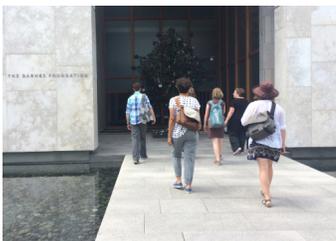


OVERLOOK

2019 FIELD SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
DEPT. OF LANDSCAPE ARCH.



The Overlook Field School

The summer field school at Overlook offers students a unique opportunity to study and live on an evolving cultural landscape. With faculty and a visiting artist in residence, students examine the enduring connections between landscape, culture, and production.

Students earn 4-6 University of Oregon credits during a four week field school at Overlook, a 400-acre property in northeastern Pennsylvania designed by the Frederick Law Olmsted firm in the early twentieth century and currently being re-imagined by the fourth-generation owners and landscape architecture firm Nelson Byrd Woltz.

The program includes multi-day site visits to New York and Philadelphia. Weekly activities include design charettes, fieldwork, seminars, expert speakers, and site visits to regional cultural and productive sites.

Program Overview

In 2019, the program focuses on the topic of how we perceive difficult landscapes and their potential. Students may take either a 4-credit media course or a 6-credit studio. Coursework is identical, with additional work in the studio preparing a studio report document.

Theme: Difficult Landscapes

Difficult landscapes are those intractable spaces that challenge our faculties; that we struggle to see, understand, manage, and design. Controversy often follows our loss of control as competing interpretations seek to explain what has happened and how we should act. These landscapes can be opportunities for landscape architects but are often outside of traditional practice, particularly when they fall outside of traditional landscape typologies. For the 2019 Overlook Field School we will investigate the difficult landscapes found at the Fuller Center – the barren, the bog and the blighted forest – to explore their meanings and how alternative modes of practice might allow us to engage new territories in landscape architecture.

Design Charette

The design charette uses Overlook as a case study to develop ideas from the field seminar. Students will design and build on-site installations that interrogate notions and perceptions of difficult landscapes, and/or will speculate on new relationships between difficult landscapes, nature, beauty and the picturesque landscape. Research and prototypes will lead to a group or individual final installations on site and in the land, presented at a final show open to the public.

Regional Study Course

Students will study the designers, theories, and monuments of regional landscapes and landscape architecture through field trips and site visits. In New York and Philadelphia, we visit design firms to discuss contemporary practice, and visit urban parks, infrastructure, and institutions. At Overlook, we explore the geology, ecosystems, and vernacular landscapes of Northeast Pennsylvania, through the lens of landscape perception. Sites visited include gardens and museums in the New York and Philadelphia regions, including Storm King Art Center, DIA Beacon, and Longwood Gardens.

DIFFICULT

LANDSCAPES

Faculty

Michael Geffel: Program Manager, Overlook Field School

Geffel is a visiting professor of landscape architecture at The University of Oregon where he teaches design studios, theory and media classes. He will be leading the summer field school in Pennsylvania and teaching this spring's seminar class.

His design research investigates the generative capacity of landscape maintenance — that is, how maintenance operations mediate and construct landscape and how they may be utilized as design instruments to engage territories outside the traditional scope of landscape architecture.

Artist in Residence: to be determined

Past Faculty 2017-18

Katherine Jenkins is an Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Knowlton School and cofounder of the interdisciplinary design-research group, Present Practice. Her work applies theory, techniques, and media from contemporary art to the analysis and design of landscapes. She has conducted fieldwork in California's agro-industrial valleys, Utah's alkaline deserts and Alaska's Arctic, examining the aesthetics of extensive infrastructure as it responds to unique geologic and atmospheric conditions.

Parker Sutton is a Lecturer at the Knowlton School and cofounder of the interdisciplinary design group Present Practice. His research explores how perception shapes normative modes of placemaking and design. His work has been published in journals and magazines including Pidgin, The Site Magazine, Bracket, ARID, and Lunch.

Costs

Airfare, local travel, and room and board are paid for by the Fuller Center for Productive Landscapes. Local travel includes the field excursions, including travel, hotels, and admission to required sites.

Students pay tuition summer credit hours, according to the Registrar's fee schedule.

Students make their own travel arrangements to and from Overlook. A travel subsidy will be deposited to students' UO accounts. The amount of the subsidy is based on round-trip airfare from Eugene to Scranton, PA, one checked bag fee each way, and shuttle cost from Scranton to Overlook.

Contact

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2019 Key Program Dates

6/29	Students arrive
6/30	Orientation + Opening dinner
7/1	Classes start
7/09	New York trip
7/17	Philadelphia trip
7/27	Closing show
7/29	Students depart

Applications

Admission is through the Landscape Architecture department, and considers academic standing and GPA, as well as relevance of the program to the student's area of study. The application is available online at: <https://fuller.uoregon.edu/ofs/>

January 31

Application deadline for the summer 2019 program.

February 15

Students will be notified of acceptance.

February 28

Student confirmation of offer. All students who are accepted to participate must confirm by this date.

Waiting List

If accepted students decline to participate, wait-listed students will be accepted after the February 28 deadline. These students will have two weeks to confirm their participation.