Syllabus

Winter 2021

L A 699

M a s t e r ’ s  P r o j e c t  C l i n i c

Arbitrary cartoon about the inevitable struggles involved in completing your master’s project ☺

WRITING YOUR THESIS:

THINKING ABOUT WRITING YOUR THESIS

ACTUALLY WRITING YOUR THESIS

FIDDLEING WITH LATEX/WORD

TRYING TO GET INSIGNIFICANT FORMATTING DETAILS TO LOOK NICE

JORGE CHAM © 2015
WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Time
M, W, F – CRN 23326
1:00pm - 5:00pm (unless otherwise noted on the syllabus schedule)

Location
Online

Credits
8
(can be taken for more than 8 credits with the approval of the Instructor and the student’s Master’s Project Committee Chair)

Instructor
Kory Russe (“Kory”, he/him/his)
Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Studies
Lawrence Hall, Room 215
krussel@uoregon.edu
Office hours: Wednesday, 10:00am-12:00pm (sign-up google sheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DRVWfJdicVzs25AmnfksUpcm6AUNcHHezJpFp6hUHU/edit#gid=848514817)

Course Description
The Master’s Project Clinic is the two-term culmination of a five-term research sequence. The Clinics provide a setting and structure to support students in completing their Master’s Project, which is intended to represent original research that contributes new knowledge to the field of Landscape
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L A 699
Master’s Project Clinic

Architecture. Over the Winter and Spring terms, the Clinics require students to complete formative milestones, and receive Committee Chair and Clinic Instructor approval of each milestone.

Prerequisites
LA 620, LA 621, LA 601, and an approved Master’s Project proposal.

Curricular Context
This class is required for all MLA students.

Class Format
The clinic setting functions as a workplace, where students work on projects independently, but with many opportunities for feedback from faculty and peers. Responsibility for guiding each student rests first and foremost with the student’s Master’s Project Committee Chair, and secondarily with the Clinic Instructor.

Class meeting times are primarily structured around independent work, desk crits (with the Clinic Instructor), informal peer review, and group discussions, along with student presentations, and meetings with the Clinic Instructor and the student’s Master’s Project Committee Chair. Outside of clinic time, students are required to continue to advance their Master’s Project and meet Clinic milestones.

There will be several milestones for Winter Clinic, all of which are intended to provide a framework for timely progress on your Master’s Projects:
- Week 2: Presentation (25% progress)
- Week 8: Report (50% progress)
- Week 9: Annotated TOC and Completion Schedule

The schedule for Winter Clinic guides the student towards completion of the main research components of their Master’s Project, allowing the student to focus on documentation of their Master’s Project in Spring Clinic. As every Master’s Project will have its own unique set of tasks specific to the research topic, these milestones are only intended to support the work required for successful completion of your Master’s Project, but they do not constitute the entirety of the work you are expected to complete for your Master’s Project during Winter Quarter. Through regular conversation with their Committee Chair and the Clinic Instructor, every student should work out the project-specific tasks required to adequately advance the Master’s Project.
that both satisfies the Winter Clinic milestones while also ensuring successful completion of the Master’s Project in Spring Quarter.

As an 8-credit graduate-level class, you should expect to be spending at least an average of 32 hours/week on your Master’s Project, including time spent in Clinic. The credit load associated with the Clinic is nearly a full-time job, and work on your Master’s Project should be treated as such. As each Master’s Project is unique, and as the project demands change over the course of the quarter, you may occasionally be spending more or less than the 32 hours/week average.

Textbook
There is no required textbook.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this clinic, you should be able to demonstrate:
1. Professional verbal, written, and graphic skills supporting thoughtful research in landscape architecture.
2. Clear and precise communication of a research question, its context, and an original contribution to knowledge.
3. Successful project management of the overall project as well as constituent tasks, in concert with your Master’s Project Committee Chair.
4. Substantial progress towards completion of your Master’s Project, in advance of Spring Clinic.