

## LAA 3420 Landscape Construction 1 (5 credits)

### Course Syllabus

<b>Class Time</b>	MWF 8:30 – 11:30 am
<b>Lecture</b>	elearning
<b>Studio</b>	Arch 320, 318 and Zoom
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Yi Luo</b> , PhD, PLA <a href="mailto:yi.luo@ufl.edu">yi.luo@ufl.edu</a> Zoom office hour: 12:55 – 1:50 pm Tue. or by appointment
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Brooke Webster <a href="mailto:brookewebster@ufl.edu">brookewebster@ufl.edu</a> Zoom office hour:

### Course Overview

This course in Landscape Construction is designed to integrate the theories and principles of landscape architectural design with the important technical skills necessary to document and construct the work. These skills include grading, drainage, stormwater management, and road/pathway geometry. These skills will be applied through hand drawings, study models, and CAD drawing production in the form of construction documents.

### Course Objectives

- To understand and apply skills in the siting and grading of structures and surfaces in the landscape. Also, to apply earthwork calculations and understand their role in design implementation.
- To develop discipline, accuracy and graphic communication skills necessary to produce contract document drawings.
- To understand and apply the principles of drainage and stormwater management in relation to grading and other expressions of landscape design. Also, to develop related drainage structure details.
- To understand and apply the principles of horizontal and vertical road alignment.

### Prerequisite knowledge and Skills

Students are required to have completed LAA2376 and 2379: Design Communication 1 & 2. Students are expected to have a foundational knowledge of the design process, a basic understanding of AutoCAD, and the skills developed in the prerequisite courses to produce digital and hand-drawings.

### Teaching Philosophy

The course will be a combination of lectures and in-class and out-of-class studio work. The lecture portion of the course will be taught in a logical, step-wise manner that is process-oriented and builds upon topics presented each week. The studio portion of class will provide the student opportunities to apply the concepts presented in the lectures through various exercises and assignments. As the learning process is largely based on feedback and criticism of work, the student's self-motivation and preparedness for class are critical to the success of the student.

### Instructional Methods

Course instruction will be a combination of lectures, readings, field visits, and individual instruction/desk critiques of student work. Methods by which students are evaluated and graded may include in-class exercises, problem sets, design projects, online quizzes, and participation.

## COURSE POLICIES

### Class Attendance and Participation

- **Participation in class is critical.** Students are expected to arrive on time.
- Studio work time and desk critiques are essential to the learning experience; therefore, attendance is expected for the entire class time. During the studio (desk instruction) portion of the course, it is expected that all students will be in attendance for the entire class and working on LAA3420 assignments.
- Work is expected to be done in the studio and computers must be brought to class; instruction will not be given outside the studio during class times (e.g., in the computer lab).
- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

### Class Demeanor

- Please schedule an office meeting for any discussions regarding attendance, tardiness, and late assignments. Do not discuss these issues with the instructor while in the studio.
- Studios are public places. The studio doors are locked, however, it is also suggested that you store any valuables under lock or bring them home with you.
- Cell phones must be turned off during class.
- Working on your computer during lecture is not permitted unless you are taking notes.
- Please respect other students work. Due to tight quarters, 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 “desk crits” at each student’s desk. It is expected that your desk be orderly and you have a scale and a roll of trace available when the instructor arrives at your desk.

### 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. Please follow the directions given by the instructor as to how they will be submitted (e.g., Canvas, CD, PDF, word file, etc.). If an assignment is required to be scanned, it must be scanned; photographs of assignments are not acceptable. If a multipage PDF is requested, do NOT submit each page as a separate PDF. It must be submitted as one file. Point deductions on the assignment may result from not following submittal directions or providing incorrect submittal or file formats.

All files must be named as follows:

(Course#Name)(Project+Description)(Student-Lastname).( pdf)

*Example:*

3420LAConst1GradPlanSmith.pdf

4ch 8ch 8ch 6ch (ch = letter characters)

- Use CAPS for Separation
- Save images in PDF format at a maximum 200 resolution
- \*No spaces, hyphens, or underscoring\*

### Texts

#### Required

- Strom, Nathan and Woland (2013). *Site Engineering for Landscape Architects*, Sixth Edition Echols,
  - Stuart and Pennypacker, Eliza (2015). *Artful Rainwater Design*. Island Press.
- (A pdf of these books can be found on UF’s library website. There will be required readings in these books.)

**Recommended**

- Ferguson, Bruce K.; *Introduction to Stormwater : Concept, Purpose, Design*; First Edition
- Aymer, Valerie; *Landscape Grading: A Study Guide for the LARE Grading Examination*
- Harris and Dines; *Timesaver Standards for Landscape Architecture*; Second Edition
- Hopper, Leonard J. *Landscape Architectural Graphic Standards*. John Wiley & Sons, 2007.

All students are required to have a laptop computer that meets the Department’s computer requirement. If a Mac is being used, you must run AutoCAD Civil 3D in a Windows environment such as Boot Camp or Parallels. Do not wait to install this. In addition, a stand-alone, scientific calculator is recommended for this class.

**Course Materials on Canvas**

The digital course materials provided on Canvas (e.g., lectures, assignments, quizzes, et cetera) 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.

**Communication**

Students may contact the instructor via phone, email, or in-person. Email is the primary communication method to contact the instructor outside of class time and office hours. Please use the email address listed above. Also, please only communicate with your instructor using your ufl.edu account or through the Canvas message system. Do not send emails from other accounts such as gmail.

**GRADING POLICIES**

Course grades will be based on problem solving skills as they relate to the accomplishment of the objectives. 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>.

As per department 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.

Students will be evaluated based on assignments the below. Course grades will be based on the following approximate weighting (subject to change):

Homework	20%
Exercises	30%
In-class assignments	5%
Construction journal	10%
West coastal field trip	10%
Quizzes	5%
Exams	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Homework** - Homework assignments shall be neatly finished. All calculations and units should be clearly written or typed on separate sheets and submit in the same PDF file with the homework sheet. The due date for each homework will be indicated on the course schedule when it is assigned. Typically, the due date is one week after it is issued and the assignment will be collected in the beginning of the class. Submissions after 2:00 pm will be considered late. Each student is allowed one late submission (before the homework is graded) throughout the semester with no penalty. ALL other late homework will be penalized 10% per day (including weekend days); no homework will be accepted after the grading is completed, resulting in a grade of zero.

**Studio Exercises** – Studio exercises typically are graphical vignettes that require knowledge of landscape design and technical competence to create reasonable, practical, cost-effective and safe solutions. Therefore, exercises shall be professionally drafted for clear communication. Exercises of poor drafting quality will be subjected to severe point deduction. Incomplete works that do not provide final solutions will not be accepted. Incomplete works will receive a grade of zero. Policy of late exercises follows what is described in Homework.

**In-class assignments** – Portions of the scheduled class meeting time will be used for in-class assignments. These assignments will be designed to illustrate concepts and problem solving techniques. In-class assignments maybe worked individually or in groups and will be due at the end of the class when assigned. In-class assignments may not be made up, and work not turned in will receive a grade of zero.

**Observing the landscape exercise** – A good way to learn landscape architecture is by observing and measuring. You will keep a journal for the semester to document your analysis on landscape spaces and objects. Detailed requirements are described in the exercise.

**Quizzes** – Quizzes are a mean for us to ensure that the students are reading assigned materials. All quizzes will be closed-book, closed-notes.

**Exams** – Two exams and one final will be given. Exams will focus on application of technical concepts. Exams will be limited to one class period.

### **Submission Requirements**

Submission requirements include the basis for determining whether or not a project is complete enough to evaluate. Construction documents are legal documents that govern construction and generally become part of a legal agreement between a client and a building contractor. They are intended to convey precise information and are free of graphic embellishment. In this course all drawings turned in for evaluation must be **copies** of original work and meet professional technical standards for working drawings. Submittals of original work will be returned to students immediately without grading. All solutions must be drafted, and lettered, and plotted from an appropriate CAD package, with all appropriate dimensions, elevations, contours, notes and labels typical of construction documents. Students must sign on all sheets to indicate original work by the students. Every sheet must have an appropriate title block, north arrow (if appropriate), scale designation (graphic and written), date, name and project/course title. Any exercise or project that fails to meet standards of completeness or neatness will receive a penalty of zero point. No work will be accepted for credit after the last class day.

If submitted work is evidently incomplete, the work will be returned instantly without grading. The subsequent submission will be considered late. Again, no work will be accepted after the graded assignments are returned, resulting in a grade of zero.

## UF POLICIES

### Student Accommodations

Support services for students with disabilities are coordinated by the Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). 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 with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Dean of Students Office. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Appropriate documentation regarding the student's disability is necessary to obtain any reasonable accommodation or support service. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Accommodations will be provided once the accommodation letter is presented to the instructor; accommodations are not retroactive.

### 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 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, 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.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> 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. For a description of what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior see the University's Netiquette Guide for Online Courses.

### 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.

## Getting Help

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

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto: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

## Counseling Resources

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.

## 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.

## Evaluation of Faculty

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/>.

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