

LAA 2710: History of Landscape Architecture

Sections 6087 and HYFL

UF Department of Landscape Architecture
Fall 2025

SYLLABUS

I. General Information

CLASS MEETINGS: Section 6087: 100% In-Person, M/W/F Period 2 (8:30-9:20 AM)
Section HYFL: Synchronous Online M/W/F Period 2 (8:30-9:20 AM)

LOCATION: RNK 0230

CREDITS: 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Nicholas Serrano, Ph.D.

Office Location: Antevy 430

Office Hours: Wednesdays 8:00-10:00 AM

nicholas.serrano@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Landscape architecture is the art and science of arranging functions and spaces within the ecology of the land and the culture of the humans who inhabit it. Survey of the history of humans as it is expressed in such diverse areas as urban form, community planning, gardens, parks and recreational areas, agricultural patterns and land management from both western and global contexts.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

None.

REQUIRED READINGS AND WORKS

John Dixon Hunt, *A World of Gardens*. London, Reaktion Books, 2012. ([Available through UFL Libraries here.](#))

Materials and Supplies

*No required materials and supplies

Optional Resources

Elizabeth Boult and Chip Sullivan. *Illustrated History of Landscape Design*. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, 2010. (Available free through UF Libraries)

Patrick Taylor, *The Oxford Companion to the Garden*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006. (Available free through UF Libraries)

II. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

The **course learning objectives** (CLOs) below align with the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) standards and UF's LAA Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are used to guide the assessment of student learning throughout their engagement in the program.

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved an appropriate developmental level of the following CLOs numbered in the chart below (each with an individual name):

CONTENT
Humanities SLO: Identify, describe, and explain the history, underlying theory and methodologies used.
LAA SLO 1 – Integrate concepts from the general body of knowledge of the profession of landscape architecture in design decision-making.
1— Historical Concepts: Summarize and explain broad concepts related to the history of landscape architecture that impact the built and natural environment. (d)
2—Historical Approaches: Identify a range of creative, cultural, and historic approaches used to develop material, spatial, and temporal landscape compositions. (i)
3 – Professional Responsibilities: Describe the historical evolution of legal responsibilities and the role of landscape architects in preserving human health, safety, and public welfare

CRITICAL THINKING
Humanities SLO: Identify and analyze the relevant factors that shape thought within the subject area. Approach issues and problems within the discipline from multiple perspectives.
4—Historical Ethics: Examine the historical development of ethical, legal, and professional obligations in landscape architecture to clients, communities, the public, and the environment
5—Integrative Design: Analyze the social, cultural, economic, political, and behavioral factors shaping landscape architecture in north america and globally

COMMUNICATION
Humanities SLO: Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively.
6—Written Communications: Express ideas concretely through written communication. (i)

(i = introduced, d=developing, c=competent)

III. Graded Work

DESCRIPTION OF GRADED WORK

In-class exercises (20% of total grade)

Students will complete a series of graded in-class exercises that will be conducted regularly throughout the semester. These may include group think—pair—share, iClicker polls, and practice Learning Assessment questions. Many will be for completion credit. Attendance will also count as part of this grade. Exercises will not be announced in advance and students must be present to complete and get credit for the exercise.

Outside Exercises (20% of total grade)

Students will complete exercises outside of class time through Canvas. All exercises will be announced in class and available on Canvas with guidelines and rubrics. Exercises are graded on completeness, adherence to guidelines specified in individual prompts, spelling and grammar, and quality of content. Late submissions are subject to the guidelines below and accepted at the instructor's discretion.

Learning Assessments (40% of total grade each)

Students will complete three learning assessments during the semester. Learning assessments are cumulative, will be completed through Canvas using the Lockdown Browser extension, and must be taken during our scheduled class and Final Exam times.

Final Learning Assessments (20% of total grade each)

Students will complete a final cumulative learning assessment during our scheduled exam period.

The graded work assesses the course learning objectives as follows:

Assessment	LAA 2710 – Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)							
	SLO 1				SLO 3		SLO 4	SLO 5
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
In-class Exercises	X		X				X	
Outside Exercises		X	X		X	X	X	X
Learning Assessments	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/>

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 of Landscape Architecture may retain and use all student work. 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.

GRADING POLICIES

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.

IV. Tentative Schedule

Week	Day	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
Week 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Course Introduction • Required Readings: N/A
	Aug. 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Course Introduction
Week 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Origins • Required Readings: Dell Upton, "Architectural History or Landscape History?" <i>Journal of Architectural Education</i> 44/4 (August 1991), pp. 195-199; Hunt, "Sacred Landscapes from Delphi to Yosemite," pgs. 9-21.
	Aug. 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Why History?
	Aug. 27 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Origins of Landscape I
	Aug. 29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Origins of Landscape II
Week 3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Greek and Roman Landscapes • Required Readings: Hunt, "Ancient Roman Gardens and their Types," pgs. 41-56. • Further Readings: P. Bowe, "The Evolution of the Ancient Greek Garden" <i>Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes</i> 30, no.3 (2010):208-223; Alfred Frazer, "The Roman Villa and the Pastoral Ideal." In John Dixon Hunt. <i>The Pastoral Landscape</i>, 49-61. Washington DC: National Gallery of Art, 1992.
	Sept. 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class: Labor Day
	Sept. 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Greek Landscape
	Sept. 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Roman Landscapes
Week 4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Paradise Gardens • Required Readings: Hunt, "Islamic and Mughal Gardens" pgs. 57-82; Hunt, "Western Medieval Gardens: From Cloister to Suburban Backyard," 83-97 • Further Readings: Ruggles, D. Fairchild. "The Garden as Paradise." In <i>Islamic Gardens and Landscape</i>. (Philadelphia PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008), pp. 89-101; God, <i>Genesis</i> 2, 8-14 and <i>Song of Solomon</i> 4, 12-16; Hunt, "Western Medieval Gardens: From Cloister to Suburban Backyard," pgs. 83-97
	Sept. 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: The Idea of Paradise
	Sept. 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Islamic and Mughal Gardens

Week	Day	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
	Sept. 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Medieval Gardens
Week 5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Mesoamerican Landscapes • Required Readings: Alice Beck Kehoe, "Cahokia, the Great City," <i>OAH Magazine of History</i> 27, no.4 (2013): 17-21; Kathleen James-Chakraborty, "Tenochtitlán and Cuzco," <i>Architecture before 1400</i>, pgs. 16-29 (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014). • Further Readings: William M. Denevan, "The Pristine Myth: The Landscape of the Americas in 1492" <i>Annals of the American Association of Geographers</i> 82, issue 3 (1992): 369-385
	Sept. 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Mesoamerican Landscapes I
	Sept. 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Mesoamerican Landscapes II
	Sept. 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Review
Week 6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Renaissance Gardens and Landscapes • Required Readings: Hunt, "The Renaissance Recovery of Antique Garden Forms and Usages" and "The <i>Paragone</i> of Art and Nature in the Renaissance and Later," pgs. 98-130; • Further Readings: Thomas E. Beck, "Gardens as a 'Third Nature': the Ancient Roots of a Renaissance Idea." In <i>Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes</i> 22, no. 4 (Winter 2002), pp. 327-334
	Sept. 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Assessment 1
	Sept. 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Class
	Sept. 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Class
Week 7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Baroque Gardens and Landscapes • Note: Class on October 3rd will be virtual. • Required Readings: Baridon, Michel. "The Scientific Imagination and the Baroque Garden." In <i>Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes</i>, 18 (1998), pp. 5-19
	Sept. 29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Intro to the Baroque
	Oct. 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: French Gardens and Landscapes
	Oct. 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Baroque Rome
Week 8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flex Week/Field Trip
	Oct. 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Flex Lecture
	Oct. 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class: Field Trip Week
	Oct. 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class: Field Trip Week
Week 9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: The Landscape Garden • Required Readings: Hunt, "Leaping the Ha-ha; or, How the Larger Landscape Invaded the Garden" and "The Role of the 'Natural' Garden from 'Capability' Brown to Dan Kiley," pgs. 172-201

Week	Day	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Readings: Ann Bermingham, "The Politics of the Picturesque" in <i>Landscape and Ideology</i>, Berkeley, University of California, 1989, pp. 73-83.
	Oct. 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Landscape Garden I
	Oct. 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Landscape Garden II
	Oct. 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class: Homecoming Holiday
Week 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Colonial Landscapes • Required Readings: Hunt, "The Botanical Garden, the Arboretum and the Cabinet of Curiosities," pgs. 130-146 • Further Readings: Denis E. Cosgrove, "America as Landscape." In <i>Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape</i>, 161-188. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1998.
	Oct. 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: America as Landscape I
	Oct. 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Crystal Palace and Colonial Landscapes
	Oct. 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: America as Landscape II (Centennial Exhibition)
Week 11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Landscapes of the Industrial World I • Required Readings: Hunt, "The Invention of the Public Park," pgs.241-256. • Further Readings: Schenker, Heath Massey. "Parks and Politics During the Second Empire in Paris." <i>Landscape Journal</i> 14.2 (Fall 1995), pp. 201-219;
	Oct. 27 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Assessment 2
	Oct. 29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: The Industrial City
	Oct. 31 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: London and Paris
Week 12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Landscapes of the Industrial World II • Required Readings: Colin Fisher, "Nature in the City: Urban Environmental History and Central Park." <i>OAH Magazine of History</i> 25, No.4 (2011): 27-31; Thomas Fisher, "Frederick Law Olmsted and the Campaign for Public Health," <i>Places Journal</i>, November 2010. • Further Readings: Adam Gopnik, "Olmsted's Trip: How did a news reporter come to create Central Park?" <i>The New Yorker</i> (March 31, 1997): 96-103.
	Nov. 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Victorian Gardens and Suburbs
	Nov. 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Frederick Law Olmsted and Central Park
	Nov. 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Beaux Arts and the Birth of City Planning
Week 13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Landscapes of Modernity I • Required Readings: Hayden, Dolores. 2003. "Sitcom Suburbs" in <i>Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth 1820-2000</i> (New York: Vintage Books), pp.128-153; • Further Readings: Dianne Harris, "Making Your Private World: Modern Landscape Architecture and House Beautiful," in <i>The Architecture of Landscape</i>,

Week	Day	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
		<i>1940-1960</i> , Marc Treib, ed., Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, 2002, pp. 180-205
	Nov. 10 th	• Lecture: Garden Cities
	Nov. 12 th	• Lecture: Regional Planning
	Nov. 14 th	• Lecture: Post-war Suburbanization
Week 14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Landscape of Modernity II • Required Readings: Garrett Eckbo, "What Do We Mean by Modern Landscape Architecture?" in <i>Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada</i>, Vol. 27 No.8, (1950), pp 268-271 • Further Readings: Hunt, "The Prose and Poetry of Modern Landscape Architecture," 313-328; Marc A. Weiss, "The Origins and Legacy of Urban Renewal," in <i>Urban and Regional Planning in an Age of Austerity</i>, eds. Pierre Gavel, John Forester, and William W Goldsmith (NYC: Pergamon Press, 1980), 53-80
	Nov. 17 th	• Lecture: Urban Renewal
	Nov. 19 th	• Lecture: Privatization of Public Space
	Nov. 21 st	• Lecture: Flex
Week 15	Nov. 24 th	No Class: Thanksgiving Break
	Nov. 26 th	No Class: Thanksgiving Break
	Nov. 28 th	No Class: Thanksgiving Break
Week 16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Course Wrap-Up and Final review • Required Readings: N/A
	Dec. 1 st	• Lecture: Learning Assessment #3
	Dec. 3 rd	• Lecture: Course Wrap-up
	Final	• December 11th, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

VI. Required Policies

Please use this link (<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolices>) to UF's academic policies and campus resources, including information on:

- Class Attendance
- Make-up Exams
- Assignments
- Accommodations/Disability Resources Center
- Grading Policies
- Course Evaluations
- Guidance on how to Provide Constructive Feedback

- UF's Honesty Policy
- In-Class Recording

As well as **academic resources**, including:

- E-learning technical support
- Career Connections Center
- Library Support
- Academic Resources: ex. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio: ex. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions)
- UF Student Success Initiative: for resources that support your success as a UF student, and

Campus Health and Wellness Resources:

- UF Whole Gator Resources: for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

VII. Resources

Texts:

Elizabeth Boults and Chip Sullivan. *Illustrated History of Landscape Design*. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, 2010. (Available free through UF Libraries at https://ufl-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01FALSC_UFL/175ga98/alma990263742090306597)

Patrick Taylor, *The Oxford Companion to the Garden*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006. (Available free through UF Libraries at https://ufl-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01FALSC_UFL/6ad6fc/alma99383204011506597)

Web Resources:

Digital Library of Landscape Architecture History <http://www.dililah.org/index.html>

History of Early American Landscape Design <https://heald.nga.gov/mediawiki/index.php/Home>