

# landscape architecture site analysis

(online/asynchronous)

## course description

*Inventory, analysis and evaluation of site development procedures; emphasis on landscape ecology. (3 credits)*

**Prerequisites:** None, course is open to all students

**Course Type:** Online

### Instructor:

Andrea Galinski, CFM, Associate Scholar

(e): [andrea.galinski@ufl.edu](mailto:andrea.galinski@ufl.edu)

(c): 215-262-5523

(web): UF Canvas e-Learning website,  
<https://uflinstructure.com/courses/406133>

(o): 461 Architecture Building (meeting digitally unless an on-campus meeting is necessary)

(office hours): Please contact me to schedule an appointment online via Zoom

## course objectives, learning outcomes, & expectations

This is an introduction to the process of inventory, analysis and synthesis of information about a site and its context. Our purpose is 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, as well as 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.

### Student Learning Outcomes

The course is linked to the following department learning outcomes for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture:

- **Content Knowledge:** Integrate concepts from the general body of knowledge of the profession of Landscape Architecture in design decision-making; Apply core professional landscape architecture skills in design decision-making; Apply ethical understanding to design decision-making.
- **Critical Thinking:** Combine and analyze information from multiple sources to support design decision-making.

### Teaching Philosophy

I believe that landscape architecture is an 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 respond to shifting environmental, technological, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions. I aim to cultivate in my students independent thinking that challenges both peers and professors, 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 **asynchronous** course will introduce you to the extensive process of analyzing sites for planning and design. Coursework will focus on:

- **Online instructional content.** Lectures, online videos, readings, and other course materials posted online will provide unique perspectives on subject matter. This combination of multimedia information and recorded lectures will create an engaging atmosphere for active learning.
- **Discussions.** Students will engage in a discourse about the course content material through weekly online discussions.
- **Quizzes + Mid Term Exam.** There will be several quizzes given over the course of the semester, as well as a mid-term exam, which will be given online.
- **Assignments.** Several iterative assignments will enable students to apply the site analysis techniques learned in coursework to a location of their choosing. To conduct the site analysis, students will collect information both online (using digital data and [ArcGIS Online](#)), as well as in-person through site visits and observations. Please note that the final term project will serve as the final exam for the course.

### Course Materials

All course materials and resources, such as lectures, videos, and other pertinent readings, will be posted online to the CANVAS website.

***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.*



- **ArcGIS Online<sup>1</sup>**

ArcGIS Online is an intuitive geographic information systems (GIS) platform providing mapping and analysis tools. As part of the course assignments, students will use this platform to develop some of the site analysis course assignments. Access is available for free using UF GatorLink ID credentials.

- **Textbook (Optional)**

LaGro, James A. (2013.) *Site Analysis: Informing Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design, 3rd Edition*. John Wiley & Sons. Hoboken, NJ

- **The physical book is not required for the course.** However, this book mirrors most of the course and will be helpful throughout your landscape architecture career. It is available [HERE<sup>2</sup>](#) through the Library with a valid GatorLink ID

## course policies

### Participation

Students are expected to complete all assignments, discussions, and quizzes in a timely fashion. Participation is monitored through UF's e-learning website CANVAS.

### Asynchronous Online Work

This *asynchronous* online course has been constructed similarly to a regular 3-credit semester class that would meet for ~3 hours per week and have homework. In this case, all of the lectures have been recorded and posted online to be reviewed at students' convenience. However, assignments (such as quizzes, discussions, etc.) are expected to be turned in weekly.

**For us, this means that there is a total of ~9 hours of work required per week for completing lectures, videos, readings, quizzes, discussions, and assignments.** (One credit hour represents "not less than 1 hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of 2 hours out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester..." ([Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges<sup>3</sup>](#)). Please be sure to schedule the appropriate amount of time each week to devote to this class and the various assignments.

### Honorlock

Honorlock will proctor your mid-term exam for this class. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account, download software or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7 and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable Internet connection. To get started, you will need Google Chrome and to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension. You can download the extension at [www.honorlock.com/extension/install](#). Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them by live chat, phone (844-243-2500), and/or email ([support@honorlock.com](mailto:support@honorlock.com)).

### 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<sup>4</sup>](#).

### Getting Technical Help

For issues with technical difficulties for e-Learning on CANVAS, please contact the [UF Help Desks](#) at:

- On campus at HUB 132
- [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP (4357) → select option 2
- On campus at HUB 132

**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.

### Distribution of Materials on Canvas

The digital course materials provided on CANVAS (e.g., lectures, assignments, quizzes, etc.) are provided for personal study and are not intended for distribution by electronic or other means. Further distribution or posting on other websites is not permitted.

### 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 final grades will be issued until digital submissions have been turned in as

<sup>1</sup> ArcGIS Online: <https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-online/overview>

<sup>2</sup> Site Analysis Textbook Online (optional): <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ufl/detail.action?docID=1120063>

<sup>3</sup> SACS: <https://citt.ufl.edu/resources/student-engagement/ensuring-academic-rigor/>

<sup>4</sup> UF Netiquette: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> UF Helpdesk: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

requested. Typically, all files must be submitted as Portable Document Formats (PDF). Please adhere to each assignment's file submission guidelines.

### Online Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via [GatorEvals](#)<sup>6</sup>. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available here. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students HERE<sup>7</sup> as well.

## UF policies + resources

### Academic Resources

- [Career Connections Center](#)<sup>8</sup>- career assistance and counseling. Reitz Union, 392-160.
- [Library Support](#)<sup>9</sup>- various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- [Teaching Center](#)<sup>10</sup>- general study skills and tutoring. Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420.
- [Writing Studio](#)<sup>11</sup>- help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138.

### 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<sup>12</sup> 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.

### Limitations + Student Accommodations

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. Support services for students with disabilities are coordinated by the [Disability Resource Center](#)<sup>13</sup> (352-392-8565) in the Dean of Students Office. Students requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. (There is no requirement for a student to self-identify his/her disability to the instructor.) Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### 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](mailto: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. 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 + Wellness 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

<sup>6</sup> GatorEvals: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>

<sup>7</sup> GatorEvals results: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

<sup>8</sup> Career Connections Center: <https://career.ufl.edu/>

<sup>9</sup> Library Support: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

<sup>10</sup> Teaching Center: <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

<sup>11</sup> Writing Studio: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

<sup>12</sup> Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<sup>13</sup> Disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

students. The CWC is located at 3190 Radio Road. For further information on services, making appointments, and emergency or after-hour assistance call the CWC at 321-392-1575 or on the [web](#)<sup>14</sup>.

### **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.

### **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](mailto: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](#)<sup>15</sup>.

## **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 [UF Grades and Grading Policies](#)<sup>16</sup> for more information.

### **Evaluation of Performance**

Timely completion of all project requirements is expected; work is typically due by the end of each week (Sunday at 11:59pm), unless otherwise noted. **Late work will be penalized 2.5% per day.** Due to structure of the course, work submitted more than **3 days late** will not be accepted unless prior accommodations have been made. Requirements for making up missed assignments or other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found [here](#)<sup>17</sup>.

1. **Peer Reviews (5% of final grade):** Students will review their classmates' assignments and provide meaningful feedback. This is intended to provide an opportunity for critical evaluation of colleagues' work as well as reflection on their own work submitted.
2. **Weekly Discussions (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 personal synthesis and/or reflection on the subjects, perspectives, issues, and methods discussed.
3. **Quizzes (15% of final grade):** To ensure student engagement in the online content and lectures, quizzes will be given throughout the semester. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped in the final grade calculation. Please note that quizzes are due at the end of each week and may not be submitted late unless previous accommodations have been
4. **Mid-Term Exam (20% of final grade):** A mid-term exam will be assigned online and will include questions from each topic covered to date. (The mid-term exam will be conducted using the Honorlock<sup>18</sup> proctoring system.)
  - The mid-term is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, October 30, 2020 from 6:00am-9:00pm**.
- **Cumulative Term Project (35% of final grade):** Applying the information that you are learning in class is primarily done through a cumulative term project comprised of several site analysis assignments that explore a location of your choosing. To conduct the site analysis, you will collect information both online (using digital data and [ArcGIS Online](#)<sup>19</sup>), as well as other tools.
- **Final Project (10% of final grade):** A final project will be based on the cumulative results of the term project assignments and focus on site synthesis.

### **Evaluation/Grading Summary for Course:**

<sup>14</sup> Counseling & Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

<sup>15</sup> Distance Learning: <https://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

<sup>16</sup> UF Grades and Grading Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

<sup>17</sup> UF Attendance Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absencestext>

<sup>18</sup> Honorlock (via UF Warrington College of Business): <https://warrington.ufl.edu/covid-19/information-for/for-students/honorlock-student-guide/>

<sup>19</sup> ArcGIS Online: <https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-online/overview>

- 5% Participation (Peer Reviews)
- 15% Weekly Discussions
- 15% Quizzes
- 20% Mid-Term Exam
- 35% Cumulative Term Project
- 10% Final Project
- **100% Total**

## course schedule

The following is an overview of the course schedule and assignments:

Course Week	Weekly Assignments	Due Dates
<b>Week 1:</b> Course Introduction (Introduce Assign 1)	Discussion 00 Discussion 01 Quiz 01	Sunday, Sept 6 @11:59pm
<b>Week 2:</b> Site Planning Process	Quiz 02 Discussion 02 Assignment 01: Site Selection	Sunday, Sept 13 @11:59pm
<b>Week 3:</b> Base Mapping + Site Selection (Introduce Assign 2)	Quiz 03 Discussion 03 Peer Review 01	Sunday, Sept 20 @11:59pm
<b>Week 4:</b> Physical Inventory + Analysis: Topography + Geomorphology	Quiz 04 Discussion 04	Sunday, Sept 27 @11:59pm
<b>Week 5:</b> Physical Inventory + Analysis: Hydrology + Soils	Quiz 05 Discussion 05 Assignment 02: Physical Systems	Sunday, Oct 4 @11:59pm (Homecoming Oct 2-3)
<b>Week 6:</b> Ecological Inventory: Climate + Ecology (Introduce Assign 3)	Quiz 06 Discussion 06 Peer Review 02	Sunday, Oct 11 @11:59pm
<b>Week 7:</b> Ecological Inventory: Fieldwork	Quiz 07 Discussion 07	Sunday, Oct 18 @11:59pm
<b>Week 8:</b> Human Systems: Land Use + Regulatory Context	Quiz 08 Discussion 08 Assignment 03: Climate + Ecology	Sunday, Oct 25 @11:59pm
<b>Week 9:</b> Midterm Exam Week (Introduce Assign 4)	Mid-Term Exam (Fri, Oct 30) Peer Review 03	Friday, Oct 30 @11:59pm + Sunday, Nov 1 @11:59pm
<b>Week 10:</b> Human Systems: Infrastructure	Quiz 10 Discussion 10	Sunday, Nov 8 @11:59pm
<b>Week 11:</b> Human Systems: History + Culture	Quiz 11 Discussion 11 Assignment 04: Human Systems	Sunday, Nov 15 @11:59pm
<b>Week 12:</b> Final Analysis + Site Synthesis (Introduce Assign 5)	Quiz 12 Discussion 12 Peer Review 04	Sunday, Nov 22 @11:59pm

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<b>Week 13: New Analysis Technologies</b>	Quiz 13 Discussion 13	Sunday, Nov 29 @11:59pm (Thanksgiving Nov 25-27)
<b>Week 14: New Site Analysis Applications</b>	Quiz 14 Discussion 14 Assignment 05: Final Analysis + Site Synthesis ( <i>Final Project</i> )	Sunday, Dec 6 @11:59pm
<b>Week 15: Exploring Precedents + Conclusions</b>	Discussion 15 Discussion 16 Discussion 17 (not graded) Peer Review 05	Friday, Dec 11 @11:59pm <i>*note all work is due by the last Friday of semester</i>

Please check the course website on CANVAS for more detailed information regarding course content, assignments, quizzes, due dates, and other pertinent material.