

Introduction to Landscape Architecture

(online)

Course description

Introduces landscape architecture, a profession defined as an art and science of planning or designing on the land-arranging and creating spaces and objects in a landscape for human use. Open to all students. (3 credits)

Prerequisites: None, course is open to all students

Course Type: Online

Instructor:

Huiqing 'Hui' Kuang, PLA,
Instructional Assistant Professor
hkuang@ufl.edu

(office hours): Please contact me to schedule an appointment online through the CANVAS Inbox

Course objectives, learning outcomes, & expectations

Through a mixture of online lectures, activities, discussions, and projects, the course provides both practical and theoretical understanding of techniques in landscape design and planning. The purpose of the course is to provide students with a clear understanding of the profession of landscape architecture that focuses on:

- **Subject:** Provides both practical and theoretical understanding of techniques in landscape architecture, planning, and design. Living landscapes shape human interaction with the world, and, are in turn shaped by the application of design and planning.
- **Scales of Concern:** Addresses our built and natural environment from backyards to global processes, and everything in-between. Provides an understanding of a sense of place as practiced in Landscape Architecture, which is a continuum of landscapes from wilderness to managed natural areas, rural landscapes, small towns, suburbia, cities, metropolises, broader regions, and everything in between.
- **Issues:** Frames the issues facing our world today that drive design and planning decisions. These include urbanization, environmental degradation, climate change, transportation challenges, and new planning approaches. Also addressed are social, cultural, & historical issues, and paradigm shifts in Landscape Architecture and the design profession in general.
- **Method:** Utilizes a mixture of informative sessions, activities, discussions, and projects in a dynamic, interactive online format.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is introductory for the following student 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.

Teaching Philosophy

I believe that landscape architecture is a valuable and exciting discipline! I aim to share this passion with students, so that they will be able to utilize the tools of landscape architecture as both citizens and working professionals to respond to shifting environmental, technological, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions. I aim to cultivate in my students independent thinking that challenges both peers and professors, critical self-evaluation, and strong practices of self-guided exploration. To this end, I strive to be direct, responsive, and transparent in assessment and feedback.

Instructional Methods

Course instruction is conducted online through various digital mediums. One multi-part term project, several assignments, and one final research-based project will allow students to apply aspects of the course material presented. Peer review of these projects will stimulate critical evaluation of colleagues' work as well as reflection on their own work submitted. Additionally, students will engage in discussions of the course through weekly online postings. The combination of multimedia information, various assignments, and measured assessments will create an engaging atmosphere for active learning.

Course Materials



All course content will be posted online to CANVAS, and will include recorded lectures, videos, readings, websites, and other content. There are no required texts for this class, however it is strongly suggested that you browse through the below tables of recommended books and essays, which are available at the Architecture/Fine Arts Library. Other library resources are available for Distance Learners or UF Online students at the [Library Help Desk](#).

Landscape Architecture Theory, History, and Approaches	
Title	Author
Contemporary Japanese Landscape	Process Architecture
Contemporary Trends in Landscape Architecture	Steven Cantor
Design with Nature	Ian L. McHarg
Innovative Design Solutions in Landscape Architecture	Steven Cantor
Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories	Matthew Potteiger
Modern Landscape Architecture	Ed., Marc Treib
Nature and Ideology: Natural Garden Design in the 20 th Century	Ed., Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn
The Landscape Approach	Bernard Lassus
The American Lawn	Ed., Georges Teyssot
The Landscape Approach	Bernard Lassus
The Landscape of Man	Geoffrey A. Jellicoe
Rethinking Landscape Architecture	Ed., Ian Thompson
Landscape Architecture Projects and Practitioners	
Title	Author
Abstracting the Landscape: The Artistry of A.E. Bye	Ed., Catherine Howett
Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes: Her Gardens and Campuses	Diana Balmori
Dan Kiley: The Complete Works of America's Master Landscape Architect	Jane Amidon & Dan Kiley
Desvigne & Dalnoky: The Return of the Landscape	Desvigne & Dalnoky
Gardening With Water	James Van Sweden
Garrett Eckbo: Modern Landscapes for Living	Marc Trieb
Kathryn Gustafson: Sculpting the Land	Leah Levy
Martha Schwartz: Transfiguration of the Commonplace	Elizabeth K. Meyer
Peter Walker: Minimalist Gardens	Peter Walker
Pioneer of Tropical Landscape Architecture: William Lyman Phillips in Florida	Faith R. Jackson
Roberto Burle Marx: The Natural Art of the Garden	William H. Adams
Sasaki Associates: Integrated Environments	Melanie Simo
Siftings	Jens Jensen
Ten Landscapes: Raymond Jungles	James Truelove
Ten Landscapes: Shunmyo Masuno	James Truelove
The Miller Garden: Icon of Modernism	Gary R. Hildebrand

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 Expectations

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my 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.

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 Colleges¹). 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](#)².

Getting Technical Help

For issues with technical difficulties for e-Learning on CANVAS, please contact the [UF Help Desk](#) 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](#)³. 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.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [HERE](#)⁴ as well.

UF policies + resources

Academic Resources

- [Career Connections Center](#)⁵- career assistance and counseling. Reitz Union, 392-160.

¹ SACS: <https://citt.ufl.edu/resources/student-engagement/ensuring-academic-rigor/>

² UF Netiquette: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

³ GatorEvals: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>

⁴ GatorEvals results: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

⁵ Career Connections Center: <https://career.ufl.edu/>

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- Library Support⁶- various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center⁷- general study skills and tutoring. Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420.
- Writing Studio⁸- 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 Code⁹ specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to 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 Center¹⁰ (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

⁶ Library Support: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

⁷ Teaching Center: <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

⁸ Writing Studio: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

⁹ Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

¹⁰ Disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

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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](#)¹¹.

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

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](#)¹².

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](#)¹³ 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](#)¹⁴.

1. **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.
2. **Discussions (10% of final grade):** There will be a series of discussions over the course of the semester. It is important that you participate in these online discussions and quality of your contributions will be evaluated.
3. **Quizzes (20% of final grade):** To ensure student engagement and participation in the online content & lectures, weekly quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Please note that quizzes are due at the end of each week and may not be submitted late unless previous accommodations have been made.

¹¹ Counseling & Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

¹² Distance Learning: <https://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

¹³ UF Grades and Grading Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

¹⁴ UF Attendance Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absencestext>

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4. **Memory Project (25% of final grade):** The Memory Project will be assigned to help refine your understanding of the sense of place and test your ability to apply the course material presented.
5. **Assignments (25% of final grade):** Other various assignments and activities will be given throughout the semester to reinforce understanding of the topics and concepts presented.
6. **Research Project (15% of final grade):** Following the assignments and the Memory Project, a final research project will be assigned to further refine your understanding of the depth and breadth of the profession.

Note on Mid-Term and Final Exams: There will be no mid-term or final exam for this course. The Memory Project will serve as the “mid-term exam” and the Final Research Project will serve as the “final exam.”

Evaluation/Grading Summary for Online Course:

- 5% Peer Reviews
- 10% Discussions
- 20% Quizzes
- 25% Memory Project
- 25% Assignments
- 15% Research 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 + Landscapes Through Time	Discussion 01 Quiz 01 Memory Project 01 + 02	Sunday, July 9 @11:59pm
Week 2: Urbanized Landscapes	Discussion 02 Quiz 02 Memory Project 03 + 04 Peer Review 01	Sunday, July 16 @11:59pm
Week 3: Streetscapes + Transportation	Discussion 03 Quiz 03 Assignment 01 Peer Review 02	Sunday, July 23 @11:59pm
Week 4: Landscape Ecology + Planning	Discussion 04 Quiz 04 Assignment 02 Peer Review 03	Sunday, July 30 @11:59pm
Week 5: Design as Practice	Quiz 05 Peer Review 04	Sunday, August 6 @11:59pm
Week 6: Critical Issues	Discussion 05 Final Project	Wednesday, August 9 Friday, August 11 *note all work is due on last Friday of class

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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