

LAA 3353c
Urban Design Studio
UF Department of Landscape Architecture
Spring 2024

SYLLABUS

I. General Information

CLASS MEETINGS: 100% In-Person unless noted otherwise on the course schedule.

Monday: Period 2 - 6 (8:30 AM - 1:40 PM)

Wednesday: Period 2 - 5 (8:30 AM - 12:35 PM)

LOCATION: Arch 318

CREDITS: 6 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Alpa Nawre

Arch 456

Office Hours: Friday, 8am – 9am, please sign up at

<https://calendly.com/nawre/office-hours> or also by appointment.

alpa.nawre@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Urban Design studio explores the discipline of urban design relative to landscape architecture. The course focuses on designing sustainable built environments and engaging in urban place-making for underserved and marginalized communities, addressing various issues. Through student projects, discussions, and studies, the course covers a wide range of topics, including environmental and social justice, socio-cultural change, urban systems and strategies, urban growth trends, development patterns, urban density, redevelopment strategies, and infill approaches. This course will expand student's skills and training by exploring historic and contemporary urban development models and their relations to urban densities, urban strategies, urban disparities and spatial injustices, streetscape design, infill development and parking systems. Through case study investigation and review of exemplary projects that showcase successful integration of spatial justice principles in urban design students will acquire a deep understanding of critical factors influencing design of the urban environment.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Students are expected to know how to conduct basic site analysis, site design and be familiar with visual design communication conventions, drawing types such as plans, elevations, section, views, and software tools necessary to develop these.

REQUIRED READINGS AND WORKS

This course will utilize UF's e-learning Canvas site. Announcements, Course Calendar, Grades, Discussions, and Course Resources will be posted to the Canvas site. It is expected that students will login into and check-in on the site periodically and retrieve course resources and required readings. This course has no required textbook and recommended readings or links of lectures will be posted over the course of the semester. It is expected that all assigned readings and videos will be completed, and students will be prepared to discuss the readings at the beginning of the class. Readings will be distributed from time to time as necessary. Recommended references include:

Steiner, F, Thompson, G. F. & Carbonell A. Nature & Cities: The ecological Imperative in Urban Design and Planning. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. 2016

Krieger A. & Saunders W. Urban Design. University of Minnesota Press. 2008

Materials and Supplies Fees: see schedule of courses.

You will need drafting supplies required of all studio courses, including a 12-, 18-, or 24-inch roll of tracing paper. Please ensure that you have continuous access to the following software on your computer: Autocad, Civil3D or alternate vector drafting software

GIS

MS Office (Word, Excel and Powerpoint) or alternate text and presentation processing software

Adobe Suite Products (Photoshop, Illustrator, In-Design) or alternate graphic design and rendering software

Rhino, 3D Max, Sketch-up or another 3D drafting & rendering Software

Adobe Acrobat Reader or other PDF reading software

II. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Each student in the LA program is expected to understand and apply the design process and continuously develop:

- a range of approaches (creative, cultural, and/or historic) to create spatial and temporal landscape compositions,
- multiple design alternatives before synthesizing ideas into a defensible plan and
- the ability to 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 developing 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 - Acquire an understanding of the historical context and background, socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors contributing to urban disparities for a community/site's context |
| SLO 2 – Apply core professional landscape architecture skills in design decision-making. |
| CLO 2 - Students will be able to go apply feedback on critique in their iterative design decision making |
| SLO 3 – Apply ethical understanding to design decision-making. |

CLO 3 – Develop strategies for constructing a thorough understanding of issues, including fostering conversations or relationships with subject-experts, stakeholders, community leaders, and/or advocacy groups as possible to ensure ethical and culturally sensitive design outcomes.

CLO 4 - Develop programmatic and spatial design solutions that address equitable access to urban resources and promote social as well as environmental well-being.

CRITICAL THINKING

SLO 3 – Combine and analyze information from multiple sources to support design decision-making.

CLO 5 - Prioritize the diverse social, cultural, economic, political, and scientific factors that shape the field of landscape architecture in relation to urban design both within North America and globally

CLO 6 - Analyze how behavioral sciences impact design decision-making in urban landscapes

CLO 7 – Support the diverse needs of users with consideration of abilities, modes of perception, and equitability when deriving urban design solutions

CLO 8 - Evaluate spatial and other relevant data as part of the urban design decision-making process

CLO 9 - Assess different materials for character, quality, cost, sustainability, and cultural relevance as relevant to the design problem and proposal

COMMUNICATION

SLO 4 – Produce professional visual, oral, and written communications.

CLO 10 – Communicate urban issues and proposed design ideas concretely through visual representation and graphic narratives

CLO 11 – Communicate landscape designs that prioritize spatial justice through urban strategies and design ideas concretely through written and oral communication skills

III. Graded Work

DESCRIPTION OF GRADED WORK

The course consists of two equally weighted inter-linked assignments that will be complementary to each other and will further the development of the project for the semester:

Assignment 1- Research (50% of total grade)

The goal of conducting research in the first assignment is to gain knowledge and establish a creative origin or catalyst for design. The first goal is concerned with developing a thorough understanding of the urban issues at stake so that students may make design decisions that are responsive to local and regional conditions and yet in perspective of global issues. The second goal is to use this knowledge generatively to develop a conceptual framework that will guide design in the second assignment.

Assignment 2 - Design (50% of total grade)

A fundamental responsibility of landscape architects is designing urban systems and spaces according to the problem definition. The bulk of assignment 2 is focused on designing unique site(s) with the special focus and application of the knowledge gained in the first assignment. Design research in this assignment will focus on developing the program while design will deal with developing solutions at different scales relevant to the community/issue.

The graded work assesses the course learning objectives as follows:

| Assessment | LAA 3353c - Course Learning Objectives (CLOs) | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------|---|------|---|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| | SLO 1 | SLO 2 | | SLO3 | | | | | SLO 4 | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Assignment 1: Research | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Assignment 2: Design | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 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.

Studio projects are expected to be submitted by the specified 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 project will be reduced by 2% for every day it is submitted late. Each assignment is worth 50 points. A grade of zero will be given until the project has been turned in. Engagement during class activities, and timely completion/submission of class exercises is included as part of assignment grading.

A due date and time will be provided for every assignment, and an assignment is considered a day late if it is submitted after the specified date and time. 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.

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. Annotated Weekly Schedule

This is a sixteen-week, full-semester 6 credit hour course structured as a studio. Students are responsible for learning that is guided by the instructor through activities including lectures, seminar-style discussions, design and planning activities and exercises, and in-studio working sessions to allow time for development, feedback and production. The following schedule provides an outline of topics and is subject to change as we will have engagements with several speakers and collaborators:

| Week | Topics |
|---------|--|
| Week 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Course Introduction: Urban Design & Landscape Architecture ● Activity: Lecture & Discussion |
| Week 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Research & Analysis ● Activity: Project Progress Critique |
| Week 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Streetscapes ● Activity: Lecture and Progress Critique |
| Week 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Urban Green Infrastructure ● Activity: Lecture and Progress Critique |
| Week 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Development Models, Urban Density & Parking ● Activity: Lecture & Student Presentations |
| Week 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Design Communication & Story-telling ● Activity: Lecture, discussions and Project progress critique |
| Week 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Urban Disparities & Behavioral Sciences ● Activity: Project progress critique |
| Week 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Urban Materials ● Activity: Project progress critique and Student Presentations |
| Week 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Project Progress Review ● Activity: Project progress critique ● Due: Assignment 1 ● MID-SEMESTER PRESENTATION & SUBMISSION |
| Week 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spring Break |
| Week 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Design Progress ● Activity: Peer Review & Project progress critique |

| | |
|---------|---|
| Week 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Design Progress ● Activity: Project progress critique |
| Week 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Design Progress ● Activity: Project progress critique |
| Week 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Design Progress ● Activity: Project progress critique |
| Week 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Visual & Written Communication ● Activity: Visit the writing center for written project summary review |
| Week 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic: Course wrap-up and review ● Activity: Design Communication Feedback ● Due: Assignment 2 <p>FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION & SUBMISSION</p> |

VI. Required Policies

ATTENDANCE POLICY

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

- o Illness
- o Serious family emergency
- o Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- o Military obligation
- o Severe weather conditions
- o Religious holidays
- o Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate.
- o 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.

Studio work time and desk critiques are essential to the learning experience; therefore, attendance is expected for the entire class time. During the studio (critique) portion of the course, it is expected that all students will be in attendance for the entire class and working on LAA3353c course assignments. Arriving late to class, leaving during class for extended durations, or leaving early from class may be considered being absent from class.

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 studio 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.