

Fall 2019
LAA 6979

University of Florida Department of Landscape Architecture
Graduate Terminal Project Seminar

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Alpa Nawre, Assistant Professor
Office: 442 Architecture
Office Hours: By appointment, Email at alpa.nawre@ufl.edu

Class Meetings: Tuesday, Periods 2 - 4, Studio #320

Objective

LAA 6979 is the first half of your graduate terminal project experience. This class provides the opportunity for you to define the scope of your project(s); identify the appropriate process and methods for your project; and, complete preliminary work in preparation for your intensive efforts in the spring semester.

The Graduate Terminal Project allows students to undertake an independent project which focuses on a specific area of professional interest and, in the pursuit of that project, to demonstrate your competence to synthesize information across your education.

Embodied within this objective are the following, more specific, educational objectives:

- Students will take leadership responsibility, collectively and individually, for the scheduling and execution of their work within the basic course schedule of submittal and review deadlines throughout the year. Independent and creative thought is expected and encouraged throughout your project.

- Projects will be defined by specific research questions framed by a clearly articulated dilemma and thesis.

- Solutions will be developed through a process appropriate to each project articulated through research and process diagrams. Students will push the envelope of their abilities in pursuing creative solutions to their project and demonstrate strong conceptual thinking that is well-substantiated. In addition, application of scholarly methods with the intent of advancing the knowledge or capability of our profession through your study is expected.

- Exploration of issues relevant to contemporary practice of landscape architecture and planning as well as demonstration of critical thinking on projects that are socially relevant and ecologically sensitive will be central to all projects.

- The products - graphics, written and oral presentations - developed for each step in the process will demonstrate the student's knowledge of the process and provide an appropriate level of information for each step. The solution or conclusions for the project will clearly reveal the complete design and research process

Relationship to student outcomes

This course reinforces the following student learning outcomes:

- Design basic studies to address research questions.

- Demonstrate information competence at each stage in the research process.
- Develop a synthetic literature review and use it to frame a research problem.
- Use information and technology ethically and responsibly.
- Demonstrate mastery of research methods used by landscape architects and planners that are appropriate to their individual research project.
- Demonstrate mastery of graphic, written, and verbal communication of technical information in the student's professional discipline.

Performance

The grading for this course is S/U (satisfactory/unsatisfactory). To receive an S, students must

- a. complete a final proposal that is accepted by the faculty
- b. revise proposal as necessary based on faculty feedback and independent research
- c. complete satisfactorily the Fall semester work products (typically the majority of research and analysis)
- d. develop a working critical path for the spring semester that supports the proposal

Course Evaluation

The student's major professor/advisor will be evaluating the student performance.

Course Organization

Faculty in the Department of Landscape Architecture at University of Florida are serving as your Major Professors. In consultation with your major professor, you may choose one or two more committee members from within the Department or from other disciplines as pertinent to your topic. How you work with your major professor and your group is dependent upon major professor expectations, and specific project parameters. It is the student's responsibility to discuss this with the major professor to establish their expectations about format of work delivery, frequency of meetings and so on.

Your familiarity and compliance with these policies and procedures is essential to successful completion of your report and timely graduation.

Our class time will be devoted to four types of activities: lectures, student reporting, meetings, discussion and workshops. Committee meetings may require time outside of class to allow adequate time for you to present your progress at a time convenient to your committee members. These times will be scheduled at the convenience of you and your major professor and committee member.

All course information/management is on Canvas.

Resources

Resources required by your major professor

Software appropriate to your project

Project specific base materials and data

Project specific research

Booth, Wayne C., and Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. The craft of

research. Chicago: University of Chicago.

Hart, Chris. 2008. Doing a literature review: releasing the social science research imagination. SAGE Publications Ltd.

You may also find the following to be valuable resources:

Deming, M. Elen and Simon Swaffield, 2011. Landscape architectural research: inquiry, strategy, design. Wiley.

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein, 2014. They Say/I Say: the moves that matter in academic writing. W.W. Norton & Company

Kopec, DAK, and E. Sinclair, Bruce, Matthes. 2012. Evidence based design. Pearson Education.

Piner, Steven, 2014. The Sense of Style: the thinking person's guide to writing in the 21st century. Penguin.

Completion Requirements

The seminar meets once a week. Attendance is mandatory, and students are expected to be in class the entire time period unless other arrangements are made. Students are to contact the faculty member if they are unable to attend class in event of sickness or other cause. Please e-mail and let the instructor know before you miss class.

Timely completion of all assignments is expected.

A letter grade of S is required to pass the course and will be awarded based on the quality and completeness of work as specified in the proposal and specified work products.

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

NO DIGITAL DOCUMENTATION = "U" GRADE

Reasonable accommodation

If a student has any conditions that might affect meeting the requirements of this course, please notify the instructor. Reasonable accommodation will be provided upon receipt of a letter from the Office of Student Services detailing those accommodations.

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.”

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.

This and all LA courses are aware of the problems of plagiarism in general. HOWEVER, it is the nature of design to not reinvent the wheel unnecessarily, to creatively build upon successful precedents, and to collaborate. To work in a vacuum and demand strictly original ideas from oneself is highly unlikely to occur in any design field. So what is appropriate “building” and what is plagiarism? From the LA policy:

1. Plagiarism/misrepresentation

There shall be no question of what is your work and what is someone else’s. This applies to all aspects of student performance, including but not limited to:

- _ CAD drawings and construction details
- _ design guidelines (written and graphic)
- _ design, planning, and management projects or portions of projects
- _ class reports and papers (again, both written and graphic information)
- _ any assignment where sole authorship is indicated, such as take-home tests, individual projects, etc.

Examples of inappropriate activities include:

- _ copying graphics for a report without crediting the original source
- _ representing someone else’s work as your own (using existing CAD construction details, tracing drawings, etc.)
- _ allowing someone else to represent your work as his own

2. Multiple submissions of the same or similar work without prior approval

If the instructors understand that you are doing a paper associated with your thesis or senior project topic, then doing similar work for two different classes is acceptable - if the instructors agree to it. If a single paper is submitted for one class, then later is submitted for another, and the instructors expect original work, then the multiple submission is inappropriate.

3. Falsifying information

Examples include:

- _misrepresenting reasons why work cannot be done as requested
- _changing or leaving out data, such as manipulating statistics for a research project, or ignoring/hiding inconvenient but vital site information. (However, for educational purposes only, certain aspects of the “real world” may be jointly agreed upon as not being pertinent to the academic goals of the course, such as not dealing with specific project parameters or budget, changing the program, etc.)
- _altering work after it has been submitted
- _hiding, destroying, or otherwise making materials unavailable (hiding reference materials, not sharing materials with other students, etc.)

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 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.