

**University of Florida**  
**Department of Landscape Architecture**  
Year One Leveling Course: Summer Semester

**SYLLABUS**

**LAA 6349      Design Communications for Landscape Architecture    4 Credits**  
**CIRCA Lab, ARC 116   Meeting Times: Tuesday periods 3-5; Friday periods 1-3**

**Instructor**

Lauren Sosa, PhD student  
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**General**

Visualization techniques in landscape architectural design and planning, including traditional drawing conventions (plan, section/elevation & perspective) and digital communication and visualization methods.

This course introduces students to visualization techniques in landscape architectural design and planning. The course covers traditional drawing conventions (plan, section/elevation & perspective) and builds skills in digital communication and visualization methods along work-flow procedures that utilize commonly available tools such as PhotoShop, InDesign, SketchUp and AutoCAD.

**Course Objectives**

This course will advance students' skills in:

- Producing freehand sketches of imagined and perceived landscape space
- Producing effective analysis and concept ideas through diagrammatic graphics
- Producing communications that combine manual and digital graphic techniques
- Using digital technology to produce simple raster image manipulations (photomontage)
- Using a variety of computer applications to produce vector-based design communications
- Developing presentation skills employing both hardcopy and digital output strategies
- Using methods and applications in three dimensional modeling

**Course Outline / Content**

Student performance is evaluated on the basis of active engagement and participation in the activities of the course, evidence of skill development through exercises and final project in the identified subject areas. Exercises and the final project will be evaluated on the basis of timeliness, completeness, clarity of information presented, composition, graphic quality and creativity.

**Grading**

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	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

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

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.

### **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. 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

### **Class Attendance and Participation**

Attendance is required. In the event that a student is unable to attend class due to extenuating circumstances such as illness, or emergencies, the student shall notify the instructor prior to the start of class. Failure to notify instructor of an intended absence could result in a full letter grade reduction for the course. Two or more absences without notification will result in a failing grade for the course.

All decisions regarding approved or accepted requests for absence from the class shall be at the discretion of the instructor.

Due to the nature of the course, active and engaged participation is expected and contributes to the student's final grad in the course.

### **Policy for Make-Up Exams or Other Missed Work**

Late submissions are strongly discouraged. Late submissions will receive a full letter grade deduction for each day past the deadline.

If a student suffers undue hardship and is not able to meet a submission deadline, they may make a formal request for an extension to the course instructor prior to the deadline. The student must email the course instructor informing the instructor of the situation that warrants consideration for an exception (death in the family, serious illness documented as required by the University, etc.).

**IMPORTANT:** Accommodations will NOT be made due to lost data.

### **Texts, Software, and other Resources**

Software:

- Adobe Photoshop, InDesign & Illustrator CS5 (or higher)
- Rhino
- AutoCAD 2013 (or higher)

Required texts:

- Cantrell, B. & W. Michaels. Digital Drawing in Landscape Architecture. Wiley. 201

## Course Content

All course content will be available through SAKAI, UF's online learning portal. Students may access this site at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> by logging in with their UF credentials. Under LAA2379, links to the course materials will be available on the course website including the lectures, assignments, tutorials, etc. All assignments are to be submitted to Sakai unless otherwise indicated.

## 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.

## 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. Your instructor 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 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.

## Student Accommodations

Support services for students with disabilities are coordinated by the Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office. 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.

### **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](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu) and Student Mental Health: <http://www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm>

### **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.

### **Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 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>.

### **Disclaimer**

This syllabus represents our 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.

### **Schedule**

<b>Week 1:</b> Introductions and professional conventions	<b>Week 7:</b> Photorealistic Plan, Perspective, and Sections
<b>Week 2:</b> Drawing and sketching	<b>Week 8:</b> Photorealistic Plan, Perspective, and Sections
<b>Week 3:</b> Drawing and sketching	<b>Week 9:</b> Photorealistic Plan, Perspective, and Sections
<b>Week 4:</b> Basic graphic design	<b>Week 10:</b> Layout, presentation and InDesign
<b>Week 5:</b> Raster graphics and Photoshop	<b>Week 11:</b> Flex week
<b>Week 6:</b> Introduction to Google Earth and AutoCAD	<b>Week 12:</b> Production week and final presentations