

SYLLABUS

Class meeting times: *MWF Periods 7-9 (1:55 pm – 4:55 pm)*
Studio: *ARC 322*
Credits: *5*
Instructors: *Rob Holmes* *442 Architecture Building*
352-294-1445
rob.holmes@ufl.edu

Office hours: *MWF by appointment (email me)*
CANVAS e-learning Website: <http://ufl.instructure.com>

Course Overview

This is a course about reading landscapes. In it, you will learn a set of techniques commonly used by professional landscape architects to interpret and understand the landscapes they work in. You will also learn about various kinds of landscape systems, from land use and infrastructure to geomorphology and ecology. (Our entry point into these systems will generally be the landscape situations of the Florida peninsula.) Together, those techniques and this systematic knowledge will give you an entry point into a relatively unusual way of seeing and being in the world: thinking like a landscape architect. This mode of thinking is useful if you want to be a professional landscape architect; it is useful if you want to work in a related profession, such as planning, architecture, or building construction; but it is also valuable in many other contexts, because it will teach you to think spatially, temporally, systemically, and synthetically.

Course Objectives

1. Learn to read landscapes like a landscape architect, using a variety of tools and methodologies common to the discipline of landscape architecture.
2. Develop familiarity with the basic kinds of biogeophysical and human systems that landscapes are embedded in and constituted by.

Prerequisites

The course is open to all students.

Student Learning Outcomes

Content Knowledge

1. Integrate concepts from the general body of knowledge of the profession of Landscape Architecture in design decision-making.
2. Apply core professional landscape architecture skills in design decision-making
3. Apply ethical understanding to design decision-making

Critical Thinking

4. Combine and analyze information from multiple sources to support design decision-making.

Teaching Philosophy

I believe that landscape architecture is a valuable and exciting discipline. I aim to share this passion with students, so that they will be able to deploy the tools of landscape architecture in context of shifting

environmental, technological, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions. My teaching is grounded in my experience as a practicing landscape architect, but, in addition to helping students cultivate professional skills, I ultimately seek to help students develop the capacity to think like a landscape architect — a capacity which I believe is valuable well beyond the borders of our profession. In the classroom, I aim to cultivate in my students independent thinking that challenges both peers and professors, robust capacity to creatively deploy design through iteration, experimentation, and critical self-evaluation, and strong practices of self-guided exploration. To this end, I strive to be direct, responsive and transparent in assessment and feedback.

Course Structure

Usually, each week in this course will follow a simple pattern that repeats throughout the semester. (This structure will vary in response to things like holidays.)

On Mondays, we will learn about the various interrelated systems that comprise sites and landscapes. These systems will generally be organized by the various disciplines that study them: geology, hydrology, ecology, and so on. Each Monday there will usually be a reading due, a quiz that tests your comprehension of that reading, and a lecture that situates the material from the reading in broader context. Most but not all of the readings focus on Florida landscapes.

On Wednesdays, we will learn about some methodologies for reading the systems that we are learning about in the context of specific sites and landscapes. Over the course of the semester, there will be five such methodologies introduced. Each methodology will be associated with an assignment, and those five assignments will be the main evaluation instrument for this course. We'll explore the methodologies together through lectures and demonstrations before and as you work on the assignments.

On Fridays, we will have “workshop” days, which are an opportunity for you to work on the methodologies under my supervision. Occasionally we will visit a site on campus together instead of working indoors.

Instructional Methods

Assignments (75% of grade)

The primary means of evaluation in this course is a series of assignments that are each roughly 3-5 weeks in length. It is expected that you will be working on the assignment over the course of that time period; if you wait until the end of the assignment period to do the assignment, you will find yourself with too much to do and too little time to do it.

A01: Layers

A02: Fieldwork

A03: Transect and Grid

A04: Trace and Palimpsest

A05: Dynamic Systems

Readings and Quizzes (25% of grade)

Most weeks, there will be a reading due on Monday, related to landscape systems, and on Wednesday, related to site analysis methodologies. You will want to pay close attention as you read, because there will be a quiz (typically one short-answer question) on each reading on the day the reading is due.

Fieldwork (grade incorporated into Assignments)

In this course, we are learning about how to understand landscapes. This requires spending time in landscapes together, and so we will make a couple visits to landscapes (on campus) together, and you will make a couple more on your own to practice techniques discussed in class. Attendance on field days is mandatory. (Field days will be during regular course hours.)

COURSE POLICIES

Class Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation during all scheduled class times is required. A student may be warned by email after the first unexcused absence. Beginning with the second unexcused absence, a course grade penalty of one “rank” (A becomes an A-, B+ becomes a B, etc.) may be assessed at the instructor’s discretion for each additional absence. Continued unexcused absence is grounds for dismissal. Students must contact the instructor prior to class by email or handwritten note for an absence to be excused except in the case of serious personal illness, family emergencies, or similar extenuating circumstances by approval of the instructor or department chair.

Use of Information Technology

The use of laptops, tablets and smartphones is not permitted during lecture or discussion time, except in cases of emergency that would qualify as excused absences (serious personal illness, family emergencies, etc.). Research has consistently shown cognitive benefits to writing by hand. The use of information technology, including cell phones, laptops, and tablets, to enhance your learning experience (to look up relevant materials, to work on a drawing, etc.) is permitted and encouraged during workshop time. (You can expect that the instructor’s phone will occasionally be used during workshop for exactly these reasons.) The use of information technology in a manner that detracts from class purposes is not permitted at any time.

Submission of Student Work

All work should be digitally submitted through the course site on Canvas, formatted in accordance with departmental procedures below.

All student work may be retained and used by the Department of Landscape Architecture. Digital copies of student work for this course must be turned in at the completion of each assignment. No grades will be computed into the final course grade until digital submissions have been turned in as requested. Please follow the directions given by the instructor as to how they will be submitted. In cases of clay, built, and/or other 3-D models, digital JPG photographs should be submitted.

All files must be named as follows:

(Course#Name)(Project+Description)(Student-Lastname).(jpg)

Example:

2360PrinCLADiagPlnWeesner.jpg

4ch 8ch 8ch 6ch (ch = letter characters)

- Use CAPS for Separation
- Save images in JPG format at a maximum 200 resolution
- *No spaces, hyphens, or underscoring*
- Drawings submitted incorrectly or in an incorrect file format will be rejected and you will need to resubmit.

Texts, Software and Other Resources

This course will utilize UF's Canvas e-learning site. Announcements, an updated copy of the course syllabus, assignments, course resources, and grades will be posted to this site. It is expected that you will login to the site periodically to retrieve resources and check announcements.

Texts

There are no required texts for this course. Required readings will be made available through Canvas.

Digital Software

The use of digital drawing software in preparing assignments in this course is permitted but not required. You will occasionally need to refer to digital resources to complete assignments, and you may find that software such as Adobe Photoshop is useful for manipulating digital resources. (While not cheap, Adobe Photoshop is available at discounted rates through the campus bookstore. GIMP is a popular free and open-source alternative to Photoshop.)

Analog Equipment

While this is not a course about making beautiful drawings, this is a course about how landscape architects understand landscapes, and one of the most important ways that landscape architects understand landscapes is by drawing them. You don't need to be "good at art" in order to understand landscapes through drawing; you do need to be willing to learn, willing to put in effort, and willing to try to be precise. You will also need some tools:

- Architectural and Engineering scales
- Good pencils
- Good eraser(s)
- Good thin pens (Micron, PITT artist pens, etc.)
- Good thick pens (Pentel Sign pens, etc.)
- Small trace (12" roll)
- Good sketchbook (size may vary to personal taste)
- Drafting dots or tape

These tools are all available online, through sources like Amazon or Dick Blick.

UF POLICIES

Student Accommodations

Support services for students with disabilities are coordinated by the Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dsp.ufl.edu/drc/>). To obtain individual support services, each student must meet with a support coordinator in the Disability Resources Program who will work with the individual student and the instructor to determine appropriate support strategies. There is no requirement for a student to self-identify his/her disability; however, students requesting classroom accommodations must register with the Dean of Students Office. Appropriate documentation regarding the student's disability is necessary to obtain any reasonable accommodation or support service.

Academic Honesty

The University requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. When students enroll at UF they commit themselves to honesty and integrity. The faculty of Landscape Architecture fully expects you to adhere to the academic honesty guidelines you signed when you were admitted to

UF. In completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

"I understand the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

Furthermore, on work submitted for credit by all UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is to be assumed that all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project by the professor. This does not mean that students cannot help one another in learning material, but all work that is turned in must be independent work of that individual.

Misrepresentation or plagiarism, such as claiming another's work to be one's own, refers to graphic, images, and design work as well as written work. Submitting work from one course to fulfill the requirements of another (unless expressly allowed by the instructor) is also misrepresentation.

The University Honor Code and the Department of Landscape Architecture Academic Honesty Policy are to be followed to the letter. Any students found to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in any assignment will be punished according to the severity of the act and may be referred to the Honor Court. It is each student's responsibility to report any infraction, and it is expected that each faculty will report all infractions as well.

For more information, see <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html> and the Department of Landscape Architecture Academic Honesty Policy.

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. For a description of what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior see <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>.

Religious Holidays

The university calendar does not include observance of any religious holidays. The Florida Board of Governors and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays. Students shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith with prior notification to the instructor. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

University's Syllabus Policy

The University's complete Syllabus Policy can be found at:
http://www.aa.ufl.edu/Data/Sites/18/media/policies/syllabi_policy.pdf

GETTING HELP

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Counseling Resources

Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health is located on the second floor of the Student Health Services in the Infirmary. For further information on services and how to make an appointment, call the Counseling Center at 392-1575 or Student Mental Health at 392-1171. See the following web sites for additional resources: Counseling Center: www.counsel.ufl.edu and Student Mental Health: <http://www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm>

GRADING POLICIES

Course grades will be based on problem solving skills as they relate to the accomplishment of the objectives. Detailed grading criteria for each offering of this course can be found in the course handout for the specific instructor and semester. Grading will adhere to the University of Florida Grade Policy:

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric Grade	100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-0
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

For greater detail, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

As per department policy, Landscape Architecture Majors must receive a C or better to move forward. Any grade lower than a C will require that the course be taken over again.

Evaluation of Faculty

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	M: Systems	W: Methods	F: Workshop
01 8/24	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
02 8/31	Geology	Inventory and Layers 1	
03 9/7	Holiday: Labor Day	Hydrology	Inventory and Layers 2
04 9/14	Geomorphology A01 (Layers) due	Fieldwork 1	Site Visit 01: Campus Plaza
05 9/21	Ecology 1	Fieldwork 2	
06 9/28	Ecology 2 A02 (Fieldwork) due	Transect and Grid 1	
07 10/5	[LA NYC field trip] Execute fieldwork for A03.	[LA NYC field trip]	[LA NYC field trip]
08 10/12	Ecology 3	Transect and Grid 2	
09 10/19	[RH at conferences]	[RH at conferences]	[RH at conferences]
10 10/26	Biogeophysical Systems A03 (Transect and Grid) due	Trace and Palimpsest 1	Site Visit 02: NATL
11 11/2	Human Systems 1	Trace and Palimpsest 2	Holiday: Homecoming
12 11/9	Human Systems 2	Holiday: Veteran's Day	Trace and Palimpsest 3
13 11/16	Human Systems 3	Trace and Palimpsest 4	A04 (Trace and Palimpsest) due Dynamic Systems 1

14 11/23	Dynamic Systems 2	Holiday: Thanksgiving	Holiday: Thanksgiving
15 11/30	Human Systems 4	Dynamic Systems 3	
16 12/7	Human Systems 5	Dynamic Systems 4	no class
17		A05 (Dynamic Systems) due	