

# Advanced Landscape Architecture Design: Environmental Planning and Design

LAA 6656C

6 Credit Hours

Spring 2016

Architecture Building, Room 411

TR, 8:30 – 12:35 pm

Instructors: *Margaret Carr*  
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Teaching Assistants: To be determined.

Office Hours: By appointment via email or as arranged during class

Course Website: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

Course Communications: Questions regarding this course may be submitted via email or during class sessions.

Required Text: To be announced

Course Description: This course introduces students to decision making at the regional and local scales using GIS and land use suitability analysis techniques, integrating considerations of conservation ecology, agricultural land use, and urban design and their influence on land use planning and design.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills: LAA 6382 and/or permission of the instructors. Also, the following abilities are highly recommended prior to entering the course:

- Ability to conduct site inventory, analysis, and synthesis
- Ability to articulate project goals and objectives.
- Ability to define/refine project programs.
- Understanding of design process and approach
- Sensitivity to architectural and urban built form
- Introductory understanding of policy impacts and implications on design
- Understanding of stormwater and green infrastructure concepts and projects
- Proficiencies in graphic, written and oral design communications

Purpose of Course: This design studio will introduce students to decision-making at the regional scale (county-scale and larger) using GIS and land use suitability analysis techniques within a group and individual setting. In the first half of the semester, working within a multi-county study area, students will define goals and objectives for future land use decisions as they relate to suitability for conservation, agriculture, or future urban land uses. These goals and objectives will be used to guide a regional GIS analysis to identify future suitability for each of the three land use categories within the study area. Students will then conduct individual projects in the second half of the semester based on the results of the initial regional study.

Course Goals and/or Objectives: The primary objectives of this course are as follows:

- To develop familiarity with GIS and GIS suitability analysis.
- To understand the influence of regional context on land use planning and design decision-making.
- To explore principles of conservation ecology, agricultural land use, and urban design and their influence on regional land use planning decisions.
- To understand how regional land use decisions apply to those made at a landscape, local or site scale.

Student Learning Outcomes: This course relates in the following ways to the student learning outcomes for the Master of Landscape Architecture degree:

Knowledge

- Demonstrate an understanding of issues of a study region, with a focus on urbanization, issues of transportation, housing, sprawl, green infrastructure, stormwater, and development patterns ranging from conservation design to urban redevelopment (infill, retrofit, TOD, etc.).

Skills:

- Articulate a research hypothesis and use the process of design to develop scenarios that address a research problem.
- Acquire process-focused skills that emphasize the evolution of scenarios and solutions through an iterative process leading to a defensible outcome or outcomes.
- Develop an understanding of values basis that dictates process approaches and leads through a rational progression to scenarios that reflect the values identified.

Professional Behavior:

- Independently-identify design process approaches.
- Refine project management skills.
- Enhance presentation and communication skills.

Teaching Philosophy: In this course we hope to foster a dynamic and collaborative learning environment for both students and instructors. Our goal is to guide students through the process of suitability analysis at a regional scale, while providing room for individual contributions that may enrich the process as a whole.

Instructional Methods: Course instruction will be primarily based on lectures provided during studio time and individual/group desk critiques to assess and guide progress.

**Grading Policies:**

Primary Tasks and Evaluation: We anticipate the following list of tasks and evaluation weightings for the semester.

Tasks	Percent of Grade
Task One – Develop a set of goals and objectives for the study area. (Group)	20%
Task Two- Use the goals and objectives defined in Task 1 to direct suitability analysis for agriculture, conservation and human settlement within the study area. (Individual/Group)	40%
Task Three – Develop individual or small group projects to focus on topics such as water restoration, wildlife corridors, ecotourism development, trail development, productive agriculture, transportation, or new sustainable urban infrastructure within the study area based on the results of the suitability analysis developed in the first portion of the semester. (Individual/Small Group)	40%

Grading Scale: According to Departmental 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. 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	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
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

**Course Schedule**

Schedule and Final Exam: A detailed schedule for this course will be provided at the beginning of the semester and will be updated as needed. The final exam for this studio will consist of a final project presentation with date to be determined. *Formal class meeting times may be subject to change and will be discussed at the beginning of the semester.*

**Course Policies:**

Attendance Policy: Attendance to class is mandatory. One unexcused absence is permitted. Each additional absence will lower the student's grade by 4%. Students are requested to contact an instructor if they will not be attending the discussion session. *Cell phone use is not acceptable in class except for emergencies and should be conducted outside of the studio.*

Assignment Policy: Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely fashion, as well as actively participate in the discussion and combined group tasks. Timely completion of all project requirements is expected. Late work will be penalized 4% per day unless there is an acceptable excuse for the late submittal. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted. The final presentation and all presentations leading up to the final presentation will be assembled using MS Powerpoint.

Course Technology: ESRI ArcGIS software will be available to all students at the beginning of the semester. *Each student is expected to have a minimum 300 GB external hard drive to store class GIS data and results.* All course content will be available through SAKAI, UF's online learning portal unless otherwise specified. Students may access this site at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> by logging in with their UF credentials. All assignments are to be submitted to Sakai unless otherwise indicated.

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 (Sakai, CD, PDF, word file, etc.). However, all files must be named as follows:

**course# name project student name. dwg/pdf/jpg/**

Example: 3352PlantDesAssig10Smith

4ch 8ch 8ch 6ch

Use caps for separation

No spaces, hyphens, or underscoring

In cases of models and other 3-D work, digital JPG photographs should be submitted.

### **UF Policies:**

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

\*\*Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. [Describe what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior – <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

### **Getting Help:**

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

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto: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.

Disclaimer: *This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.*