Environmental Planning and Design Studio

LAA 4356

6 Credit Hours

Fall 2020
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30-11:30am Online

Instructors: *Tom Hoctor*
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Teaching Assistants: To be decided.

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Website: http://lss.at.ufl.edu

Course Communications: Questions regarding this course may be submitted via email or during class sessions.

Required Texts: Chapters from LUCIS by Peggy Carr and Paul Zwick, which will be provided in digital form through the class Canvas website. In addition, we will provide students with a copy of "Parks and Recreation System Planning: A New Approach for Creating Sustainable, Resilient Communities" by David Barth for use in this course as well.

Course Description: Design studio introduces students to decision-making and the regional scale (county-scale and larger). It builds upon the principles and technologies introduced in all the previous design studios. It also includes an emphasis on green infrastructure planning and design, including ecological and biodiversity conservation and recreation.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills: N/A. However, it is requested that all students attempt to install ArcGIS 10x on their laptops or desktops prior to the beginning of the semester. Having a working version of ArcGIS will be essential to work in this class, and we will work with you to figure out any installation issues once the semester gets started. Information on how to obtain and install a copy of ArcGIS is available here from the GeoPlan Center: https://www.geoplan.ufl.edu/software/arcgis-DESKTOP/.

Purpose of Course: This design studio will introduce students to decision-making at the regional scale (county-scale and larger) using GIS and land use suitability analysis techniques in group projects and then at the regional to site scale to inform the design process in individual or small group projects. Working within a larger regional study area (with Putnam County to be the focal county), students will develop GIS regional land use suitability analyses that will include conservation, recreation, and potentially urban and agriculture. Students will then work in as individuals or in small group projects in last third of the semester to apply the regional results and additional analysis to address design options for conservation and recreation associated with the proposed restoration of the Ocklawaha River.

Course Goals and/or Objectives: The primary objectives of this course are as follows:

- To develop familiarity with GIS and GIS-based suitability analysis and to apply these techniques to the process of inventory, analysis, and synthesis within a specific study area.
- To understand the influence of regional context and regional land use decisions on land use planning and design decision-making at a variety of scales.
- To explore principles of green infrastructure design and related conservation ecology, agricultural land use, urban design, and recreational needs analysis and design and their influence on both regional land use planning and site-level design.

Teaching Philosophy: In this course we hope to foster a dynamic and collaborative learning environment for both students and instructors. Our goal is to guide students through the process of inventory, suitability analysis, and synthesis using GIS at a regional scale, and then applying learned GIS and suitability analysis to individual or small group design projects in the last third of the course.

Instructional Methods: Course instruction will be primarily based on lectures provided during studio time, individual/group desk critiques to assess and guide progress, and feedback during group and individual presentations. All of these instruction techniques will be conducted via online interaction software using primarily Zoom and other applicable options for interacting online.

Grading Policies:

Primary Tasks and Evaluation: We anticipate the following list of tasks and evaluation weightings for the semester.

Tasks	Percent of Grade
GIS Exercises - Complete a series of GIS exercises based on in-class lectures to build understanding and proficiency in ArcGIS. (Individual)	15%
Task One: Inventory - Conduct basic regional character research and explore data for the study area. This will include exposure to the history and politics of Ocklawaha	25%

River restoration, character assessment techniques for the study area, and recreation needs assessment (Conducted in Groups of Students)	
Task Two: Analysis - Conduct suitability analysis for the selected study area including conservation, recreation, agriculture, and development suitability within the study area. (Conducted in Groups of Students)	25%
Task Three – Develop individual or small group projects to focus on proposed recreation and conservation facilities and features associated with a proposal to restore the lower Ocklawaha River in Putnam County.	35%

Grading Scale: 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. 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

Course Schedule

Schedule and Final Exam: A detailed draft schedule for this course is provided at the end of this syllabus and will be updated as needed. There is no final exam; the last graded assignment for this studio will consist of final project presentations to be scheduled prior to the beginning of the exam period.

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy: Attendance to class is mandatory. One unexcused absence is permitted. Each additional absence will lower the student's grade by 4%. Students are requested to contact an instructor if they will not be attending the discussion session. *Cell phone use is not acceptable in class except for emergencies and should be conducted outside of the studio.*

Assignment Policy: Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely fashion, as well as actively participate in the discussion and combined group tasks. Timely completion of all project requirements is expected. Late work will be penalized 4% per day unless there is an acceptable excuse for the late submittal. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted. The final presentation and all presentations leading up to the final presentation will be assembled using MS Powerpoint.

Course Technology: ESRI ArcGIS software will be available to all students at the beginning of the semester. **Each student is expected to have a minimum 100 GB external hard drive to store class GIS data and results. In addition, if you are using a Mac computer you need to begin the semester with the ability to run Microsoft Windows. Information for doing so can be obtained here**:
https://gis.harvard.edu/blog/installing-arcgis-desktop-mac

All course content will be available through Canvas, UF's online learning portal unless otherwise specified. All assignments are to be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise indicated.
All student work may be retained and used by the Department of Landscape Architecture unless otherwise explicitly requested otherwise by a student. No grades will be computed into the final course grade until digital submissions have been turned in as requested.

UF Policies

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php.

**Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. [Describe what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior –
http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:
 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.

<u>Disclaimer:</u> *This syllabus represents 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.*

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. 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://bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/publicresults/.

Recording Lectures

Lectures during our class sessions may be audio and visually recorded for reference for students who cannot make it to a specific class session and for related project work in the class. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.