LAA 2951:LA Experience 1
LAA 6905: Grad East Coast Field Trip
UF Department of Landscape Architecture
Fall 2025

## SYLLABUS

## I. General Information

CLASS MEETINGS:     Preparatory meetings: TBD
                    Field trip: Oct 7-12 (Tues-Sun)


LOCATION:           New Orleans, LA
CREDITS:            1 Credit


INSTRUCTORS:        Andrea Galinski, mla, asla, cfm
                    AH 462

                    Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri, 9-10am or by appointment

                    andrea.galinski@ufl.edu

                    Nicholas Serrano
                    AH 431

                    Office Hours: Thursdays, 1-3pm or by appointment

                    nicholas.serrano@ufl.edu


**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This immersive, weeklong field course engages New Orleans and the U.S. Gulf Coast as a living laboratory for landscape architecture. Students will develop skills in observation, analysis, and representation by studying the region's natural, cultural, and designed environments. The course includes preparatory readings, maintaining a sketchbook to document the trip, and culminates in a post-trip exhibition showcasing insights and reflections. Designed to deepen understanding of landscape form and function, this experiential learning journey emphasizes seeing and interpreting the landscape to inform design practice.

Students will have the opportunity to understand and document the natural ecosystems of coastal Louisiana, identifying their unique ecological characteristics and relevance to landscape architecture. They will also analyze the historical and cultural narratives embedded in regional landscapes, exploring how economic, social, cultural, and political forces have influenced the design and evolution of the built and natural environment.

To embed learning, students will reflect on the values expressed in landscape design, fostering an understanding of how landscapes serve as both mirrors of societal priorities and agents of environmental and social change. Throughout the trip, students can expect to develop observational and

representational skills to critically evaluate and communicate landscape characteristics through sketching, diagramming, and other forms of site documentation.

## PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

2nd year BLA student or higher

## REQUIRED READINGS AND WORKS

All required readings can be found on Canvas.

## COURSE FEES

A list of approved courses and fees is published in the Schedule of Courses each semester. (UF-3.0374 Regulations of the University of Florida). This course includes fees associated with the costs of students and faculty participating in the field trip, including:
- Lodging
- Transportation (van rentals, gas, tolls, parking)
- Activities (entrance fees, tickets)

Students are also responsible for all other expenses while on the trip including, but not limited to, food and other miscellaneous costs. You will also need a sketchbook.

## II. Student Learning Outcomes **(SLOs) & Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)**

The **course learning objectives** (CLOs) below align with the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) standards and UF's MLA 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 |
| --- |
| SLO 3 – Apply ethical understanding to design decision-making. |
| **Design Values:** Analyze the effectiveness of landscape architecture projects in reaching diverse goals such as spatial organization, user experience, ecological sustainability, social equity, resilience, and cultural significance. |

## III. Graded Work

### 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.

## DESCRIPTION OF GRADED WORK

Participation (10% of total grade)
Active engagement in preparation of and during the field trip is essential for successful learning. Students receive full participation grade if they participate in preparatory readings, site visits, group activities, discussions, etc. Participation also includes demonstrating curiosity, a commitment to learning through observation and inquiry, as well as respect for peers and professionals.

Sketchbook + Site Documentation (50% of total grade)
Students will maintain a sketchbook throughout the trip to document their observations, ideas, and reflections. This includes freehand sketches, field notes, diagrams, and other visual or written records that capture the essence of each site. The sketchbook should showcase an evolving understanding of landscape form, function, materiality, and design.

Post-Trip Exhibition (40% of total grade)
The course culminates in a collaborative exhibition showcasing insights gained during the field trip. Students will curate selections from their sketchbooks and other documentation to present a cohesive narrative of their learning experience. The exhibition emphasizes clarity, creativity, and critical reflection in communicating the landscapes explored.

**All Rubrics for assignments, projects, and engagement are found on CANVAS**

The graded work assesses the course learning objectives as follows:

| Assessment | Participation | Sketchbook + Site Documentation | Post-Trip Exhibition |
|---|---|---|---|
| Design Values (SLO1) | X | X | X |

## GRADING SCALE

| Letter Grade | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Numeric Grade | 100-94 | 93-90 | 89-87 | 86-84 | 83-80 | 79-77 | 76-74 | 73-70 | 69-67 | 66-64 | 63-61 | 60-0 |
| 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 how UF assigns grade points, visit: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

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. Please follow the directions given by the instructor as to how they will be submitted (e.g., Canvas, CD, PDF, word file, etc.).

## IV. Annotated Weekly Schedule

| Week | Topics, Homework, and Assignments |
|---|---|
| Week 1-7 | Preparatory Meetings (TBD) |
| Week 8:<br>Day 1 (Tues) | **Location:** Gainesville → NOLA<br>**Summary:** Drive from Gainesville, FL to New Orleans, LA with stops in Pensacola and Biloxi to MSU Gulf Coast Design Studio<br>**Lodging:** Hotel in NOLA (duration of trip) |
| Day 2 (Wed) | **Location:** New Orleans<br>**Summary:** Explore iconic parks and gardens such as Crescent Park, Lafitte Greenway, Audubon Park |
| Day 3 (Thurs) | **Location:** Baton Rouge, LA<br>**Summary:** Explore themes of climate change, coastal land loss landscape ecology, and landscape restoration at LSU Center for River Studies and Bonnie Carre Spillway |
| Day 4 (Fri) | **Location:** New Orleans<br>**Summary:** ASLA Conference- https://www.aslaconference.com/ |
| Day 5 (Sat) | **Location:** New Orleans<br>**Summary:** ASLA Conference- https://www.aslaconference.com/ |
| Day 6 (Sun) | **Location:** NOLA → Gainesville<br>**Summary:** We will depart New Orleans early morning with stops at Crosby Arboretum (MS) and Mobile, AL and arrive back in Gainesville late evening |
| Weeks 9-16 | Exhibit development and display<br>(Date TBD) |

## VI. Required Policies

Please use this link (https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies) 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.