

LAA 3230

Theories of Landscape Architecture

UF Department of Landscape Architecture

Fall 2023

SYLLABUS

I. General Information

CLASS MEETINGS: 100% In-Person, Tuesdays Period 7 (1:55 PM – 2:45 PM) and
Thursdays Periods 7-8 (1:55 PM – 3:50 PM)

LOCATION: RNK 0230

CREDITS: 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Nicholas Serrano, Ph.D.

Office Location: ARCH 430

Office Hours: Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00 AM

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding of the theoretical framework of the discipline and practice of landscape architecture through an exploration of key philosophies and concepts that have informed or guided the field. This allows students to develop and articulate their own theoretical framework to guide their planning and design decisions. This course addresses primarily aesthetic and cultural principles and values; however, related ecological and social aspects will also be addressed. LAA 3230 is an organized forum for discussion and exploration of current theoretical issues, thus providing a philosophical and critical basis for future and concurrent design studios as well as providing a broader and deeper exploration of theoretical models introduced in previous lecture and design courses. This is a discussion-based class based on assigned readings.

Topics include but are not limited to:

- Aesthetics
- Representation
- Political Economy
- Nature and Wilderness
- Environmentalism and Ecology
- Community and Planning
- Modernism and Postmodernism
- Race and Gender
- Environmental Justice

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Students are required to have completed LAA 2710: History of Landscape Architecture. Students are expected to have a foundational knowledge of the landscape architecture history and design.

REQUIRED READINGS AND WORKS

All required readings are either available electronically through the University of Florida Libraries or will be provided on CANVAS.

II. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Each student in the LA program is expected to continuously develop:

- a range of approaches (creative, cultural, and/or historic) to create spatial and temporal landscape compositions, and
- thoughtfully provide, receive, and respond to feedback and critique as part of iterative design decision making.

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following development level course learning objectives (CLOs) under the program SLO headings as follows:

CONTENT
SLO 1 – Integrate concepts from the general body of knowledge of the profession of landscape architecture in design decision-making.
CLO 1 – Summarize key theories of landscape architecture that influence design decision making in the built and natural environment.
SLO 3 – Apply ethical understanding to design decision-making.
CLO 2- Apply ethical and professional principles and considerations in obligations to clients, communities, the public, and landscape environment.
CLO 3 - Interpret and apply knowledge from other disciplines, professions, and perspectives to design decision making.

CRITICAL THINKING
SLO 4 – Combine and analyze information from multiple sources to support design decision-making.
CLO 4 - Examine ideas that are grounded in the natural, physical, and social sciences that address and balance aesthetic, environmental, and social issues and goals.
CLO 5 – Connect the diverse social, cultural, economic, political, and scientific factors that shape the field of landscape architecture, both within North America and globally.
CLO 6 – Characterize how behavioral sciences impact design decision making in landscape architecture.

COMMUNICATION
SLO 5 – Produce professional visual, oral, and written communications.
CLO 7 - Present professional oral communications to defend ideas.
CLO 8 - Present professional written communications to defend ideas.

III. Graded Work

DESCRIPTION OF GRADED WORK

Discussion Participation (30% of total grade)

Students are expected to regularly complete assigned readings before class and actively contribute to class discussions. The instructor will occasionally provide questions/prompts for the class to consider ahead of time, but students should always arrive to class with questions or discussion points of their own. Periodic in-class activities will also count as part of this grade.

Readings/Lecture Responses (20% of total grade)

Students are required to submit written responses to the assigned readings on five occasions (noted in the schedule) throughout the semester. These response papers should be 400-600 words in length and actively engage with the readings.

Semester Paper and Presentation (20% of total grade)

Students will research a topic chosen from a list provided by the instructor. Students will deliver a presentation to their classmates at the end of the semester and will submit individual papers.

Learning Assessments (15% each of total grade)

Students will demonstrate content knowledge through a midterm and final learning assessment.

The graded work assesses the course learning objectives as follows:

Assessment	LAA 3230 – Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)							
	SLO 1	SLO 3		SLO 4			SLO 5	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Discussion Participation							X	
Reading/Lecture Responses		X		X				X
Paper/Presentation			X				X	X
Learning Assessments	X				X	X		

GRADING SCALE

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

A	93 – 100%		C	73 – 76%
A-	90 – 92%		C-	70 – 72%
B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	83 – 86%		D	63 – 66%
B-	80 – 82%		D-	60 – 62%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

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.

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.

Assignments are expected to be submitted at the beginning of class on the specified due date. The deadline is a hard deadline; no exceptions will be made for scanning, computer related issues, uploading, et cetera. Assignments are considered an additional day late every 24 hours from the due date. If no prior arrangement is made with the instructor for a late submittal, the maximum points that the student can earn for the assignment will be reduced by 2 points for every day it is late. Assignments are out of 100 points. Therefore, if a 100-point assignment is five days late, the maximum points that the student can receive for the assignment is 90 points (i.e., 90% of the total grade). If the student receives the equivalent grade of an 85% on the assignment, the student would receive 75 points (85 minus 10 points). Late assignments will be accepted up to five weekdays late. A grade of zero will be given until the assignment has been turned in.

Assignment submissions may be updated and re-uploaded to the Canvas site as needed prior to a submittal deadline. Once the deadline has passed for an assignment and a submission has been made, additional submittals are not guaranteed to be accepted. If the updated, late submittal is accepted, the entire submittal will be considered late and points will be deducted based on the date of the late submission. In addition, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that a submission is complete; missing items will not be given credit.

IV. Tentative Schedule

Week	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
Aug. 24 th	Course Introduction; What is Theory?
Aug. 29 th	The Idea of Landscape
Aug. 31 st	The Idea of Landscape
Sept. 5 th	Nature and Wilderness
Sept. 7 th	Nature and Wilderness
Sept. 12 th	Aesthetics
Sept. 14 th	Aesthetics
Sept. 19 th	Ecology
Sept. 21 st	Ecology

Week	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
Sept. 26 th	Gender
Sept. 28 th	Research Project Workday (Nick traveling)
Oct. 3 rd	Midterm Learning Assessment
Oct. 5 th	Modernism
Oct. 10 th	Modernism
Oct. 12 th	Research Project Workday (Nick traveling)
Oct. 17 th	Regionalism
Oct. 19 th	Regionalism
Oct. 24 th	No Class (Field Trip Week)
Oct. 26 th	No Class (Field Trip Week)
Oct. 31 st	Race
Nov. 2 nd	Race
Nov. 7 th	Environmentalism
Nov. 9 th	Environmental Justice
Nov. 14 th	Student Presentations
Nov. 16 th	Student Presentations
Nov. 21 st	Student Presentations
Nov. 23 rd	No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Nov. 28 th	Student Presentations.
Nov. 30 th	Student Presentations.
Dec. 5 th	Course wrap-up and Final Learning Assessment review
Final	December 13 th , 3:00-5:00 PM

VI. Required Policies

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to arrive on time. Acceptable reasons for excused absences are as follows:

- Illness
- Serious family emergency
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Religious holidays

- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate.
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

If necessary, students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up material or activities covered in their excused absence; however, absences do not affect project deadline dates unless prior arrangements have been made.

The instructor will not provide the student notifications regarding absences and tardiness. You may email the instructor should you have any questions regarding your attendance. Please schedule an office meeting for any discussions regarding attendance, tardiness, and late assignments. Do not discuss these issues with the instructor during class time.

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>

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATION

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.

UF EVALUATIONS PROCESS

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/>.

UNIVERSITY HONESTY POLICY

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 (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) 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 or TAs in this class.

COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/> , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

COURSE MATERIALS AND IN-CLASS RECORDINGS

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.

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded. 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 participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.