

LAA 1920

Introduction to Landscape Architecture (Online)

UF Department of Landscape Architecture

Summer B 2025 [06/30/2025 to 08/08/2025]

SYLLABUS

I. General Information

CLASS MEETINGS: Asynchronous Online
CREDITS: 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Aishwarya Shankar, MLA**, Instructional Assistant Professor
436 Jonathan and Melanie Antevy Hall
Office hours by appointment – please send me an email to schedule
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduces landscape architecture, a profession that “creates healthy, safe, and beautiful outdoor places for everyone”, and a field explores the art and science of planning, designing, and managing landscapes for both human use and nature. Open to all students.

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad understanding of the profession of Landscape Architecture. It will give an overview of the societal challenges facing the world today, as well as some of the unique solutions created by Landscape Architecture. Through a mixture of online lectures, discussions, and activities/projects, the course introduces the landscape architecture focusing on:

1. Subject matter: Provides both practical and theoretical understanding of methods and tools used in landscape architecture, planning, and design. Living landscapes shape human interaction with the world and are in turn shaped by the application of design and planning.
2. Scales of concern: Addresses our built and natural environment from backyards to global processes, and everything in-between. Provides an understanding of a continuum of landscapes from wilderness to managed natural areas, rural landscapes, small towns, suburbia, cities, and broader urban regions.
3. Issues: Frames the issues facing our world today that drive design and planning decisions. These include climate change, urbanization, transportation challenges, and water management; also addressed are social, cultural, & historical issues, and paradigm shifts in the design profession.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Landscape architecture is an exciting field! I aim to share this passion with students, so that they will be able to utilize the ideas 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.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

There are no prerequisite courses, knowledge or skills for this course.

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. however it is strongly suggested that you browse through the below tables of recommended books and essays, which are available at the Architecture/Fine Arts Library.



Other library resources are available for Distance Learners or UF Online students at the [Library Help Desk](#).

Landscape Architecture Theory, History, and Approaches	
Title	Author
Contemporary Japanese Landscape	Process Architecture
Contemporary Trends in Landscape Architecture	Steven Cantor
Design with Nature	Ian L. McHarg
Innovative Design Solutions in Landscape Architecture	Steven Cantor
Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories	Matthew Potteiger
Modern Landscape Architecture	Ed., Marc Treib
Nature and Ideology: Natural Garden Design in the 20 th Century	Ed., Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn
The Landscape Approach	Bernard Lassus
The American Lawn	Ed., Georges Teyssot
The Landscape Approach	Bernard Lassus
The Landscape of Man	Geoffrey A. Jellicoe
Rethinking Landscape Architecture	Ed., Ian Thompson
Landscape Architecture Projects and Practitioners	
Title	Author
Abstracting the Landscape: The Artistry of A.E. Bye	Ed., Catherine Howett
Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes: Her Gardens and Campuses	Diana Balmori
Dan Kiley: The Complete Works of America's Master Landscape Architect	Jane Amidon & Dan Kiley
Desvigne & Dalnoky: The Return of the Landscape	Desvigne & Dalnoky
Gardening With Water	James Van Sweden
Garrett Eckbo: Modern Landscapes for Living	Marc Trieb
Kathryn Gustafson: Sculpting the Land	Leah Levy
Martha Schwartz: Transfiguration of the Commonplace	Elizabeth K. Meyer
Peter Walker: Minimalist Gardens	Peter Walker
Pioneer of Tropical Landscape Architecture: William Lyman Phillips in Florida	Faith R. Jackson
Roberto Burle Marx: The Natural Art of the Garden	William H. Adams
Sasaki Associates: Integrated Environments	Melanie Simo
Siftings	Jens Jensen
Ten Landscapes: Raymond Jungles	James Truelove
Ten Landscapes: Shunmyo Masuno	James Truelove
The Miller Garden: Icon of Modernism	Gary R. Hildebrand

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II. 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.
- **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.

III. 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

Weekly Quizzes (20% 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 Reflective Discussions (20% 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.

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Memory Project (20% of grade)

The Memory Project will be assigned to help refine your understanding of a sense of place and the experience of landscapes; it encourages your creative application of course themes to reflections on scenes from your childhood.

Final Research Project (10% of grade)

A final research project will enrich your understanding of the depth and breadth of the profession through an exploration of a specific design project.

Other Projects (25% of grade)

Another three projects will be given throughout the semester to reinforce and apply the understanding of the topics and concepts presented.

Peer Review + Participation (5% of grade)

Students will review their classmates' projects 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 commenting on weekly discussion boards, posting useful class resources, and responding to "Just for Fun" questions to earn participation points.

Note on Exams: There will be no mid-term or final exam for this course. The Memory Project will serve as the "mid-term exam" and the Final Research Project will serve as the "final exam."

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](#)¹.

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

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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.

IV. Annotated Weekly Schedule

The following is an overview of the course schedule and assignments. Note that the weekly contents might be slightly adjusted during the semester to enhance learning outcomes. Please follow CANVAS for

¹ UF Attendance Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absencestext>

² UF Grades and Grading Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

more detailed information regarding course content, assignments, due dates, and other pertinent material for each week.

Course Week + Topic	Required Content	Weekly Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1: Overview What is Landscape Architecture; Landscapes through time (Introduce Memory Project 01 + 02)	1 Getting Started: Course Introduction 2 What is Landscape Architecture 3 Landscapes Through Time: Origins of Landscape Architecture	- Discussion 01 - Quiz 01 - Assignment 1.1 & 1.2	Sunday, July 05 @11:59pm
Week 2: Urbanization Urbanized Landscapes, Urban Parks and Open Space (Introduce Memory Project 03 + 04)	1 History of Urbanized Landscapes 2 Urban Parks and Open Space 3 Urban Parks + Public Health	- Discussion 02 - Quiz 02 - Peer Review 01 - Assignment 1.3 & 1.4	Sunday, July 12 @11:59pm

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Week 3: Transportation Streets, Neighborhoods and Transportation Infrastructure	1 Background 2 Designing A Healthy Neighborhood 3 Streetscapes 4 Issues in Transportation 5 Future of Transportation	- Discussion 03 - Quiz 03 - Peer Review 02	Sunday, July 19 @11:59pm
Week 4: Landscape Ecology Landscape Conservation; Blue-Green Infrastructure; Urban Flooding; Climate Resilience (Introduce Exploring Blue + Green Infrastructure Project)	1 History of Landscape Conservation in the US 2 Landscape Conservation Strategies 3 Focus on Florida 4 What is Blue-Green Infrastructure 5 Blue-Green Infrastructure Interventions 6 Urban Flooding + Stormwater Management 7 Coasts + Climate Resilience	- Discussion 04 - Quiz 04 - Peer Review 03 - Assignment 2	Sunday, July 26 @11:59pm
Week 5: Community & Practice Culture Influences + Community Design; Global Influences; Design as Practice (Introduce the Observing the Landscape Project)	1 Cultural Landscapes 2 Community Design 3 Global Influences 4 International Practice 5 Design as Practice	- Discussion 05 - Quiz 05 - Peer Review 04 - Assignment 3	Friday, July 31 @11:59pm
Week 6: Critical Conclusions Critical Issues; Future of Landscape Architecture; Conclusions (Introduce the Final Project- Landscape Architecture Research)	1 Health + Wellness 2 Racial Equity + Social Justice 3 Universal Design 4 Climate Change Adaptation + Action 5 Gardens + Biodiversity 6 Urban Agriculture 7 The New Landscape Declaration 8 Landscape Perspectives Interviews 9 Course Evaluations	- Discussion 06 (<i>not graded</i>) - Final Research Project/ Assignment 4	Wed, Aug 05 @11:59pm <i>*Note: grades will be finalized by Aug 08</i>

V. 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 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.

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(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 Colleges¹](#).)

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 term 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.

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*

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 [here⁴](#).

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) à 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

³ SACS: <https://citt.ufl.edu/resources/student-engagement/ensuring-academic-rigor/>

⁴ UF Netiquette: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>
the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

¹ SACS: <https://citt.ufl.edu/resources/student-engagement/ensuring-academic-rigor/>

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VI. 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/>.

UF Honesty Policy

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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.

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- 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](#).
- 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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