

Syllabus  
Fall 2018

## LA 260 Understanding Landscapes

Jardins de bâtons bleus  
Claude Cormier + associés  
Métis-sur-Mer (Québec), Canada



**Time** T/H 4:00 pm - 5:50 pm

**Location** Lawrence Hall, Room TBD

**Credits** 4

**Instructor** Michael Geffel  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
Lawrence Hall, Room 214  
mgeffel@uoregon.edu

**Course Description** The goal of this course is to expand your understanding, perception and knowledge of landscapes. This is a project-based course, centered on making works that investigate landscapes as cultural artifacts. Our efforts will seek to break the surface of the visual landscape to understand the actors that create these environments. Invisible processes, histories, culture, people, animals, politics, and events help shape our physical experience of a place - understanding these unseen characteristics allows us gain a deeper understanding of sites and engage places beyond that which we ordinarily perceive. This is an interdisciplinary course. Readings and lectures will draw from landscape architecture, geography, art theory, and psychology to inform our work and practice. We will explore “ordinary” landscapes as well as designed ones: from the yard to the street, the garden to the farm, the park to the city.

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<b>Eligibility</b>	This seminar is open to all undergraduate students
<b>Prerequisites</b>	none
<b>Class Format</b>	Class meeting times will be organized around lectures and presentations. Outside of class time, students are required to review readings, conduct site research and complete their projects.
<b>Learning Objectives</b>	By the end of this course you should demonstrate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. An educated way of perceiving the landscape</li><li>2. A broad understanding of the interplay of culture and nature in landscapes</li><li>3. An ability to make graphically and visually engaging works that help to shift your own and others' sense of a place</li></ol>
<b>Readings</b>	There is no required textbook for this class. Readings will be provided digitally on Canvas and key references will be on reserve in the Design Library.
<b>Grading</b>	This class may be taken for a letter grade or Pass/No Pass. Please consult your departmental curricular requirements regarding classes that may be taken Pass/No Pass.
<b>Assessment</b>	15% Environmental Autobiography 15% Lonely Landscape 15% Urban Diaries 15% Non-Site 40% Field Guide
<b>Expectations</b>	Highest professional standards will be expected and maintained throughout the term. Active in-class participation and progress is very important. Participation will include research, preparation for class activities, respecting the rights and property of others, working cooperatively with other students as needed, and completing assignments satisfactorily and on time.
<b>Attendance Policy</b>	Students are expected to attend class for the full time allotted. Students may miss one class during the quarter, no questions asked (out of courtesy, a prior notification is very appreciated). Absences beyond that allowed in this policy will require prior approval (only for things like medical emergencies, family bereavement, etc.); Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your letter grade in increments of 3rds (eg. A to A-, B+ to B)