LAA 1330
Landscape Architecture Site Analysis (Online)
UF Department of Landscape Architecture
Summer 2025 [5/12/2025 to 6/20/2025]

SYLLABUS

General Information

CLASS MEETINGS: Asynchronous Online
CREDITS: 3 Credits

INSTRUCTORS: **Aishwarya Shankar, MLA**, Instructional Assistant Professor
436 Jonathan and Melanie Antevy Hall
Office hours by appointment – please send me an email to schedule
shankaraishwarya@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION. This course introduces site inventory, analysis and evaluation of site development procedures; emphasis on landscape ecology. Open to all students.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS. There are no prerequisite courses, knowledge or skills for this course.

COURSE GOALS
This is an introduction to the process of inventory, analysis, and synthesis of information about a site and its context. Our course objective is to expand students' knowledge of a site's natural/cultural resources and its user needs that directly affect landscape architecture design decisions. Through the semester, assignments will enable students to conduct site inventory, analyze the selected inventory in relation to key issues and program requirements, and synthesize this information to propose a preliminary design of program elements.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY
Landscape architecture is an exciting discipline! I aim to share this passion with students, so that they will be able to utilize the tools and methods of landscape architecture, both as working professionals and inquisitive individuals. I hope to cultivate students' self-guided exploration, critical reflection, and independent thinking that challenges both peers and professors. To this end, I strive to be direct, responsive, and transparent in assessment and feedback.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS
This course will introduce you to the process of analyzing sites for planning and design. Coursework will focus on:
- **Online instructional content.** Lectures, videos, readings, and other course materials will provide unique perspectives on subject matter.
- **Discussions.** Students will engage in a discourse about the course content through weekly

online discussions.
- **Quizzes + Mid Term Exam.** There will be several quizzes given over the course of the semester, as well as a mid-term exam, which will also be given online.
- **Assignments.** Several iterative assignments will enable students to apply the site analysis techniques learned to a location of their choosing. To conduct the site analysis, students will collect information both online (using digital data and ArcGIS Online), as well as in-person through site visits and observations. Please note that the final term project will serve as the final exam for the course. Peer reviews of these projects will enhance critical evaluation of colleagues' work as well as reflection upon your own work.

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.

- ArcGIS Online[1]
  ArcGIS Online is an intuitive geographic information systems (GIS) platform providing mapping and analysis tools. As part of the course assignments, students will use this platform to develop some of the site analysis course assignments. Access is available for free using UF GatorLink ID credentials.
- Textbook (Optional)
  LaGro, James A. (2013.) Site Analysis: Informing Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design, 3rd Edition. John Wiley & Sons. Hoboken, NJ
  o **The physical book is not required for the course.** However, this book mirrors most of the course and will be helpful throughout your landscape architecture career. It is available HERE[2] through the UF Library with a valid GatorLink ID

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

In this course, bachelor's and master's degree students will be expected to have achieved the following learning objectives:

- **Knowledge:** Integrate concepts from the discipline's general body of knowledge [of the profession of LA] in design decision-making.
- **Composition:** Identify and describe spatial systems, including the organization and interplay of physical, functional, and perceptual elements, within a designed environment.
- **Skills:** Apply core professional landscape architecture skills in design decision-making.
- **Interdisciplinarity:** Synthesize and integrate knowledge, methods, and perspectives from other disciplines to design decision-making.
- **Ethics:** Apply ethical understanding to design decision-making.
- **Critical Thinking:** Combine and analyze information from multiple sources to support design decision-making.
- **Design Values:** Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of landscape architecture projects in reaching diverse goals such as spatial organization, user experience, ecological sustainability, social equity, resilience, and cultural significance.

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[1] ArcGIS Online: https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-online/overview
[2] Site Analysis Textbook Online (optional): https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ufl/detail.action?docID=1120063

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- **Creativity:** Apply natural, physical, and social sciences, along with creative thinking techniques, to develop site-specific design solutions that incorporate diverse perspectives and calculated risks.
- **Communication:** Produce professional visual, oral and written communications.
- **Research:** Devise research methodologies and conclusions appropriate to individual area of interest.

GRADED WORK

Grading policies in the course are consistent with University grades and grading policies. Deadlines for assignments are listed in the Annotated Weekly Schedule and on Canvas. Students should submit work on the dates indicated except where university policy provides an exemption.

DESCRIPTION OF GRADED WORK

Cumulative Term Project (40% of grade)
Applying the information that you are learning in class is primarily done through a cumulative term project comprised of several site analysis assignments that explore a location of your choosing. To conduct the site analysis, you will collect information both online (using digital data and ArcGIS Online[3]), as well as other tools.

Weekly Quizzes (15% of grade)
To ensure student engagement and participation in the online content and lectures, quizzes will be given throughout the semester. *Please note that quizzes are due by their deadlines and may not be submitted late unless previous accommodations have been made.*

Weekly Discussions (15% of grade)
There will be a series of weekly reflective discussions over the course of the semester. It is important that you provide substantive reflections through quality posts.

Mid-Term Exam (10% of grade)
A mid-term exam will be assigned online and will include questions from each topic covered to date. The mid-term is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, October 20, 2022 from 6:00am-9:00pm**.

Final Project (10% of grade)
A final project will be based on the cumulative results of the site analysis assignments and focus on site synthesis.

Peer Review + Participation (10% of 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. In addition, you may select from activities such as visiting office hours, commenting on weekly discussion boards, posting useful class resources, responding to our "Just for Fun" questions, etc. to earn additional participation points.

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[3] ArcGIS Online: https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-online/overview

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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 structure of the class, 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](#)[4].

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

The Department acknowledges that the student retains ownership of their documents; however, it is a necessity for the Department to retain the right to use the documents for professional accreditation purposes. Furthermore, other course specific work, such as service-learning opportunities may require the Department to ultimately provide work created by students to an outside organization.
Digital copies of student work for this course must be turned in at the completion of each assignment. Please follow the instructor's directions on 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.

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 (PDFs). Please adhere to each assignment's file submission guidelines.*

COURSE POLICIES

WORKLOAD

As this is an ***asynchronous online course***, there is no required class attendance. The course has been constructed similarly to a regular 3-credit class, which means that **there is a total of ~9 hours of work**

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[4] UF Attendance Policies: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absencestext

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required per week including 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.*

(Remember, 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 Colleges[5].)

PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to complete all assignments, discussions, and quizzes in a timely fashion. Students will be able to engage with their classmates and earn participation points through a number of avenues. First, they will complete peer reviews of their classmates' term project assignments, as well as a review of their project partner (both required). In addition, they may select from a number of activities such as commenting on peer's responses for the weekly discussion boards, posting useful class resources, responding to our "Just for Fun" questions, and other activities to earn the remainder of their participation points. Lastly, class participation is monitored through Canvas.

INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

In terms of communication with the instructor, students are welcome to email (via Canvas platform is preferred) and request meetings over Zoom (or in-person if they are campus). Students should expect weekly communications from me with a summary of the week's learning goals, course content, upcoming assignment due dates, and other miscellaneous reminders. I will make every effort to be prompt in my communication, and you should expect a reply within a day or two. Students will also receive feedback on their assignments within 2 weeks of submission. Again, please reach out with any questions or concerns related to the class, the broader landscape architecture curriculum, or anything else you want support with!

NETIQUETTE

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[6].

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[5] SACS: https://citt.ufl.edu/resources/student-engagement/ensuring-academic-rigor/
[6] UF Netiquette: http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

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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.

UF Required Policies

Class Attendance & Excused Absences:
Requirements for class attendance and excused absences are consistent with university policies. See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.

Requirements for exams, reading days, and excused absences relative to exams and other assignments/assessments are consistent with university policies. See Examination Policies and Reading Days for more information regarding University Exam Policies.

Accommodations for students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the "Get Started With the DRC" webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. 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.

Technology
Canvas: In this class, Canvas, UF's online learning management system, will be used for course activities, resources, assignments, and communication channels. All assignments will be posted through the Canvas course site unless otherwise directed.

Online Course Evaluation Process:
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:
1. The email they receive from GatorEvals,
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or
3. The central portal at https://my-ufl.bluera.com
Guidance on how to Provide Constructive Feedback is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

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UF 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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

In-Class Recording

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 education 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 deliver by an 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 presentation 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 guest 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.

Campus Resources:

• Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
- University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

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- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources
- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- Teaching Center: 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.

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Page 8

Annotated Weekly Schedule

The following is an overview of the course schedule and assignments. Please check the course website on CANVAS for more detailed information regarding course content, assignments, quizzes, due dates, and other pertinent material.

Course Week + Topic	Weekly Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1: Course Introduction, site planning process, site selection and base mapping *(Intro Assign 01- Site Selection)*	Discussion 00, 01 Quiz 01 **Assignment 01: Site Selection**	Sunday, May 18 @11:59pm
Week 2: Physical Inventory + Analysis: Topography + Geomorphology; Hydrology + Soils; Climate + Ecology *(Intro Assign 02- Physical Characteristics)*	Discussion 02 Quiz 02 Peer Review 01 **Assignment 02: Physical Systems**	Sunday, May 25 @11:59pm
Week 3: Ecological Inventory: Fieldwork; Human Systems: Land Use + Regulatory Context; Midterm Exam *(Intro Assign 03- Climate + Ecology)*	Discussion 03 Quiz 03 Peer Review 02 **Mid-Term Exam** **Assignment 03: Climate + Ecology**	Sunday, Jun 1 @11:59pm Friday, May 30 @10:00pm Sunday, Jun 1 @11:59pm
Week 4: Human Systems: Infrastructure; Human Systems: History + Culture; Final Analysis + Site Synthesis *(Intro Assign 04- Human Systems)*	Discussion 04 Quiz 04 Peer Review 03 **Assignment 04: Human Systems**	Sunday, Jun 8 @11:59pm
Week 5.1: New Analysis Technologies; New Site Analysis Applications; Exploring Precedents *(Intro Assign 05- Final Analysis + Synthesis)*	Discussion 05 Quiz 05 Peer Review 04	Friday, Jun 13 @11:59pm
Week 6: Conclusions	Discussion 06 (not graded) **Assignment 05: Final Analysis + Site Synthesis** Peer Review 05 Self + Partner Evaluation	Mon, Jun 16 @11:59pm **Note: grades will be finalized by Jun 20*

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