

LAA 4364C: Landscape Architecture Design 6

UF Department of Landscape Architecture
Spring 2026

SYLLABUS

I. General Information

CLASS MEETINGS: 100% In-Person | MW | 1:55-4:55 pm (Period 7-9)
Antevy Hall 316

CREDITS: 6 Credits

INSTRUCTORS: Yi Luo
Antevy Hall 432
yi.luo@ufl.edu
352-294-1423

Office Hours: M Period 3-4 (9:35 – 11:30 pm) or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION.

This advanced design studio focuses on innovation, professional skill development, and the resolution of complex landscape challenges. Students will engage in design development that emphasizes creative problem-solving, advanced technical strategies, and professional design documentation. Projects will highlight innovative applications of materials, landscape engineering techniques, and adaptive solutions to ecological, social, and spatial issues.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS. *Course prerequisites include LAA 4356c: LA Design Studio 5*
This class builds upon the principles and technologies introduced in previous lecture classes and design studios.

REQUIRED READINGS + WORKS

All required readings can be found on Canvas.

COURSE FEES

Each semester, a list of approved courses and fees is published in the Schedule of Courses. (UF-3.0374 Regulations of the University of Florida). Material, supply, and equipment use fee information is available from the academic departments or the schedule of courses (Florida Statutes 1009.24).

MATERIALS and SUPPLIES

Students are required to maintain a supply of drafting materials and supplies throughout the semester including, but not limited to, 12, 18, or 24-inch rolls of tracing paper (aka trash), a working laptop computer with current CAD software, and rendering materials and software (e.g. Adobe Suite, 3D modeling).

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs) & COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOs)

Each student in the LA program is expected to understand and apply the design process to studio projects in increasing levels of sophistication over the curriculum arc. In the DS1 studio, students should demonstrate beginning levels of design thinking through:

- A range of approaches (creative, cultural, and/or historical) to create spatial and temporal landscape compositions.
- Development of multiple design alternatives before synthesizing ideas into a defensible plan.
- The ability to thoughtfully and respectfully provide, receive, and respond to feedback and critique as part of iterative design decision-making.

Students taking design studios are also expected to demonstrate diligence, independence, and curiosity as part of an ongoing practice of learning and transformation.

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 1 – Integrate concepts from the general body of knowledge of the profession of landscape architecture in design decision-making.
1. Design Process: Identify and describe the process of design and describe the form and function of an environment or system based on specific goals.
2. Theoretical Frameworks: Demonstrate an understanding of the various critical approaches and theoretical frameworks relevant to landscape architecture.
3. Practice Opportunities & Innovations: Understand current and emerging practice opportunities that use LA skills and knowledge in a variety of private, public, academic, and non-governmental settings.
SLO 2 – Apply core professional landscape architecture skills in design decision-making.
4. Criticism: Develop a personal approach to landscape architecture criticism that integrates insights from various theoretical positions to address the multidimensional aspects of design.
5. Design Proposal Development: Integrate materials, engineering, specification, and construction techniques in a design proposal.
COMMUNICATION
SLO 5 – Produce professional visual, oral and written communications.
6. Oral Communication: Communicate ideas clearly and persuasively, adapting delivery and style based on context and audience.

IV. 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:

Task 1- Research (30% of total grade)

Students will conduct themed research to build a foundation for design decision-making.

Task 2 – Design (70% of total grade)

Students will conduct a research-informed/ evidence-based landscape project that encompasses inventory, analysis, synthesis, concept development, planning and design, design development, and performance evaluation.

The graded work assesses the course learning objectives as follows:

Assessment	Task 1	Task 2
1. Design Process (SLO1)		X
2. Theoretical Framework (SLO1)	X	X
3. Practice Opportunities and Innovations (SLO1)	X	X
4. Criticism (SLO2)	X	X
5. Design Proposal Development (SLO2)		X
6. Oral Communication (SLO5)		X

GRADING SCALE

Grading will adhere to the University of Florida Grade Policy:

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

Please see the [UF Grades and Grading Policies](#)¹ for more information.

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. No final grades will be issued until digital submissions have been turned in as requested.

¹ UF Grades and Grading Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

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.

ANNOTATED SCHEDULE

Week	Topics, Homework, and Assignments
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Introduction to Syllabus; Research and design for landscape architecture• Required Reading: TBD• Activity: Project selection; Research planning
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Landscape Performance; LAF's benefit toolkit.• Required Reading: TBD• Activity: Research on the selected topic; programming
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: On-site measuring tools; Space Syntax• Activity: Research on the selected topic; programming
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Forma; Performance evaluation plan• Activity: Student research presentation
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Site analysis visualization• Activity: Site inventory; baseline performance evaluation; site analysis
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Conceptual design• Activity: Working on conceptual design
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Conceptual design; conceptual design jury review• Activity: Finalize conceptual design and prepare for presentation
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Schematic design• Activity: Working day and desk critique
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Schematic design; performance estimation• Activity: Working day and desk critique
Week 10	Happy Spring Break!
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Design development• Activity: Working day and desk critique
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Graphic workshop; design development; performance evaluation; final graphics• Activity: Working day and desk critique
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Design development; performance evaluation; final graphics• Activity: Working day and desk critique

Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Design development; performance evaluation; final graphics; ASLA or other competition preparation; presentation preparation • Activity: Working day and desk critique
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic: Final project presentations

VI. 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

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](#).
- 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](#).

Studio Policies:

Critique:

Your work in the design studio will develop through presentations and group discussions about the work during each class session. From time to time, at the end of a project or at a critical moment of the work, more formal “critiques” are scheduled. These are public presentations of the work and provide a forum for its discussion. Usually, one or more external critics are invited to provide a fresh viewpoint and to stimulate discussion. These sessions are usually more formal than class sessions and should be taken seriously. Critics come in on their own time and expend a serious level of energy on trying to understand your endeavors and give you good feedback. You should think of your presentation not as a moment of judgment but as an opportunity to get input on possible directions for future development, whether through continued work on the project or through work on future projects.

Please recognize that the critiques of your peers and studio colleagues provide you with excellent learning opportunities and will be essential to your education as a designer. You are required to both attend and actively participate in the discussions of work by others.

Studio Culture:

We ask that you understand that the studio is a public space and conduct yourselves in an appropriate manner. The work atmosphere must accommodate a range of tastes in music, language, public conduct, and so forth. Be both courteous toward and tolerant of your colleagues. Remember, the studio is an academic workplace, not an extension of your private house or apartment. Treat it as a professional environment, and act as you would if working at an architectural firm. This includes curtailing loud music and conversations, no smoking (UF is a tobacco-free campus), e-cigarettes, or vaping.

When working in the studio outside of class, please respect the wishes of your fellow classmates by limiting loud, boisterous, and/or long mobile phone conversations, as these may be distracting to others. If requested, please take your conversation out of the studio.