

landscape architecture site analysis

(online)

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:

Michael Volk, Research Assistant Professor

(e): mikevolk@ufl.edu

(web): UF Canvas e-Learning website,

<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/429743>

(o): 438 Architecture Building

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

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 information to organize and locate the proposed program elements or suggest additional 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 teaching and learning are cooperative processes, where instructors can learn from students, and students can learn from each other. I also believe that courses must be engaging and applied to the maximum degree possible, so that students will have the opportunity to consider their design decisions within a real world context. To this end, we aim to provide information in this course that will be directly relevant towards the future profession of landscape architecture, and that will equip students to address changing social, cultural, technological, and environmental paradigms in their future professions.

Instructional Methods

This online 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

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recorded lectures will create an engaging atmosphere for active learning.

- **Discussions.** Students will engage in a discourse of 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 online (using digital data and [ArcGIS Online](#)¹) as well as other tools. 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.



- **ArcGIS Online**¹
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
 - o **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](#)² 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.

Online Work

As this is an asynchronous online course, there is no required class attendance. The Summer course has been constructed to compress a 3-credit, 15-week class from a Fall semester into a 6-week Summer semester course. (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](#)³). This means that, for a typical Fall semester class, there is a total of ~9 hours of work required per week. **For a Summer class, there are ~22.5 hours/week of lectures, readings, quizzes, discussions, and assignments each week.** Please be sure to schedule the appropriate amount of time each week to devote to this class and the various assignments.

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](#)⁴.

Getting Technical Help

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

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

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

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

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For issues with technical difficulties for e-Learning on CANVAS, please contact the [UF Help Desk](#)⁵ at:

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

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 requested. *Typically, all files must be submitted as Portable Document Formats (PDF). Please adhere to assignment 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](#)⁶. 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](#)⁷ as well.

UF policies + resources

Academic Resources

- [Career Connections Center](#)⁸- career assistance and counseling. Reitz Union, 392-160.
- [Library Support](#)⁹- various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- [Teaching Center](#)¹⁰- general study skills and tutoring. Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420.
- [Writing Studio](#)¹¹- 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](#)¹² specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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](#)¹³ (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 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 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](#)¹⁴.

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

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

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

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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](#)¹⁵.

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](#)¹⁶ 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 the compressed nature of the summer semester, 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](#)¹⁷.

- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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 made.
- 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. (There will be no attendance or proctoring required.)
 - The mid-term is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, June 4, 2021 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](#)¹⁸), as well as other tools.
- Final Term 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.

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

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

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

¹⁸ ArcGIS Online: <https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-online/overview>

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Evaluation/Grading Summary for Online Course:

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

course schedule

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

Course Week	Weekly Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1: Overview <i>Course Overview, Shaping the Built Environment, + Site Selection</i>	Assignment 01: Site Selection Quiz 01: Site Planning Process, Base Mapping + Site Selection Discussion 01: Introductions Discussion 02: Site Planning Process + Base Mapping	Sunday, May 16 @11:59pm
Week 2: Physical Inventory <i>Topography, Geomorphology, Hydrology, + Soils</i>	Assignment 02: Physical Characteristics Quiz 02: Topography, Geomorphology, Hydrology + Soils Discussion 03: Topography, Geomorphology, Hydrology + Soils Peer Review: Assign 01	Sunday, May 23 @11:59pm
Week 3: Biological Inventory <i>Climate, Ecology, + Fieldwork</i>	Assignment 03: Climate, Ecology + Soils Quiz 04: Climate + Ecology Discussion 04: Climate, Ecology + Site Visits Peer Review: Assign 02	Sunday, May 30 @11:59pm
Week 4: Human Systems <i>Cultural + Historical Context</i>	Mid-Term Exam (<i>inclusive of Week4 material</i>)	Friday, June 4 @9:00pm
	Assignment 04: Zoning, Infrastructure, + Cultural Resources Quiz 04: Land Use, Regulation, Culture + History Discussion 05: Land Use, Regulation + Sense of Place Peer Review: Assign 03	Sunday, June 6 @11:59pm
Week 5: Site Synthesis <i>Final Analysis + Site Synthesis</i>	Assignment 05: Final Analysis + Site Synthesis Quiz 05: Site Synthesis Discussion 06: Site Synthesis Peer Review: Assign 04	Sunday, June 13 @11:59pm
Week 6: Conclusions <i>Exploring Precedents + Conclusions</i>	Discussion 07: Exploring Precedents + Conclusions Peer Review: Assign 05	Friday, June 18 @1:00pm

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

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