

LAA 6342

## Advanced Landscape Criticism

UF Department of Landscape Architecture  
Fall 2024

### SYLLABUS

#### I. General Information

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CLASS MEETINGS: 100% In-Person, Tuesday Periods 7 - 9 (1:55 PM – 4:55 PM)

LOCATION: FAC 208

CREDITS: 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Kevin Thompson  
452 ARC  
Office Hours: Fridays 11:30 by appointment  
gday@ufl.edu

#### 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.

#### PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

A foundational knowledge of the theories pertinent to the study of landscape architecture is recommended.

#### REQUIRED READINGS

Required readings will be made available through our online course management tool or through other online repositories.

#### II. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

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Students in this course will learn to

- Situate built and designed projects within the context of the historical development of the discipline of landscape architecture
- Align ideas, issues and concerns with established or identified thought centers and theories in landscape architecture
- Develop a foundation of scholarship for a proposed design research project
- Explore methods, approaches and strategies for data collection and analysis and propose a design for design research findings.

<b>CONTENT</b>	
<b>SLO 1</b>	– Integrate concepts from the general body of knowledge of the profession of landscape architecture in design research
CLO 1	– Develop a broad understanding of the unique nature of landscape architecture critical practice and its distinct role within the broader context of design and planning
CLO 2	– Identify the history and theories of the discipline of landscape architecture and situate within its historical context, a proposed research project that advances our understanding and knowledge
CLO 3	– Propose a design for disseminating findings of a design research exploration
<b>SLO 2</b>	– Apply core professional landscape architecture skills in design research
CLO 4	– Apply diverse critical methods to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of landscape architecture projects, considering factors such as spatial organization, user experience, ecological sustainability, and cultural significance.
CLO 5	– Develop a personal approach to landscape architecture criticism that integrates insights from various theoretical positions, addressing the multidimensional aspects of design quality.
CLO 6	– Employ strategies to assess how design solutions respond to specific site challenges, societal needs, and aspirations, utilizing insights from aesthetics, social dynamics, and environmental considerations.
<b>SLO 3</b>	– Apply ethical understanding to design research
CLO 7	– Demonstrate ethical behaviors and professional conduct in the context of landscape architecture, including respect for diversity, honesty, integrity, and responsibility.

<b>CRITICAL THINKING</b>	
<b>SLO 4</b>	– Combine and analyze information from multiple sources to support design research
CLO 8	– Students will be able to combine and analyze information from Landscape theories and methods to address current and future local, regional, and global challenges.
CLO 9	– Critically analyze and interpret case studies and examples to extract underlying design principles, innovative strategies, and cultural influences present in landscape architecture projects.

<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>SLO 5</b>	– Produce professional visual, oral, and written communications.
CLO 10	– Cultivate advanced written and oral communication skills to articulate insightful and well-reasoned design critiques, effectively conveying observations, evaluations, and recommendations.
CLO 11	– Explore diverse modes of communication beyond traditional writing, using visual representations, multimedia, and interactive platforms to enhance the clarity and impact of design criticism.

### III. Graded Work

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#### DESCRIPTION OF GRADED WORK

Landscape architecture history and theory survey (timeline),  
demonstrated individual contribution to group project 10%

Identification, discussion and reflection of landscape theory

relevant to proposed research problem	10%
Precedent (research) projects review, analysis and findings	10%
Foundations of scholarship (secondary resources discussion and findings)	20%
Design research proposal including detail description of approach, methods and strategies for data collection, analysis and dissemination of findings	25%
Testing ground site selection rationale and initial analysis	15%
Final project Presentation	10%

### 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

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 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 assignment will be reduced by 2% for every day it is late. Assignments are out of 100 points. Therefore, if a 100-point project is five days late, the maximum points that the student can receive for the project is 90 points (i.e., 90% of the total grade). If the student receives the equivalent grade of 85% on the assignment, the student would receive 76.5 points (85% of 90 points). Assignments that are ten days late or more will be graded out of 80% of the total points of the assignment. Late assignments will be

accepted on or before the last day of class. A grade of zero will be given until the assignment has been turned in.

Timely submission of assignments is included as part of the rubric.

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. Semester Schedule

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##### Week

1	t.a20	first week of classes ( <i>beginning Thursday</i> ) ( <i>no class meeting</i> )
2	t.a27	introduction and orientation pre-research LA timeline secondary resources orientation
3	t.s3	initial discp. timeline development ( <i>project development</i> ) projects, designer/writers, thought centers and theories
4	t.s10	<i>wc/sf.ft</i>
5	t.s17	initial LA timeline development ( <i>project development</i> ) projects, designer/writers, thought centers and theories
6	t.s24	<i>accreditation visit</i>
7	t.o1	project development theory exploration and literature review
8	t.o8	project development theory exploration and literature review continued
9	t.o15	project development precedents and case studies as secondary sources
10	t.o22	project development case study analysis as primary data collection/evaluation

- 11 t.o29 project development  
problem statement and research question exploration
- 12 t.n5 project development  
design research, approaches and strategies
- 13 t.n12 project 1 completion  
analysis & findings design

#### **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

- 14 t.n19 final presentations
- 15 t.d3 final presentations

## **VI. Required Policies**

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### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

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

- o Illness
- o Serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family
- o Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- o Military obligation
- o Severe weather conditions that prevent class participation
- 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)
- o Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor

Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up material or activities covered during their excused absence(s) and should contact the instructor about any make-up work. Absences do not affect project deadline dates unless prior arrangements have been made.

Class discussion is essential to the learning experience; therefore, attendance is expected for the entire class time. During the class, it is expected that all students will be participating in discussions/activities or working on LAA6342 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 a meeting for any discussions regarding attendance, tardiness, and late assignments.

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://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

## **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.