

University of Florida | School of Landscape Architecture and Planning

Department of Landscape Architecture

LAA 1920 – Introduction to Landscape Architecture (3 Credits)

2017: Summer B | 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

Course Communication Methods for Online Students:

Preferred Contact: jp444@ufl.edu

Alternate Contact: 407.421.3857 **TEXT-ONLY** (please include your name & LAA 1920 in the body of your text, example: “Hi, this is JP from LAA1920 and I was wondering...”)

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

Course Website: UF’s Canvas e-Learning website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/328043>

Course Description

This course is offered online through the Department of Landscape Architecture and is an introduction of the profession and field of Landscape Architecture. The course is meant to instill an understanding of the profession of landscape architecture, a profession defined as an art and science of planning or designing on the land, arranging and creating spaces and objects in a landscape for human use. The course is open to all students.

Course Objectives, Learning Outcomes, & Expectations

Through a mixture of informative online lectures, activities, discussions, and projects, the course provides both practical and theoretical understanding of techniques in land planning and design. The purpose of the course is to provide students with a clear understanding of the profession of landscape architecture through a dynamic, interactive online format that focus on:

1. **Subject:** Understanding sense of place as practiced in Landscape Architecture: a design continuum of living landscapes from wilderness, to managed forests, to rural landscapes, to suburbia, and to cities, towns, and new communities.
2. **Scales of Concern:** This course addresses our built and natural environment from backyards to global processes, and everything in-between. Living landscapes shape human interaction with the world, and are in turn shaped by the application of planning and design.
3. **Issues:** Understanding issues facing our world today that drive planning and design decisions. These include sensitivity to place, including natural resources & the environment. Also addressed are social, cultural, & historical issues, and paradigm shifts in Landscape Architecture and the design profession in general.
4. **Method:** Through a mixture of informative sessions, activities, discussions, and projects – the course provides both practical and theoretical understanding of techniques in landscape architecture, planning, and design.

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.

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Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Content Knowledge** – Integrate concepts from the general body of knowledge of the profession of Landscape Architecture in design decision-making.

Teaching Philosophy

This online course will introduce students to the breadth of the profession of Landscape Architecture. Students will engage in a discussion of the course material through weekly online blog postings. Smaller projects (some done off-line within your own community) will allow students to apply aspects of the topics presented, and two larger projects, a mid-semester introspective project and a research based project at the end of the semester, will be presented via recorded video and posted to CANVAS for others to watch and comment. The combination of multimedia information, recorded lectures, various assignments, and measured assessments will create an engaging atmosphere for active learning.

Course Reference Material

There are no required texts for this class, however it is strongly suggested that you browse through the table of recommended books and essays, which are available at the **Architecture/Fine Arts Library**:

Landscape Architecture Theory, History, and Approaches		
No.	Title	Author
1	<u>Contemporary Japanese Landscape</u>	Process Architecture (1988)
2	<u>Contemporary Trends in Landscape Architecture</u>	Steven Cantor
3	<u>Design with Nature</u>	Ian L. McHarg
4	<u>Innovative Design Solutions in Landscape Architecture</u>	Steven Cantor
5	<u>Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories</u>	Matthew Potteiger
6	<u>Modern Landscape Architecture</u>	Ed., Marc Treib
7	<u>Nature and Ideology: Natural Garden Design in the 20th Century</u>	Ed., Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn
8	<u>The Landscape Approach</u>	Bernard Lassus
9	<u>The American Lawn</u>	Ed., Georges Teyssot
10	<u>The Landscape Approach</u>	Bernard Lassus
11	<u>The Landscape of Man</u>	Geoffrey A. Jellicoe
12	<u>Rethinking Landscape Architecture</u>	Ed., Ian Thompson

Landscape Architecture Projects and Practitioners		
No.	Title	Author
1	<u>Abstracting the Landscape: The Artistry of A.E. Bye</u>	Ed., Catherine Howett
2	<u>Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes: Her Gardens and Campuses</u>	Diana Balmori
3	<u>Dan Kiley: The Complete Works of America's Master Landscape Architect</u>	Jane Amidon & Dan Kiley
4	<u>Desvigne & Dalnoky: The Return of the Landscape</u>	Desvigne & Dalnoky

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5	<u>Gardening With Water</u>	James Van Sweden
6	<u>Garrett Eckbo: Modern Landscapes for Living</u>	Marc Trieb
7	<u>Kathryn Gustafson: Sculpting the Land</u>	Leah Levy
8	<u>Martha Schwartz: Transfiguration of the Commonplace</u>	Elizabeth K. Meyer
9	<u>Peter Walker: Minimalist Gardens</u>	Peter Walker
10	<u>Pioneer of Tropical Landscape Architecture: William Lyman Phillips in Florida</u>	Faith R. Jackson
11	<u>Roberto Burle Marx: The Natural Art of the Garden</u>	William H. Adams
12	<u>Sasaki Associates: Integrated Environments</u>	Melanie Simo
13	<u>Siftings</u>	Jens Jensen
14	<u>Ten Landscapes: Raymond Jungles</u>	James Truelove
15	<u>Ten Landscapes: Shunmyo Masuno</u>	James Truelove
16	<u>The Miller Garden: Icon of Modernism</u>	Gary R. Hildebrand

Additional Resources: Videos and additional readings will be posted online to the class website.

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 UF's e-learning website CANVAS.

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 3-4 hours per week and have homework. This means that there is roughly 4-6 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 (4-6 hours) to devote to this class and the various assignments.***

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 submitted as Portable Document Formats (PDF). Please name your file using the convention below and use caps for word separation and do not use spaces or hyphens (just underscores).***

“LAA1920Su_Project_StudentLastnameFirstInitial.pdf”

- **Example 1 (one file to upload):**
 - LAA1920Su_MemPrj1_WeesnerJ.pdf
- **Example 2 (multiple files to upload):**
 - LAA1920Su_MemPrj1_WeesnerJ(1).pdf
 - LAA1920Su_MemPrj1_WeesnerJ(2).pdf

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UF Policies

U Matter, We Care

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at [352-392-1575](tel:352-392-1575). The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

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.

Student Accommodations

Support services for students with disabilities are coordinated by the [Disability Resource Center](tel:352-392-8565) (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.

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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.

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>

Getting Technical Help

For issues with technical difficulties for e-Learning on CANVAS, 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>

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/>.

Student Complaint Process

Each online distance learning program has a process for, and will make every attempt to resolve, student complaints within its academic and administrative departments at the program level. If you are unsure about who to contact at the program level please email distance@dce.ufl.edu and a member of the distance learning staff will forward your complaint to the appropriate UF administrative authority. You can find more information here: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.

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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.

Evaluation of Performance

Timely completion of all project requirements is expected. Late work will be penalized **2.5 points per day**. Work submitted more than **one week late will not be accepted**.

- 1. Quizzes – (15% of final grade):** To ensure student engagement and participation in the online content & lectures, quizzes will be given throughout the semester. 6 total quizzes (one per week) will be administered, with the 1 lowest quiz grade dropped in the final grade calculation.
 - a. Weekly Discussion Sessions – (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 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. The discussion boards will open on Monday morning of each week and close on Sunday night of the same week around 11:59pm – all posts must be within that time in order to be counted for full credit.
- 2. Assignments/Projects – (30% of final grade):** The memory project, including your presentation will be assigned to help refine your understanding of the sense of place and test your ability to apply the course material presented. Other various assignments and activities will be given throughout the semester to reinforce understanding of the topics and concepts presented.
- 3. Research Project – (40% of final grade):** Following the Memory Project, a research project will be assigned that will further refine your understanding of the depth and breadth of the profession.
- 4. Mid-Term and Final Exams:** There will be no mid-term or final exam for this course. The Memory Project and Assignment will serve as the “mid-term” and the Final Research Project will serve as the “final-exam.”

Evaluation/Grading Summary:

- 15% - Quizzes
- 15% - Weekly Discussion Sessions
- 30% - Memory Project
- 40% - Research Project
- **100% - Total**

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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 due dates, assignments, and due dates, and other pertinent material.

Week 1: Overview & Landscapes through Time

Week 2: Issues in Urbanized Landscapes

Week 3: New Planning Approaches

Week 4: Landscape Conservation & Planning

Week 5: Cultural Issues & Areas of Practice

Week 6: Areas of Practice

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