

Planting Design Studio

LAA 3352c_Fall 2021

Credits: 5

Times: MWF 7th-9th period, 1:55-4:55pm

Location: 320 & 318 ARCH

Instructors: *Michael Volk*
Research Assistant Professor
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Office Hours: By appointment via email

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

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

Course Description:

Planting design is one of the foundational skills in the profession of landscape architecture, a combination of fine art and technology, with unique spatial and temporal qualities. The planting design studio introduces the planting design process, its relationship to the site planning, existing site conditions, project locale and client needs. This studio will explore the art and technology of plants with consideration of various scales of sites and site ecosystems; designs for human use; and with consideration for sustainable design and landscape management practices.

Planting design is a blend of garden design and fine art. But because landscape compositions are a synthesis of a site's environmental technologies (ecosystem, soil, water and microclimate), the intended human functions/uses, and a dynamic system of experiences that evoke appreciation and memory, this art form is an especially complex one to be truly successful – especially over time.

The art of planting design is especially rich in its connection to painting, sculpture, and dance. Each scene in the landscape is a composition of color, form, texture, with the addition of sensory characteristics. Different from painting, though, this art is sculptural – composed of three-dimensional forms of a wide variety of materials. It is also akin to dance – experienced from many positions as one moves through the site – and at both macro and micro scales. And most unique of all, the landscape and experience changes over the course of minutes, hours, days, season and ages.

This course will focus attention on the act of design, the importance of a meaningful and defensible concept, the choreography of moving throughout the design, experiences of climate and time, and the importance of the natural systems of site, ecosystem and planted design.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills:

ORH 3513C Ornamental Plant Material

LAA 2376c & LAA2379c Design Communications

LAA 2360c Principles of Landscape Architecture

Corequisite: BOT3151C, LAA 3420

Fees:

A mandatory field trip is likely to be part of the curriculum of this course (in conjunction with LAA3420 – Landscape Construction 1). The anticipated destinations for the trip are Portland and Seattle. An estimate of trip costs will be provided at the beginning of the semester. Additional potential fees include a fee for submission to the Florida Association of Native Nurseries Annual Design Competition, and expenses for possible site visits for studio projects. If payment of these expenses is problematic, students should speak to the instructor immediately. Additional fees, as described on the UF Schedule of Courses website will also be required.

Purpose of Course:

The organization of this course focuses on exploring planting design in a variety of ways. We will seek a foundation in the art elements and their compositions. We will explore design in several scales and genres, though we will focus on smaller to moderate size sites. The goal is to expose the student to the richness of this design genre, while providing a foundation that can be used beyond this semester and well into one's practice.

Course Objectives:

The primary objectives of this course are for students to develop an understanding of the following topics:

- An understanding of principles of art and design as they apply to planting design
- An understanding of functional and aesthetic value of plants in design
- An understanding of the relationships between planting design, ecology, hydrology and sustainability
- An understanding of the critical role of water in the landscape
- An understanding of landscape maintenance and its relationship to planting design
- An ability to produce accurate and professional quality planting plans

Course Structure:

Course instruction is primarily based on lectures, group discussions, assigned readings and exercises, individual/team projects, and formal presentations. This course is structured as a studio. We have found great success in interactive teaching, where students are highly engaged and assist in teaching each other using a collaborative approach within the studio. Students are responsible for learning that is guided by the instructor through desk-critiques, pin-ups,

presentations, site visits, and in-studio working sessions which allow ample time for progression and production activities.

Course Policies:

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is mandatory. Three (3) unexcused absences are permitted. Each additional absence will lower the student's grade by 2%. Students are required to contact the instructor via e-mail , prior to the class they will be missing, with supporting documentation.

This is a studio-based course which means verbal participation is also required. Students must participate in class discussions, reading discussions, and critical review discussions.

Class Demeanor:

- Studios are public places. The studio doors are locked, however, it is also suggested that you store any valuables under lock and key or bring them home with you.
- Cell phones must be turned off during class.
- Please respect other students' work. Due to the tight quarters in the studios, it is especially important to keep spaces and common spaces clean. Also be mindful and respectful of playing music and other audio.
- Many classes will include “critiques” at each student’s desk. It is expected that your desk be orderly and you will have a scale, a roll of trace, and your work/drawings/models available when the instructor arrives at your desk.

Course Technology:

All course content will be available through Canvas, UF’s online learning portal unless otherwise specified. Students may access this site at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> by logging in with their UF credentials. All assignments are to be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise indicated.

It is each students’ responsibility to be diligent in regularly backing up their computer files to a separate hard drive, flash drive or cloud-type storage. Weekly back-up is the recommended minimum frequency. Failing to do so is not considered an acceptable excuse to warrant an extension on a project deadline.

Students are expected to maintain a fully functioning email account for the entirety of the semester as this will be a critical form of communication. Daily review of email is expected if a notice is needed to be delivered to the class.

Assignments:

Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely fashion, as well as actively participate in class discussions. Required readings must be completed prior to class. Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late work will be penalized 4% per day unless there is an acceptable excuse for the late submission. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted. Assignments will be due at 1pm on the assigned deadline unless otherwise specified.

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 via Canvas. 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 (Canvas, 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.

Grading Policies:**Primary Tasks and Evaluation:**

Evaluation will be based on a combination of attendance, participation and performance in in-class activities and exercises, and studio project assessments. A list of primary projects, and weights is provided below:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Percent of grade</i>
Participation	10%
Discussions/Readings	5%
West Coast Trip Assignment	15%
Project 1	15%
Project 2	15%
Project 3	15%
Project 4	25% (Divided among final and interim product submissions)

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

Required Course Readings:

A list of required course readings will be provided at the start of the semester. All required readings will be available via the UF Library, ARES, or Canvas.

Recommended Course Readings:

Planting Design:

- Reed and Stibolt (2018): Climate-wise Landscape Design
- Rainer and West (2015): Planting in a Post-Wild World
- Van Sweden, James (2011): The Artful Garden
- Myers, Mary: Andrea Cochran: Landscapes
- Oudolf Piet Oudolf: Landscapes in Landscapes
- Brian Clouston: Landscape Design with Plants

Plant Technology:

- Nelson, Gil (2008) Florida’s Best Native Landscape Plants
- Odenwald, N. and Turner, James (2000) Identification and Use of Southern Plants for Landscape Design, 3rd edition, Claitor’s Publishing
- Watkins, Florida Landscape Plants
- Gilman, Florida Plant Guide Betrock Publishing
- The Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design (on Canvas)
- The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Handbook (on Canvas)
- The Florida Friendly Landscaping Pattern Book (on Canvas)
- Adopting a Florida Friendly Landscape: Steps for Converting a Traditional Development Landscape to a Florida Friendly Landscape (on Canvas)

Sustainability:

- Thompson and Sorvig, Sustainable Landscape Construction, 2nd ed., Island Press
- Calkins, The Sustainable Sites Handbook, Wiley
- Dunnett and Kingsbury, Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls, Timber Press

Software Programs:

- AutoCAD (the current release within the past 2 years)
- LandFX
- MS Office (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- Adobe Acrobat or Reader
- Adobe CC
- SketchUp Pro

Materials:

In addition to the software listed herein, hand drafting materials as utilized in prior studios will be necessary for hand exercises including but not necessarily limited to colored pencils, markers, trace, straight edges and triangles, and drafting dots.

UF Policies:**Student Accommodations**

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.

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. The faculty of Landscape Architecture 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 graphic, images, 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.

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.

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. or a description of what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior see

<http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>.

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.

University's Syllabus Policy

The University's complete Syllabus Policy can be found at:

http://www.aa.ufl.edu/Data/Sites/18/media/policies/syllabi_policy.pdf

Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, 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.

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>

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.

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

Disclaimer:

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 Schedule

WEEK	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE
Weeks 1-3	Course Introduction and Project 1	Wed & Fri on Week 3
Weeks 4-5	Project 2	Wed & Fri on Week 5
Weeks 6-8	Project 3	Wed & Fri on Week 8
Week 9,10	Field Trip, Research and Case Study	Friday on Week 9
Weeks 11-16	Project 4	To be Determined

A detailed course schedule will be provided at the start of the semester. All dates are subject to change and notice will be provided if changes are required.