural' state for purposes of ecotourism and

environmental education. Other topics include the regeneration of post-industrial urban sites and the ecocultural restorative redevelopment of devastated landscapes in the developing world.