LAA 6342: Landscape Architecture Criticism [Research Methods] (3 Credits)
Course Syllabus

Course Information

Instructors: Yi Luo, PhD, PLA
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Office Hours: 12:55 – 1:55 pm on T. However, please feel free to email me anytime with questions, comments, or arrange a meeting. I will normally reply to your email within 1-2 days.

Course Description
This course is a multi-faceted exploration of the role of research in the physical environment, focusing upon research methods in scholarship and practice, criticism, and decision-making. This course places emphasis on the understanding and use of research methods as a vital component of the design process as well as more traditional scholarship activities. Evidence-based design has become an increasingly vital component of professional practice, and the need for practitioners and researchers to explore and produce the "evidence" for EBD is clear in current literature, professional organizations, education, and practice. This course thus emphasizes defensibility and reasoning in making planning and design decisions—as well as how to ask the questions to find that "evidence". Through readings, lectures, and discussions this course presents major approaches and methods that impact various aspects of professional study and practice. Students will explore applications of these through projects and other assignments.

Course Format
This course will be organized in a graduate seminar format. The first hour of Tuesday's classes will be devoted to lectures; the second hour will be for class discussion and activities; Thursday's classes will be used for student presentations. Students are expected to complete required readings and be ready to participate in the discussion by the beginning of each class.

Course Purpose and Student Learning Outcomes
Upon finishing this course, each student with a passing grade will:

- Understand the differences and relationship between research and design.
- Be familiar with academic literature sources and the process of publication.
- Be familiar with basic vocabulary and issues.
- Demonstrate ability to define a research problem and planning a research project.
- Be able to locate and use credible research to guide research and design project.
- Recognize the differences among research methods.

Evaluation and Grading
Grades are calculated based on the specific grading rubric included as part of each project or assessment. In general, the breakdown of weights for grades will be as follows:

Article Review (10)	25%
Leading Online Discussion	10%
Participating in Online Discussion	15%
2- Page Research Proposal	20%
Research Project	15%
Participating in 1 Defense and the MLA Final Presentations or Participating in 5 Defenses	5%
Exam	10%
Total	**100%**

Final grades will be calculated based on a weighted average of all work through the course of the semester. Grading will adhere to the University of Florida Grade Policy:

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
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

For greater detail, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Course Requirements

Article Review Assignment: Article reviews will be submitted via Canvas by 12:00 pm on Thursdays. From week1 to week11, every student will review one article per week in his/her interested research area and summarize it briefly. This assignment is expected to help you develop literature review for the GTP proposal. The review must address the background and objectives (1 paragraph), main methods (1 paragraph), key results (1-2 paragraphs), and your overall opinion of the paper (1-2 paragraphs). Use the following questions as a guideline for your review

- What is the major research problem of this study? What is the purpose of the study?
- What is the significance of the study?
- What are the major methods used to address the problem? Are there any problems with the methodology?
- What are the key results of the study? Are they clearly presented and relevant to the question?
- Does the discussion stick to the results?
- Overall, was this a worthwhile article to read? Did you learn anything?

Online Discussion: Each week (wk1 – wk11), one student will be responsible for writing a synopsis (300-500 words) of the reading materials, providing 4-7 effective questions that encourage in-depth discussion of the topic, and moderating online discussion. The participating students need to read the assigned materials and participate in the discussion online. Each student should respond to at least 3 questions and comment on 3 other posts.

Research Projects: Students will work in a team of 2 on one research project to obtain hands-on experience with research methods. The project can be of students' own choice with instructors' approval. All research teams need to meet with the instructor before March 12, 2020 to finalize the research topic and methods.

Research Proposal: By the end of the Week 12, each student will develop a 2-page research proposal, outlining his/her thesis research plan. The proposal should include the following contents:

- Project title + type
- Background introduction
- Preliminary literature review
- Research problem
- Proposed research/design approach and methods/strategies to be employed

Proposal: 2 page, single-spaced, font size 11 or 12.

In the following three weeks (Week 13, 14, 15) students need to reach out to faculty to discuss the research proposal and the potential to be your committee chair.

Examination: We will have one open-book timed exams at the end of the semester. The examination will be comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions, encompassing the material cover in the semester.

Defense and Friday Presentation: Every student needs to attend one GTP defense and the last Friday Presentation.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance (and participation) is mandatory. Excused absences should be discussed prior to the class time in question. If field trips or other school-related activities affect participation, please alert the instructor in a timely manner so that suitable arrangements can be made.

Class Demeanor

Assignments and readings will be disseminated via Canvas. Thus it is imperative that students regularly check their gator link accounts. Students are expected to participate. Engage in discussions, ask questions, listen thoughtfully and respectfully to all other participants.

Cell Phones and Technology

As a matter of professionalism and courtesy, please turn off cell phones and other communication/entertainment devices prior to the beginning of class. Notify instructor in advance if you are monitoring an emergency, for which cell phone ringers should be switched to vibrate.

Policy for Make-Up Exams or Other Missed Work

Late penalties for readings and assignments are 10 % a day, beginning when the assignment is due. Make-up exams are possible only with a doctor's excuse or similar proof of extenuating circumstances, and the instructor should be e-mailed as soon as you know there will be a problem getting to class

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. All files must be named as follows: course# name project student name. dwg/pdf/jpg/

 Example: 6342ResaMethArtiRevSmith
         4ch 8ch   8ch   6ch
- Use caps for separation
- No spaces, hyphens, or underscoring

Required Text:

Leedy, P.D. & Ormrod, J.E. (2016). Practical Research: Planning and Design (11th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Merrill Prentice Hall. Weekly-required reading will be posted on Canvas.

Deming, M.E. & Swaffield, S. (2011). Landscape Architectural Research: Inquiry, Strategy, Design. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons. Inc.

Honor Code and 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 graphics 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 a 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.

Academic Honesty Issues for This Class

All work is expected to meet the usual standards of academic honesty as stated by the University of Florida and by the Department of Landscape Architecture's Academic Honesty Policy. *While this is important in all classes, it is particularly important in courses that emphasize research*. If you are uncertain as to proper citation and referencing formats, please refer to an accepted resource. Also, understand the definitions of plagiarism and misrepresentation.

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code. The Academic Honor System of the University of Florida is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility to:

1. Uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work,
2. Refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity, and
3. Foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community.

To underscore some of the most pertinent Honor Code points as they relate to papers, projects, and assignments… **Everything that is not common knowledge must be referenced**. All such material must be paraphrased and cited, or quoted according to an accepted format.   The responsible and correct citation also includes properly identifying and citing graphics that are not your own work. Redrawn or traced graphics, as well as any cut-and-paste digital graphics or tables, should cite the author, text and page number or website. **All information, including tables and graphics, that are not original will be referenced or the grade will be dropped according to the number and severity of problems**. Poor citation (done, but not well) may result in loss of one letter grade. If really severe, the UF Honor Court may become involved, the assignment may get a failing grade or both...

There are no specific required bibliographic or citation *formats* for this class unless specifically directed in the assignment. Generally, any academically accepted format is fine; however, it is strongly advised that you familiarize yourself with the Graduate School Guide for Preparing Theses and Dissertations and the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.) and use those.

A simple and very acceptable example for most assignments is (author's last name, page number) in the text, with full data in the bibliography. A bibliography is required of all assignments. This is useful to you—not to the instructor.

Special 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.

Online Course Privacy

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. 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.

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. 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://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LAA 6342: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CRITISISM – SPRING – 2021

* The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus as needed.

Schedule

TBD - to be determined
Reading should be finished by the beginning of the class on the dates specified below
[D] - digital copy due on Canvas by 12:00 pm
[DD] - online discussion due on Canvas by 12:00 pm on Saturdays (same week)
[H] - hard copy due at the beginning of the class

Wk	Date	Day	Lecture	Activity	Reading	Due
1	1/12	T	Introduction: The nature of research	Assign students presentation		
	1/14	R		Lighting Round - Faculty's expertise and interests	Milburn & Brown, 2003 Demine & Swaffield (2011) Chpater 4	[D] ArtRev 1 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 1 [DD] Group discussion 1
2	1/19	T	Lec 01: The problem: The heart of the research process	Exercise: defining research question		
	1/21	R			Demine & Swaffield (2011) Chpater 2	[D] ArtRev 2 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 2 [DD] Group discussion 2
3	1/26	T	Lec 02: Review of the related literature	Exercise: literature review plan		
	1/28	R			Boot & Beile, 2005	[D] ArtRev 3 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 3 [DD] Group discussion 3
4	2/2	T	Lec 03: Planning your resesrach project & writing the research proposal	Exercise: refine research questions		
	2/4	R			Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2004	[D] ArtRev 4 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 4 [DD] Group discussion 4
5	2/9	T	Lec 04: Quantitative Research	Exercise		
	2/11	R			Cosco et al., 2010 Ghavampour et al., 2017	[D] ArtRev 5 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 5 [DD] Group discussion 5
6	2/16	T	Lec 05: Survey	TBD		

	2/18	R			Gosling et al., 2004	[D] ArtRev 6 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 6 [DD] Group discussion 6
7	2/23	T	Lec 06: Experimental and Ex Post Facto Designs	TBD		
	2/25	R			Demine & Swaffield (2011) Chpater 7	[D] ArtRev 7 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 7 [DD] Group discussion 7
8	3/2	T	Lec 07: Qualitative Research [Guest Lecture]	TBD		
	3/4	R			Demine & Swaffield (2011) Chpater 9	[D] ArtRev 8 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 8 [DD] Group discussion 8
9	3/9	T	Lec 08: Landscape Performance	Exercise		
	3/11	R			Brown & Correy, 2011 Demine & Swaffield (2011) Chpater 10	[D] ArtRev 9 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 9 [DD] Group discussion 9
10	3/16	T	Proposal Development	Proposal Development		
	3/18	R		Proposal Development		[D] ArtRev 10 [D] Online Discussion Synopsis 10 [DD] Group discussion 10
11	3/23	T	Proposal Development	Proposal Development		
	3/25	R		Proposal Development		**[D] 2-Page Proposal**
12	3/30	T				
	4/1	R				
13	4/6	T	Research Project [Team]			
	4/8	R				
14	4/13	T				
	4/15	R	Research Project Presentation			[D][H] Presentation poster 1 per team [D] Research Project Abstract for CELA
15	4/20	T	Exam			