LAA 6656c Advanced Landscape Architectural Design
Fall 2015

Course Instructor
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Office 460 Architecture Building

MEETING TIMES & PLACE
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, periods 7-9
Architecture Studio #318

COURSE DESCRIPTION
LAA 6656c is a research-based, community-focused, social and human behavioral aspects of design studio that centers on design and planning issues of rising concern in the state of Florida.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Students enrolled in this course will explore the role of research in design to understand how evidence-based design approaches build towards defensible decision making processes and lead ultimately to design outcomes that both address the specific needs and reflect the diverse values of clients and user groups.

This studio taught collaboratively with Urban and Regional Planning, URP 6341, providing a unique opportunity for students to hone collaboration skills across disciplines.

PREREQUISITES
LA: Enrollment in the Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture and the permission of the Graduate Coordinator

ASSESSMENTS & EVALUATIONS
The course objectives are the basis for evaluating student work. In addition, students will demonstrate receptiveness *(ie positive attitudes)*, initiative and organizational skills as attributes of creativity and professionalism.

Work that consistently fails to meet proficiency levels or project deadlines will result in a course failure.

Student's performance will be assessed on individual accomplishments, contribution to group projects and active participation and engagement in course activities*. Attendance at all course meetings and field trips are mandatory.* Grades will be derived from assessments proportioned across the following areas:

Attendance and Participation – 10 %
Attendance, active participation and engagement during all scheduled seminars and studio hours is mandatory. Requests for excused absences will be considered when the request is submitted in writing by email to the course instructor at least 24 hours in advance of the class being missed.

Emergency excused absence requests may be made by emailing the course instructors PRIOR to the beginning of class and will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Requests received after the start of class will not be considered.

All absences must be approved. A single unexcused absence will result in a full letter grade reduction for the course. Three unexcused absence shall result in a failed evaluation for the course.

In the case of illness or a family emergency, a schedule for the completion of make-up work must be determined with the instructors as soon as possible upon a student's return to class. Failure to comply with the agreed upon schedule will result in a failing grade for that project.

Studio Projects – 90%
The overall studio project portion of the grade is comprised of multiple exercises and assignments throughout the semester. The weighting of each exercise and project will be identified on the individual project descriptions. Students are always welcome to meet with the course instructor to discuss their performance and success in the course.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE
This course is structured as a studio. Students are responsible for learning that is guided by the instructor through activities including lectures, seminar-style discussions, design and planning projects and exercises, and in-field visits to local sites (within 2 hours of Gainesville).

Expectations
The course plan for the semester includes lectures and/or discussions that will introduce and explore concepts, principles and approaches that will underpin all subsequent exercises. These lectures and discussions will typically happen at the beginning of the class on days appropriate in the sequence of project assignments. *Tardiness will not be tolerated.*

Any time not devoted to lectures and/or discussions is devoted to studio work *(working independently and in teams, in studio, during the posted class hours).* It is expected that you will be at your desk advancing the work of your projects and exercises for the full duration of the noted studio hours. From time-to-time, you will have an opportunity to meet with a studio instructor to discuss your work and to explore directions for advancement.

Please be aware that your day-to-day progress will be evaluated and documented. This evaluation determines a significant part of your final assessment for each exercise and project and for the semester in general.

Class discussions are not lectures. Students are expected to be prepared to participate and to make thoughtful, polite and respectful contributions to the discussions. Evaluations for discussion activities will be based on initiative, thoughtfulness, collaborative inquiry. You will also be evaluated on the basis of professionalism, which is based largely on evidence that you are engaged and interested in the topics and discussions surrounding these topics. Positive attitudes are essential student's success in this course.

Exploring ideas in Design and Planning
There are few absolutes in design and planning problems. "Solving" a problem means exploring options and arriving at a solution that best meets the objectives of the project but arriving at "the solution" requires exhaustive exploration. The instructor(s) and teaching assistant will assist you in your process and challenge you with different perspectives and alternatives. If you are confused or unclear about any direction you receive during desk critiques, please ask for clarification.

Developing Your Process
While it is essential that the studio develop and produce its "deliverables," developing your personal working process is also important. Pay careful attention to the development and advancement of your work from as the course progresses. The best students are:

- *organized about where they've been in their explorations*
- *articulate in communicating ideas during the process of exploration*
- *clear about how their work will contribute to the assignment's objectives*

Desk Critiques ("desk crits")
Be prepared and organized for your desk crits. Be clear and articulate about how you have developed your work over the course of subsequent crits. Have new work to present at each desk crit. Desk crits are not meant to give you the answers to design and planning problems, rather it is an opportunity to engage in analytical and problem-solving processes, and to challenge yourself to understand and master new

approaches and solutions. Instructors are not required to provide desk crits for students who are unprepared.

Desk crits are the time to demonstrate an overview of your project's development.
> *When a design is being critiqued, you should have a complete series of overlays illustrating the iterations of your design ideas. Each layer should be time stamped: simply write the date and time for each iteration in the lower right hand corner along with your name. Keep these layers clearly and chronologically-organized, free of tape and cleanly trimmed. As we advance through the semester, we will be helping you develop the habit of scanning these iterative designs as a means to help you focus your design inquiry, to sharpen your organization and presentation skills and to save you painful agony when it's time to pull a portfolio together.*

> *When non-design (text-based) plans are being critiqued, be prepared to articulate the overall problem that you are working on, and provide any necessary examples. This may require diagrams, text, and verbal description as well as rough sketches to demonstrate how various options affect the site. Be prepared to explain and demonstrate the steps you have taken in your explorations. It is essential that by the end of the course you be able to clearly explain and demonstrate how plans, codes, and standards translate to design options, and vice-versa.*

During at-desk consultation periods, the instructor will work their way through the studio as systematically as possible. We may use a sign-up sheet.

Please do not feel like you are being avoided if we miss you. If it looks like an instructor is likely to miss you as they work their way through the studio, please kindly alert them to this fact.

All students using the studio are expected to do so respectfully of others. Sound travels and can be very distracting to others. Please speak quietly and avoid calling out across the studio space. You may listen to music when in the studio but not during lectures, presentations, seminar discussions or critiques and only ever using headphones. Please ensure that the headphone design is such that the noise of your music cannot be heard by others around you.

Cell phones must not ring or be used during class times. If you have an <u>emergency</u> and must use a telephone, please do so outside of the studio (breezeway or balcony)

Care should be taken with the belongings of others *(ask before borrowing and don't borrow unless you have permission).* Also, know HOW to use what you borrow: it is very easy to destroy or damage studio equipment. Never use a scale ruler as a straight edge for drawing or trimming, for example. Never use a triangle for trimming.

Studio door combinations are not to be shared with anyone not formally associated with this course.

FILE FORMAT AND NAMING PROTOCOL
The Department of Landscape Architecture maintains an active archive of student work. This archive is required for institutional review and program accreditation.

Files submitted to the course sharefolder must follow a precise format and naming protocol which is detailed below.

File Format
Most of our work this semester will be limited to just a few file types. These include PDF *(portable document format),* DOC or DOCX (word documents) and JPEG *(image files)*

Unless otherwise noted, all image files are to be saved in JPEG format at original image size and a maximum of 200 dpi resolution.

All images must be rotated to correct orientation and labeled consistent with the protocol detailed above.

Naming Protocol
The file MUST be named in a manner that complies with the following protocol:

Last Name <underscore> First Name <underscore> Project Name <underscore> Project Title

Example:

Johnson_Jack_Design Concept_Sleep Through The Static

Note:
The Share Folder is not intended to serve as personal archive repositories. Students are individually responsible for ensuring that their work is backed-up at all times and that a full and comprehensive archive is maintained throughout the semester. This archive must be current and maintained up until a final course grade has been submitted to the office of the registrar *(typically with 2 weeks of our last class meeting).*

Student access to the share folder is tracked and monitored. While access to the drive is shared, the contents are not. Students are NOT allowed to access, move or otherwise alter other student folders or files under any circumstance. Violating this policy could result in serious consequences.

POLICY ON LOST DATA
All students are required to maintain an appropriate system for backing-up their work. Bizarre, unexpected and unfortunate events do happen and while we do not fault you for losing data, we will fault you for not having provisions in place for restoring that data. No accommodations can be made for lost data.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Students in the Department of Landscape Architecture are expected to adhere to all University of Florida academic honesty policies. Failure to do so will result in grade penalties and/or referral to the University Honor Court. Since the University's policies are necessarily generalized, the Department of Landscape Architecture further clarifies academic honesty within the specific setting of design education. The following acts are considered to be academically dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism/misrepresentation
There shall be no question of what your work is and what someone else's is. This applies to all aspects of student performance, including but not limited to
- CAD drawings and construction details
- design guidelines *(written and graphic)*
- design, planning, and management projects or portions of projects
- class reports and papers *(again, both written and graphic information)*
- any assignment where sole authorship is indicated, such as take-home tests, individual projects, etc.

Examples of inappropriate activities include:
- copying graphics for a report without crediting the original source
- representing someone else's work as your own *(using existing CAD construction details, tracing drawings, etc.)*
- allowing someone else to represent your work as their own

Given the collaborative nature of design studios, interaction between students is desirable, but the intention and degree of assistance must be appropriate. For example, it is appropriate to discuss the assignment / method / software program / course materials—but it is not appropriate to solve or resolve a large portion of the project together.

The importance of precedent and learning from past works is a necessary part of most design processes. Again, it is the intent and degree of "borrowing" ideas that is at question.

Anything not original must be paraphrased and cited, or quoted; using accepted style formats such as APA, MLA, Chicago Manual of Style, etc. This includes information obtained from the Internet, public documents, graphics, and personal interviews as well as more traditional written sources. Proper crediting of all information that is not common knowledge is necessary for academic honesty as well as for professionalism. *(For example, analysis drawings and/or text should cite the sources from which data was obtained so that if questions arise later, they can be quickly and accurately answered.)*

2. Multiple submissions of the same or similar work without prior approval

If the instructors understand that you are doing a paper associated with your thesis or senior project topic, then doing similar work for two different classes is acceptable—if the instructors agree to it. If a single paper is submitted for one class, then later is submitted for another, and the instructors expect original work, then the multiple submission is inappropriate.

3. Falsifying information
Examples include:
-   misrepresenting reasons why work cannot be done as requested
-   changing or leaving out data, such as manipulating statistics for a research project, or ignoring/hiding inconvenient but vital site information. *(However, for educational purposes only, certain aspects of the "real world" may be jointly agreed upon as not being pertinent to the academic goals of the course, such as not dealing with specific project parameters or budget, changing the program, etc.)*
-   altering work after it has been submitted
-   hiding, destroying, or otherwise making materials unavailable (hiding reference materials, not sharing materials with other students, etc.)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructors when requesting accommodation.

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.

TEXTBOOKS, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES
There are no required textbooks for this course. Materials and supplies as needed.

Recommended Texts and Reference are detailed below.

Reference Texts & Reading
To Be Advised