

LAA 6971 Research for Master's Thesis  
LAA 6979 Terminal Project  
UF Department of Landscape Architecture  
Fall 2024

## SYLLABUS

### I. General Information

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CLASS MEETINGS: 100% In-Person, T | Periods 8-9 | 3:00 PM - 4:55 PM

LOCATION: 316 ARCH

CREDITS: 3 Credits, S/U grading scheme

INSTRUCTORS: Jules Bruck

431A ARCH

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Period 4 | 10:40 PM - 11:30 PM or by appointment

[jbruck@ufl.edu](mailto:jbruck@ufl.edu)

With assistance from

Aishwarya Shankar

436 ARCH

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Period 4 | 10:40 PM - 11:30 PM or by appointment

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides structure as students begin their thesis or graduate terminal project which is required for MLA degree completion. During the semester, students will finalize their terminal project or thesis idea, develop a project management plan, write a project proposal and gather information by conducting inventory and analysis. Students will also research relevant theories to apply to the project. The instructor will facilitate connections with professionals and guide students through the process of project selection, project management, precedent case study research, site inventory and site analysis. This course provides a solid foundation for the subsequent development of the project, which will take place during the spring semester.

Through participation in this course, students will:

- Gain exposure to a diverse range of real-world projects and research ideas.
- Choose a project either from the options provided by invited professionals or propose their own unique project for consideration.
- Network with industry experts and researchers to establish valuable professional connections.
- Conduct research on precedent projects, and complete a comprehensive site analysis in preparation for the spring independent study course.
- Explore project management principles and organize a year-long project schedule.

This course is taught with LAA 4357.

## PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Students entering their final year are expected to have developed advanced design skills and have the ability to gather and analyzing data (quantitative and qualitative) to inform design decision-making.

## REQUIRED READINGS AND WORKS

Suggested readings are individually assigned to each student based on their project selection. Course readings are provided on the CANVAS learning platform.

## Materials and Supplies

Students are required to have trace paper, sharpie markers and a variety of black ink pens in addition to a computer with the following required software:

- MS Office (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- Adobe Suite Products (Photoshop, Illustrator, and In-Design)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader or other PDF reading software

## II. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

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UF's Professional Program in Landscape Architecture requires ongoing assessment of learning outcomes derived from the Landscape Architecture Body of Knowledge and regular curriculum reviews. Each course has unique course learning objectives (CLOs) tied to UF's Student Learning Outcomes. In addition to the CLOs detailed in the chart below, 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 competency in the 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 2.1.4 - Analyze key theories of landscape architecture that influence design decision-making in the built and natural environment
SLO 2 - Apply core professional landscape architecture skills in design decision-making.
CLO 6.2.1 Implement key concepts relative to project management and delivery.
CLO 15.2.2 - Work autonomously and effectively to complete independent projects.
SLO 3 – Apply ethical understanding to design decision-making.
CLO 5.3.1- Practice the ethical and professional obligations landscape architecture has to clients, communities, the public, and landscape environment.

## CRITICAL THINKING

SLO 4 – Combine and analyze information from multiple sources to support design decision-making.
CLO 1.4.1 - Assess the physical, biotic, climatic and cultural context of projects and integrate findings to validate design decision making.
CLO 1.4.2 - Implement ideas that are grounded in the evaluation of data and the natural, physical, and social sciences to make informed decisions that address and balance aesthetic, environmental, and social issues and goals.
CLO 1.4.4- Connect objective and subjective information from multiple sources to support design decision-making.
CLO 7.4.1 – Critique the suitability of program elements for a particular site.
CLO 7.4.2 - Evaluate spatial and other relevant data as part of design decision making process
CLO 7.4.3 - Defend the criteria and methodology used in an evaluation of a site or program
CLO 15.4.2 - Critically analyze and interpret case studies and examples to extract underlying design principles, innovative strategies and cultural influence present in landscape architecture projects.

<b>COMMUNICATION</b>
SLO 5 – Produce professional visual, oral, and written communications.
CLO 9.5.1, 2, 3 – Express ideas convincingly through oral, visual, and written communication.

<b>RESEARCH</b>
SLO 6 - Devise research methodologies and conclusions appropriate to individual area of interest
CLO 15.6.1 – Articulate a clear research theory, question, and method for a project or proposal
CLO15.6.2 - Contribute new knowledge to the profession to address current and future challenges

### III. Graded Work

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#### DESCRIPTION OF GRADED WORK

All assignments require time outside of class to complete.

#### PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN & COMMUNICATION (15% of total grade)

Students will develop a project management plan and a graphic project schedule to organize their yearlong project. Students are required to communicate with their chair and/or project contributor once each week via email to provide an update and during monthly meetings via zoom or in person.

#### PROGRESSIVE ASSIGNMENTS (20% of total grade)

Students will work through the beginning phases of the design process from site selection to various forms of analysis and preliminary design. These assignments guide progress throughout the semester and reinforce concepts learned in this class and prior classes. Throughout the course of the semester, students are expected to follow an organized file and folder naming convention from the start of the semester all the way up to the deliverables.

#### PROJECT REPORT (50% of total grade)

Students will complete a summary report that details the semester’s progress on the project. This curation of course assignments will be in the format discussed in class and distributed to your mentors for review.

**PROJECT PRESENTATIONS (15% of total grade)**

Students will share their progress during brief mid-review and final presentations. This assignment requires students curate design ideas, concepts and materials developed and explored throughout the semester.

The graded work assesses the course learning objectives as follows:

	SLO 1			SLO 2			SLO 3			SLO 4					SLO 5			SLO 6	
	2.1.4	6.2.1	15.2.2	5.3.1	1.4.1	1.4.2	1.4.3	7.4.1	7.4.2	7.4.3	15.4.2	9.5.1	9.5.2	9.5.3	1.5.1	1.5.2			
01 Project Management Plan		X	X					X					X	X					
02 Inventory & Knowing							X		X				X						
03 Design Philosophy Graphic	X			X						X	X		X	X	X				
04 Analysis/Synthesis					X	X			X	X		X	X	X					
05 Project Report	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
06 Project Presentations				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/> This course is graded as S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory). A grade of S is equal to a C (2.0) or better. Grades earned under the S/U option do not carry grade point values and are not computed in the University of Florida grade point average. Courses with a grade of S will count as credits earned in a degree program. Such grades are included in the student's permanent academic record and are reflected on the transcript.

The Department of Landscape Architecture may retain and use all student work. Digital copies of assignments should be submitted upon completion, following the instructor's specified submission method (e.g., Canvas, CD, PDF, Word file, etc.). Please submit scans of your analog work and high-

quality photos of your models. For multipage PDFs, submit as one file rather than multiple files. Failure to comply with submission instructions or file formats may result in point deductions.

Please submit your assignment by the specified due date and time. Without prior arrangement for late submission, a 2% reduction in maximum points per day (24 hours) applies. Projects over ten days late are graded out of 80% total points; however, late projects are accepted until the last day of class.

Consult the assignment rubric for clarity of assessment.

#### IV. Annotated Weekly Schedule

Week	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
Week 1 Aug 27 <b>Assign 01: PMP &amp; Assign 05 &amp; 06: Project Report &amp; present.</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Course Introduction and Project Management Plan <b>Summary:</b> This week we will 1) review the course syllabus and policies as well as the Project Acquisition Process and Final Project Report (Assignment 06), 2) share prior capstone projects 2) prepare for professionals to visit to share their projects, and discuss how to create a Project Management Plan (Assignment 01)
Week 2 Sept 3	<b>Topic:</b> Professional Partner Presentations <b>Summary:</b> For each presentation, take notes about the <i>scale, complexity, impact, scope, challenges and opportunities, and outcomes/deliverables</i> . Also take note of any specific challenge the project wishes to address, the level of stakeholder engagement and the innovation potential. <b>Required Readings/Works:</b> Murphey, M. D. (2016). Design Process (Chpt. 7) <i>In</i> Landscape architecture theory: An ecological approach. Island Press: Washington
Week 3 Sept 10	<b>Topic:</b> Professional Partner Presentations OR Project Selection (depending on time) <b>Summary:</b> This week we will continue to meet with different entities who will present projects for you to consider. Take notes as detailed in the summary in Week 2. At the end of the class, we will discuss project ranking and review the project acquisition process. Alternatively, if all presentations are complete, we will complete project selection.
Week 4 Sept 17 <b>Assign 02: Inventory</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Project Selection/Communications and Site Inventory <b>Summary:</b> Today we will: 1) finalize project selection and then discuss <i>communication expectations</i> (outside entity and faculty) 2) discuss design process focusing on inventory and analysis, <b>Read Representing Complexity</b> , Steiner, 2013 3) Introduce Assignment 02: Inventory 4) discuss accreditation and review what to expect next week during the LAAB Accreditation Visit
Week 5 Sept 24	<b>LAAB Accreditation Visit</b> <b>Topic:</b> Representing complexity

Week	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
	<b>Summary:</b> We will provide brief overview of prior projects to ensure we answer your questions relative to expectations. Information discussed with help with Assignment 01.
Week 6 Oct 1	<b>Assignment 01 – PMP Due</b> <b>Topic:</b> Review of submitted project management plans <b>Summary:</b> We will provide time to review submissions from Assign 01, and time to generate updates by the end of the class time.
Week 7 Oct 8	<b>ASLA National and Fall Trips - No Class</b>
Week 8 Oct 15 <b>Assign 03- Graphic</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Design Narrative <b>Summary:</b> Design narrative is introduced and you have the opportunity to think about ways to weave our preliminary findings into a story to share with stakeholders. <b>Enjoy Homecoming this weekend!</b>
Week 9 Oct 22	<b>Assignment 2 – Inventory Due</b> <b>Topic:</b> Qualitative Information Gathering & Discuss Assignment 02 <b>Summary:</b> We will discuss ways to gain information from qualitative sources that will support your design decision making and review assignment 03.
Week 10 Oct 29 <b>Assign 04 - Analysis</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Mid-review check in. Individual discussions and independent work day. <b>Summary:</b> You will share your progress during a quick presentation. We will also Assign 05 - Analysis and Narrative, and make sure your expectations are clear.
Week 11 Nov 5	Election Day! <b>Assignment 3 – Graphic Due</b> <b>Topic: Review</b> <b>Summary:</b> We will review Assignment 04 and you will have the opportunity to share your graphic with the class in a rapid presentation.
Week 12 Nov 12	<b>Topic:</b> Presentation of Design Philosophy Graphics <b>Summary:</b> We will review Assignment 04 and you will have the opportunity to share your graphic with the class in a rapid presentation.
Week 13 Nov 19	<b>Assignment 04 – Analysis/Synthesis Due</b> <b>Topic:</b> Reflection on Project Management and Preparation for Final Presentations <b>Summary:</b> Once a project management plan is created, it is important to look at it throughout the project to make adjustments. Today we will revisit our PMPs and discuss how to update or adjust as needed. We will also answer questions and share logistics for the final presentations.
Week 14 Nov 26	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK - No Class</b>

Week	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
Week 15 Dec 3	<p><b>Topic: Presentations</b></p> <p><b>Assignments 05 &amp; 06 Report and Presentations Due</b></p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Today you present your projects and submit your final reports</p>

**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 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 assignments for this course. 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.