

LAA 4905 Special Studies in Landscape Architecture

UF Department of Landscape Architecture

Summer 2025

SYLLABUS

I. General Information

CLASS MEETINGS: Varies, Instructor Dependent

LOCATION: Instructor determines in consultation with student

CREDITS: 1-6 Credits, may be repeated for credit with a change of topic

INSTRUCTOR: Varies

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an elective, self-directed course for majors and non-majors who wish to investigate a specific area of landscape architecture. The primary goal of the course is to provide students with focused research and/or design exploration of a specific topic of interest under the advisement of a faculty member who monitors and critiques student's progress. Through intentional and critical involvement in their special study pursuits, students are encouraged to engage thoughtfully with their chosen topics to foster a deeper understanding and potentially advancing the field of landscape architecture.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Students seeking special study are expected to have developed the ability to gather and analyzing data (quantitative and qualitative) and work autonomously and effectively to complete an independent project.

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 basic supplies necessary to complete most design project along with 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)

Each student in the LA program is expected to understand and apply the design process and continuously develop (some of the following may not apply to the selected special studies project):

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- 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.

Depending on the project type and student level in the program we expect graduate students to be able to:

- Articulate a clear research theory for the selected independent project.
- Select and apply appropriate research methods.
- Demonstrate the ability to position knowledge within the existing landscape architectural body of information to articulate the broader significance relative to advancing the field.
- Iterate design ideas and respond to feedback and critique.
- Produce a logical and professional final project.

Course learning objectives vary based on project type and student level. This course is not part of the official assessment of Student Learning Outcomes.

III. Graded Work

DESCRIPTION OF GRADED WORK

All assignments are at the discretion of the faculty member who is responsible for assessing student learning and outcomes to items listed in II. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

For information on grades and grading policies, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

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, developed by professor, for clarity of assessment.

IV. Annotated Weekly Schedule

Follow the guidelines given to you by the department each semester to ensure accuracy of submission deadlines.

Week	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
Week 1	Topic: Meeting with Professor, Course Intro and Deadline review
Week 2	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 3	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 4	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 5	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 6	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 7	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 8	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 9	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 10	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 11	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 12	Topic: Meeting with Professor
Week 13	Topic: Meeting with Professor
*Schedule, topics, and dates are subject to change	

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

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- 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.

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