

University of Florida | School of Landscape Architecture and Planning

Department of Landscape Architecture

LAA 2330 – Site Analysis (3 Credits)

2014 Summer A | Course Syllabus

Prerequisites: None, Course is open to all students

Course Type: Online

Instructor: John Paul (JP) Weesner, PLA – Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Preferred Contact: jp444@ufl.edu

Alternate Contact: 407.421.3857 **TEXT-ONLY** (please include your name & LAA 2330 in the body of your text, example: “Hi, this is JP from LAA2330 and I was wondering...”)

Course Website: UF’s Canvas e-Learning website:

Office Hours (virtual): Please contact me via email or text to schedule an appointment (MWF) for the Canvas chat room

Course Communication: Chat room by appointment or direct email questions (email address above)

Course Reference Material (Purchase Not Required): LaGro, James A. (2013) *Site Analysis: Informing Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design, 3rd Edition*. John Wiley & Sons. Hoboken, NJ.

This book mirrors most of the course and will be very helpful throughout your career – it is also available online through the *Library with a valid Gator One ID (login first)*. Additional resources, such as videos and other pertinent readings will be posted online to the class website.

Course Description

This course is offered online through the Department of Landscape Architecture and is an introduction to the process of inventory, analysis and synthesis of information about a site and its context. Our purpose is to develop a knowledge base of natural and cultural resources and to develop an ability to effectively evaluate appropriate natural and cultural characteristics of a site and its context within the framework of a planning/design process.

Course Objectives, Learning Outcomes, & Expectations:

This course is intended to expand your knowledge of natural and cultural resources and user needs that directly affect planning, design and landscape management decisions. Through the semester, assignments will help develop and refine your ability to selectively inventory appropriate natural and cultural resources on site and in its context, develop and refine your ability to analyze the selected inventory data relative to key issues and program requirements, thus providing the wherewithal to organize and locate the proposed program elements and, often, to suggest additional program elements. Additionally, this course will examine site synthesis which will enable you to synthesize natural, cultural and user information through various methodologies used by the field of landscape architecture as well as many allied professions.

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Student Learning Outcomes: This course is introductory for the following student learning outcomes for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture:

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

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

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 able to utilize the tools of landscape architecture as both citizens and working professionals to cope with shifting environmental, technological, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions. In the (here virtual) 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: This online seminar course will introduce you to the extensive process of analyzing sites for planning and design. Students will engage in a discourse of the course content material through weekly discussions online moderated by the course instructor. Lectures, online videos, readings, and other course material posted online will give you unique perspectives on subject matter. This combination of multimedia information, recorded lectures, various assignments, and measured assessments will create an engaging atmosphere for active learning. Assignments of varying size and complexity (some done off-line within your own community) during the course of the semester will allow students to apply many aspects of the topics presented. There will be quizzes during the course of the semester that will culminate in a mid-term exam, given online. The final term project will serve as the final exam for the course.

Evaluation of Performance: Timely completion of all project requirements is expected. Late work will be penalized *five points per day*. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted.

1. **Quizzes (10% of final grade):** To ensure student engagement and participation in the online content & lectures, quizzes will be given throughout the semester. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped in the final grade calculation.
2. **Discussion (15% of final grade):** Weekly discussion sessions on Canvas will provide students with the opportunity to reflect on the topics presented during the week, as well as engage with other students enrolled in the course. The lecture content will vary from week to week and the discussions will reflect both aspects of that week's lectures and activities as well as your own

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personal synthesis and/or reflection on the subjects, perspectives, issues, and methods discussed.

The discussion guidelines are as follows:

- a. Post at least **one (1)** original thought (150 words or less) from each week; **AND**
- b. Respond to at least one post from another student.

The discussion boards will open on Monday morning of each week and close on Sunday night of the same week around 11:30pm – all posts must be within that time in order to be counted for full credit.

3. **Mid-Term Exam (25% of final grade)** – A mid-term exam will be assigned online and will include questions from each topic covered to date.
4. **Cumulative Term Project (50% of final grade)** – A term project will start in the first week of class and have interim assignment deadlines related to topics covered in the class and that will also build towards the next assignment. Each assignment will be graded individually, and then added together for the final cumulative term project.

Course Policies

Participation: Students are expected to complete all assignments, quizzes, and participate in the weekly discussion board in a timely fashion. Participation is monitored through the Sakai website and this is used to determine the final grading as detailed under grading policy.

Attendance: As this is an online course, there is no required attendance. However, the course has been constructed very similar to an on-campus summer course that would meet for 7-8 hours per week including homework. This means that there is roughly 8-10 hours of lectures, readings, quizzes, discussions, and assignments each week – including some that may take you to a library or to a local place. Please be sure to schedule the appropriate amount of time each week (8-10 hours) to devote to this class and the various assignments.

Netiquette – Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. A guide provided by University of Florida can be found here: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Course Content: All course content will be available through SAKAI, UF's e-Learning portal website. Students may access this site at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> by logging in with their UF credentials. Under LAA2330, links to the course materials will be available on the course website including the video lectures, sessions, assignments, activities, quizzes. All assignments are to be submitted to Sakai unless otherwise indicated.

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Getting Technical Help: For issues with technical difficulties for e-Learning on Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- On campus at HUB 132
- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- <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 the Help Desk 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:

- Disability Resource Center: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>
- Resources for handling e-Learning concerns and complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints>
- Library Help Desk support: <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/content.php?pid=86973&sid=686381>

Submission of Student Work: 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. All files must be named as follows:

- LAA2330SA_Project_StudentLastname.(docx/pdf/jpg/whatever)
 - Example 1 (one file to upload):
 - *LAA2330SA_SoilSrvy_Weesner.docx*
 - Example 2 (multiple files to upload):
 - *LAA2330SA_SoilSrvy_Weesner(1).pdf*;
 - *LAA2330SA_SoilSrvy_Weesner(2).pdf*
- *Use caps & underscores for separation*
- *No spaces or hyphens*

UF Policies

Counseling Resources: Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the University's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center (CWC) provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. The CWC is located at 3190 Radio Road. For further information on services, make appointments, and emergency or after-hour assistance call the CWC at 321-392-1575 or on the web at: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/> or the University Police Department at 321-392-1111 (911 for Emergencies)

Limitations: If a student has any limitations that might prevent him or her from meeting the requirements of this course, they are asked to notify the instructor.

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Student Accommodations: Support services for students with disabilities are coordinated by the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) in the Dean of Students Office. There is no requirement for a student to self-identify his/her disability; however 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 Instructor when requesting accommodation.

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 Policy on Academic Misconduct: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’”* The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Within the Department of Landscape Architecture, it is to be assumed that all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project by the instructor. 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 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.

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.

Online Course Evaluation: As per University of Florida policy, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on ten criteria. These evaluations are conducted online 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/>.

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Grading & Exam Policies

Grading: According to Departmental Policy, Landscape Architecture majors must receive a C or better to move forward. Any grade that is 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	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

Please see the Registrar's Grade Policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>) for more information.

Exam Policy: There will be one mid-term exam for this course. The mid-term is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 1st, 2015 beginning at time to be determined later.

Evaluation of Performance: Timely completion of all project requirements is expected. Late work will be penalized five points per day. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted.

- Quizzes (10% of final grade)** – To ensure student engagement and participation in the online content & lectures, quizzes will be given throughout the semester. 10 total quizzes will be administered, with the lowest quiz grade dropped in the final grade calculation.
- Weekly Discussion Sessions (15% of final grade)** – Weekly discussion sessions on Sakai will provide students with the opportunity to reflect on the topics presented during the week, as well as engage with other students in the course. The discussions are meant to reflect the weekly lectures and activities in the form of your own personal synthesis and/or reflection from the week. Students who participate in the weekly blogs and discussion sessions and provide thoughtful feedback and comments to other students will receive full credit for this portion of the grade. To participate fully, students should:
 - Post one original thought (150 words or less) from each week, **AND**
 - Respond to at least one post from another student.
 - The discussion boards will open on Monday morning of each week and close on Sunday night of the same week around 11:30pm – all posts must be within that time in order to be counted for full credit.
- Mid-Term Exam (25% of final grade)** – A mid-term exam will be assigned online and will include questions from each topic covered to date.
- Cumulative Term Project (50% of final grade)** – A term project will start in the first week of class and have interim assignment deadlines related to topics covered in the class and that will also build towards the next assignment. Each assignment will be graded individually, and then added together for the final cumulative term project due on Friday, June 19th, 2015.

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Evaluation/Grading Summary:

- 15% - Quizzes
- 20% - Weekly Online/Class Discussion Sessions
- 25% - Mid-Term Exam
- 40% - Cumulative Term Project
- 100% - Total

Course Schedule

The following is an overview of the course schedule, please check the course website on Canvas for more detailed information regarding readings, quiz times, assignments & due dates, and other pertinent material.

Week 1: Overview & Shaping the Built Environment

Week 2: Inventory & Analysis – Assessing the Physical Aspects of the Site

Week 3: Inventory & Analysis – Assessing the Biological Aspects of the Site

Week 4: Inventory & Analysis – Assessing the Regulatory & Cultural Aspects of the Site

[MID-TERM EXAM] Schedule online for Friday, June 1st, 2015 at a time to be determined.

Week 5: Synthesis – Typologies & Methodologies

Week 6: Applications of Site Analysis & Synthesis

[FINAL TERM PROJECT] Due for online submittal on Friday, June 19th, 2015 by 11:30pm.

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my 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.