

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

LAA 6342: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CRITICISM
SPRING – 2022

Course Syllabus

Course Information

Instructor: Kevin Thompson
eMail: gday@ufl.edu

Office Hours: M 11:45 – 12:45

Class Meetings: T 1:55 – 3:50
R 1:55 – 2:45

Credits: 3
Evaluation: Letter Grade

Course Description

This course explores the role of research in the planning and design of the physical environment and the evaluation and critique of the built environment. The course focuses on research that helps deepen our understanding of issues relating to the scholarship of landscape architecture and to design practice.

Course Format

This lecture course utilizes both in-person and online formats depending on the activities planned for each class meeting and uses the online CANVAS course management system. Students are expected to stay current with the information posted on this website. Communication is vital. Students are expected to check their UF email regularly (daily) and are encouraged to establish push-notifications to mobile and other devices to ensure they stay current with the information being shared.

Course Purpose and Student Learning Outcomes

Upon finishing this course, each student with a passing grade will be able to do the following:

Evaluate Existing Scholarship

Students will be able to critically evaluate examples of contemporary landscape architecture scholarship by identifying the theoretical basis for the inquiry, the research question at the core of the inquiry and the selection and use of research methods employed in the study.

Demonstrate Solid Scholarship Practice

Students will be able to demonstrate good scholarship practice through solid use of secondary sources, careful writing and the use of appropriate citations.

Propose a Structure for a Hypothetical Traditional Research Project

Students will be able to structure a hypothetical research proposal using traditional scholarship methods by identifying a landscape architecture problem, articulating a research question and proposing appropriate methods for collecting new or existing data, analyzing that data and interpreting its findings.

Propose a Structure for a Hypothetical Design-based Research Project

Students will be able to structure a hypothetical design-based research proposal by identifying a landscape architecture problem, articulating a research question and proposing appropriate methods for engaging in a reflexive design process. Such a process will include identifying appropriate methods for collecting new or existing data, analyzing that data and interpreting its findings.

Grading

Grading will be weighted to reflect the time allotted and individual effort required on a particular assignment.

Typically, grading will follow a breakdown similar to this:

- active engagement/participation - 10%
- critical written reviews of assigned readings - 15%
- hypothetical traditional research proposal – 12.5%
- hypothetical design-based research proposal – 12.5%
- final project (GTP proposal)- 50%

Class attendance (*and active engagement/participation*) is mandatory.

University of Florida Grade Policy:

percentage or points earned in class	93% - 100%	90% - 92%	87% - 89%	83% - 86%	80% - 82%	77% - 79%	73% - 76%	70% - 72%	67% - 69%	63% - 66%	60% - 62%	below 60%
letter grade equivalent	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade 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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

For more detail regarding the grading policies for this course, please see the Registrar’s Grade Policy regulations at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

According to Departmental Policy, students majoring in Landscape Architecture must receive a letter grade of a “C” or better to advance in the program. Any grade lower than a C will require that the course be taken over again.

Class Demeanor

This course is a graduate course offered in a professional degree program. As such, your course instructor assumes that we’re all adults and that the course will operate in a professional manner.

Central to this assumption is an expectation that open and effective communication is key. If you are unable to attend a meeting or activity for any period, please try and let the instructor know ahead of time (just as you would if you were going to miss a professional meeting in a work environment).

Assignments and readings will be disseminated via CANVAS. Thus it is *imperative* that students regularly check CANVAS. The CANVAS messenger and UF email is our primary conduit of communication. Please establish push notifications on your other devices and check your email accounts regularly.

The best way to contact the instructor is by UF e-mail.

Students are expected to participate: engage in discussions, ask questions, listen thoughtfully and respectfully to all other participants.

Policy for Make-Up Exams or Other Missed Work

Late penalties for readings and assignments are 10% a day, beginning the day the assignment is due.

Make-up exams/assignment due dates 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 must 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: 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

Hard copy and digital copies are required.

Readings

There is no required text.

Many readings (required and recommended) serve as the basis of this course. Periodic class handouts will give more detailed expectations and expand recommended readings for the specific topic.

Resources that have been either recommended or required for this course have included:

Books:

- Lang, Jon--Creating Architectural Theory
- Lang, Jon--Urban Design
- Attoe, Wayne-- Architecture and Critical Imagination
- Zeisel, John-- Inquiry by Design
- Best, John W. and Kahn, James V.-- Research in Education
- McCracken, G.-- The Long Interview
- Salant ,Priscilla and Dillman, Don A-- How to Conduct Your Own Survey
- Bernard, H. Russell-- Research Methods in Anthropology
- Creswell, John--Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches.
- Groat, L. and Wang, D. -- Architectural Research Methods.
- Deming, Elen, and Swaffield, Simon --Landscape Architectural Research: Inquiry, Strategy, Design.

Journals:

The primary sources for articles will be *Landscape Architecture* and *Landscape Journal*, but others may be required or recommended.

Other:

Selected College of Design, Construction and Planning masters theses and dissertations

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 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.

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 Expectations 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. 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 (7th 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.