

# LARCH 2930: The Water Studio

**Instructor name:** Krisi Cheramie  
**Year and term:** Spring 15  
**Meeting time:** MWF 1:50-5:30  
**Meeting location:** Sophomore Studio

## COURSE INFORMATION

### DESCRIPTION

"...In the wake of Katrina, we find a city newly refocused on both its site as well as its situation. Struggling to reorganize itself in response to the environmental degradations brought on by 150 years of hyper control while facing even greater environmental exigencies (sea level rise and loss of marsh buffers), the city is confronting an unavoidable state of decline. An estimated 30,000 vacant properties populate neighborhoods across the city.

And this is where we will intervene. If we accept that these lots are unlikely to be reclaimed by homeowners, given the new vulnerabilities and increased risks, what becomes of this land? Can this land do work for the city? Can it be tasked with overcoming or even alleviating the pressures placed on the city's infrastructure? Can the open space be converted from urban blight, a reminder of catastrophe, to opportunity?"

### FORMAT

PROJECT ONE: MAPPING AND MODELING - In the first project, we will explore the history of New Orleans through mapping and modeling. We will produce a set of documents that describe how the city has evolved, how key spaces came to be significant, and how those spaces are made functional by the city's infrastructure. In particular, we will focus on the spaces in the city that are compromised by environmental conditions.

PROJECT TWO: DESIGNING FOR CHANGE - In the second project, we will turn our focus to the city's vacant land. We will develop strategies for that land that move beyond private ownership and lot boundaries. We will put the land to work for the city.