LA 227: Introduction to Landscape Architecture

Spring 2022

Time: Tuesdays, 8am-9:50am

Location: 206 LA

Instructor: David Buckley Borden (he/him/his)
Lawrence Hall, Room 381
dborden4@uoregon.edu

Educational Objects:
1. Develop a fundamental understanding of critical topics and professional practice models in contemporary landscape architecture
2. Understand the role of design thinking and mission-driven creativity with landscape architecture
3. Balance the demands of a rigorous landscape architecture class while simultaneously enjoying the educational process; specifically, have fun while learning about the profession.

Course Prerequisites: None. This course is open to all undergraduate students.

Credits: 2

Course Description:
Landscape Architecture is a rich and ever diversifying creative profession that meaningfully integrates ecological and cultural systems to create and steward the environment for a range of communities. Although the materials of landscape are fundamental (water, soil, plants, etcetera) to rigorously design spaces, both “natural” and urban, the field requires a variety of practitioners with specialties in environmental communication, horticulture, politics, art, graphic design, earth sciences, and social sciences. This ten-week course foregrounds the fundamentals of the profession and the interdisciplinary nature of landscape architecture with a survey of critical topics and professional practice models. The class format revolves around weekly readings, in-class discussions, critical writing, and guest lectures from leading landscape architects from around the country and the College of Design’s Department of Landscape Architecture.
**Requirements**

1. Attendance to all lectures and discussion sessions. Per mandate of the College of Design this course cannot be taken as an asynchronous class. No exceptions.

2. Evidence of preparation through assignments, prepared questions, and conversation during class, or by specific reference in the student’s individual assignments throughout the term.

This class is graded by traditional letter-grade (A+ through F). Exceptional effort, intellectual growth, participation, and positive contributions will be rewarded in final grade. Minimal effort, tardiness, and a lousy unproductive attitude, not so much.

**Assignments**

Assignments are to be submitted digitally (PDF), at the beginning of the class session on the due date. Include last name and date in file name. For example Smith_09292020.pdf. Late work will be penalized a grade step per day. Digital work must be submitted on the Canvas course website; emailed work will not be accepted.

**Expectations**

I expect the highest professional standards to be maintained throughout the term. Active in-class participation, open communication, and consistent progress is very important. In addition, class participation also includes respecting the rights and property of others, working cooperatively, and completing assignments satisfactorily and on time.

Attendance, preparation, participation, and all assignments are mandatory. Unexcused absences or failure to submit assignments on time will lower your overall course grade. Students are permitted one grace absence.

**Grading Breakdown**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Class attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Weekly Writing Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
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Intro to Landscape Architecture, Weekly Topics by Guest Lecturer*

**Week 1, March 30**  
Course introduction, David Buckley Borden practice profile

**Week 2, April 6**  
David Buckley Borden Intro to LA; Practice modes and case studies from around the world

**Week 3, April 13**  
Guest Speaker, Michael Geffel, RLA, Professor In Practice, UO Department of Landscape Architecture  
Landscape Architecture; Maintenance as Design

**Week 4, April 20**  
Guest Speaker, Alyson Fletcher, Nelson\Nygaard, Boston, MA  
Landscape Architecture as Transportation Design

**Week 5, April 27**  
Guest Speaker, Mark Eischeid, Assistant Professor, UO Department of Landscape Architecture  
Landscape Architecture History

**Week 6, May 4**  
Guest Speaker, Liska Chan, Associate Professor, UO Department of Landscape Architecture  
Landscape Architecture as Research, Art, and Public Space

**Week 7, May 11**  
Guest Speaker, Erin Kelly, LHA, Detroit, MI  
Landscape Architecture as Urban Agent of Change

**Week 8, May 18**  
Guest Speaker, Kimberly Garza, Atlas Labs, Sacramento, CA  
Tactical Urbanism as Community Engagement and Strategic Practice

**Week 9, May 25**  
Guest Speaker, Jean Yang, Department Head, UO Department of Landscape Architecture  
Productive Landscape and Designing with Animals

**Week 10, June 1 Urban Farm Visit**  
Guest Speaker, Harper Keeler, UO Department of Landscape Architecture  
Deep breaths at the Urban Farm in preparation for finals

*Speakers subject to change due to scheduling issues.*
Communication
Our class will communicate through the course Canvas site. Announcements and assignments are archived there and automatically forwarded to your UO email. Check and adjust your settings under Account > Notifications. Canvas will also be the go-to platform to access Zoom links to “go to studio” and schedule “live” office hours. Please let me know if scheduled office hours do not work for you and we will schedule another time.

As we all have not thoroughly tested the remote learning format at this scale, we may face technical difficulties or capacity issues. Some of these challenges may include broadband speed at our respective homes, server capacity issues, or caretaking responsibilities that come with working from home. These should not be an impediment to communicate: if you are not able to join, call or send an email. I am open to modifying our guidelines for remote participation. For more details about communication and participation, please refer to the following guidelines for remote participation.

Specific Guidelines for Canvas Discussion
1. Use subject lines that clearly communicate the content of your post
2. Write clearly and concisely and be aware that humor or sarcasm often doesn’t always translate in an online environment.
3. Be supportive and considerate when replying to others’ posts. This means avoiding use of jargon or inappropriate language, and it means disagreeing with respect and providing clear rationale or evidence to support your different view.
4. Keep focused on the topic and reference readings and other class materials to support your points (as applicable).
5. Use correct spelling and grammar and proofread your submissions. After submitting, use the edit feature to make corrections and resubmit (don’t create a new or duplicate post that corrects your error).
6. Contribute and interact often, please and thank you.

Specific Guidelines for using Zoom, if needed
1. Please test your video and audio prior to joining a live class session. You can learn more about testing your audio and video by visiting the Zoom Help Center at https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us
2. Be on time when the meeting starts. It is distracting to have participants join late.
3. Be mindful that others can see you and your surroundings if your video is on. Find a quiet setting without lots of noise or busy activities in the background. Please minimize distractions like eating or multitasking.
4. Use a microphone or speak closely to your computer microphone so that others can hear you. If you have video on, try to look at your camera, not the screen, when you are contributing.
5. Mute your audio when you are not actively contributing.
6. Use chat to pose questions or offer insights “on the side” while others are contributing or use the option to “raise your hand”.
7. If you prefer to use a static image instead of video, you can keep your video off. However, video use is required during discussion sessions.
8. For help with Zoom, visit the Zoom Help Center at https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us
9. Have fun.

Technical Requirements
Log into canvas.uoregon.edu using your DuckID to access our class. Canvas will be used as the “administrative hub” of the course. Links to “live” studio meetings, and office hours have also been made available. Please refer to the course “modules” for detailed agendas and assignments. If you have questions about accessing and using Canvas, visit the Canvas support page. Canvas and Technology Support also is available by phone (541-346-4357) or live chat (livehelp.uoregon.edu) Monday–Sunday (6 AM –12 AM).
Academic Resources
The University’s Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) provides various programs, workshops, courses, tutors, and mentors to aid you in your coursework at the University of Oregon. One of the services that may be of particular benefit for this class is the TLC’s Writing Lab, which provides one-on-one feedback on writing assignments. You may visit the Drop-In Writing Lab at 72 Prince Lucien Campbell, M-F 9am-4pm, with or without an appointment (http://tlc.uoregon.edu/subjects/writing/).

Academic Integrity
The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students’ obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html.

Accessibility
The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify the instructor if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

Diversity
The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity and freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the university community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. This course is committed to upholding these principles by encouraging the exploration, engagement, and expression of distinct perspectives and diverse identities.

I value each class member’s experiences and contributions and their unique voice and perspective. Please notify me if you feel aspects of the course undermine these principles in any way.

You may also notify the Department of Landscape Architecture at 541.346.3634 or at landarch@uoregon.edu. For additional assistance and resources, you are also encouraged to contact the campus services on next page.
The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.