

SYLLABUS

Class meeting times: *T/Th Periods 2-5 (8:30 am – 12:35 pm)*
Studio: *ARC 213 & ARC 322*
Credits: 4
Office: *Rob Holmes* *442 Architecture Building*
352-294-1445
rob.holmes@ufl.edu

Office hours: *TWTh by appointment (email me, I'll get back to you quickly if I'm in)*
CANVAS e-learning Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/>

Course Overview

This course deals with the choreography of materials, technologies, and landscape processes, as those agents are organized to make designed landscapes, through the mediating instruments of professional landscape architecture, such as construction drawings, specifications, and maintenance protocols. This play between agents and instruments is central to both the structure and content of the course, which, as distinguished from introductory courses in landscape construction, is particularly concerned with the active agency of the things that we make landscapes out of—the propensity of landscapes to evolve, mutate, decay, erode, and grow over time. Formulated as a design-based investigation of this propensity, this course explores how these agents and instruments can be employed and deployed with design intent, so that design and construction are integrated and reciprocal, rather than treating construction as the realization of design.

Course Objectives

1. Understand and utilize basic professional standards for construction documentation in landscape architecture.
2. Develop an understanding of the interrelationships between materials, technologies, practices, and landscape processes.
3. Explore unconsidered and underutilized materials and technologies which might be deployed to make designed landscapes with novel formal and performative qualities.
4. Learn to incorporate questions of material agency directly into design processes.

Prerequisites

LAA 3240 Landscape Construction I
LAA 3241 Landscape Construction II

Students Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

- Integrate concepts from the general body of knowledge of the profession of Landscape Architecture in design decision-making.

Skills

- Apply core professional skills in landscape architecture.
- Produce professional visual, oral, and written communications.

Teaching Philosophy

I believe strongly that landscape architecture is a valuable and exciting discipline. I aim to share this passion with students, so that they will be ready and willing to utilize the tools of landscape architecture to advance both the discipline and the profession to cope with shifting environmental, technological, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions. In the classroom, I aim to cultivate in my students independent critical 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.

Instructional Methods

Garden of Material Experiments

This course will be run using an “atelier” model for studio instruction, meaning that we will work collectively to produce the primary product of the semester, which will be the design and technical documentation of a garden of material experiments. This project will develop over the full course of the semester, through a series of sequenced sub-components. Feedback for the garden will be delivered primarily in the form of “redlined” drawings, mirroring common professional practice.

Details

Each student will be responsible for the design and technical documentation of three details during the first half of the semester. These details will respond to the concerns developed through the weekly material thematics.

Reports

Each student will be responsible for making two short reports to the class on landscape technologies, material practices, and/or exemplary projects that relate to the weekly material thematics, selected from a list provided by the instructor. These reports will take the form of a verbal presentation supplemented by digitally-presented visuals.

Readings

Texts will be assigned throughout the semester of both technical and theoretical significance. Technical readings will be essential to our project work, but will not be directly discussed. Theoretical readings will be discussed collectively in a seminar format during certain class sessions, and participation during these discussions is both required and graded. Generally, students will be expected to arrive to each such discussion with at least one question and at least one comment about each assigned reading.

Fieldwork

Throughout the semester, we will return repeatedly to our project site for various on-site observations and analyses.

Travel

Schedules permitting, we will make a handful of short trips during the semester to visit significant landscapes of material experimentation.

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.

Required Texts

Zimmerman, *Constructing Landscape: Materials, Techniques, Structural Components*
(Birkhauser)

Thompson and Sorvig, *Sustainable Landscape Construction* (Island Press)

Digital Software

Within this studio, the use (and, in particular, hybridization) of digital and analog representation techniques will be strongly encouraged; however, it will not be possible to complete the course without use of digital software, particularly AutoCAD. The following programs are recommended:

ArcGIS

Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign)

AutoCAD

Analog Equipment

As this is an advanced design studio, it is expected that students have, at this point in their design careers, accumulated a sufficient supply of basic drafting tools and modeling supplies to produce analog representations, including both drawings and models. Students who are unsure what analog equipment may prove useful during the semester should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester for advice. Lack of tools will not be considered an acceptable reason to fail to complete assignments on time.

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 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.

Review Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation in all reviews for their entirety is mandatory. Absence from such presentations, including classmates' presentations, without a valid excuse, will result in the lowering of a student's grade for the reviewed project by a full letter grade.

Class Demeanor

Studios are public places. The studio doors are locked, however, it is also suggested that you store any valuables under lock or bring them home with you.

Please respect other students work. Due to tight quarters, it is especially important to keep spaces and common spaces clean. Also be mindful and respectful of playing music and other audio.

Many classes will include "desk crits" at each student's desk. It is expected that your desk be orderly and you have a scale, a roll of trace, and your sketchbook available when the instructor arrives at your desk.

Shop

Shop hours are 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM. All students are required to complete a shop orientation program. No power tools or spray paint, or the use of any other sort of aerosol spray, are allowed in the Architectural Building except for the spray booth found in Room 211 of Fine Arts C. Students found in violation of this policy will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action.

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.

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

Grades will be issued based on criteria delineated in project sheets for each assignment. The following metric will be used to establish grades:

- A Distinguished mastery of material, exceeding instructor expectations at most or all times
- B Good mastery of course material, occasionally exceeding instructor expectations
- C Acceptable mastery of course material, meeting all deadlines and deliverables
- D Unsatisfactory achievement, but which nonetheless demonstrates effort
- F Failing

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.

COURSE EVALUATION

Evaluation Projects	Weight
Garden	60%
Reports (2)	10%
Details (3)	25%
Participation and Readings	5%

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

A detailed schedule, including all readings, assignments, and other pertinent dates, will be provided through Canvas and continually updated throughout the semester.

Introduction

01 Site Visit and CAD Workshop

Agents

02 Substrate I: Soils and Sediment

03 Substrate II: Soils and Sediment

04 Substrate III: Plastics and Geotextiles

05 Skin I: Concrete, Asphalt, and Aggregate

06 Skin II: Stone

07 Structure I: Wood

08 Structure II: Metal

09 Species I: Fungi, Molds, Bacteria, and Lichen

10 Species II: Plants

Instruments

11-16 Garden of Material Experiments