

LAND 110 – Introduction to Landscape Architecture

Course Syllabus - Fall 2014

Course hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am – 11:50am

Location: JVK Wagar, Room 231

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 – 1:00 by appointment

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"Landscape architecture is the profession which applies artistic and scientific principles to the research, planning, design and management of both natural and built environments. Practitioners of this profession apply creative and technical skills and scientific, cultural and political knowledge in the planned arrangement of natural and constructed elements on the land with a concern for the stewardship and conservation of natural, constructed and human resources. The resulting environments shall serve useful, aesthetic, safe and enjoyable purposes."

– American Society of Landscape Architects (website)

Overview

LAND110 is an overview of the broad spectrum of the profession of landscape architecture. It has existed as a profession for over 120 years and has been practiced in one form or another for millennia. The profession has defined and re-defined itself over the past century and continues to do so today. The practice has evolved into a richly varied profession that is increasingly defining and enhancing humans' relationships with each other and the environments in which they live, work and recreate. Increasingly, landscape architecture is emerging at the forefront of contemporary thinking about strategies for tempering man's impact on the planet and finding more sustainable and ecologically responsible approaches to the development of the built environment.

Students will be introduced to contemporary theories, methods and applications of landscape design and the social and historical context within which it operates. They will be exposed to critical concepts associated with planning, design and issues of environmental preservation through small projects that require them to draw, build, describe, analyze, and defend ideas that encompass the various facets of the profession.

Course Organization

As both an arts- and science-based profession, landscape architecture sits at the confluence of many disciplines that are necessary for solving the complexities of today's pressing social and environmental needs. This 'lecture / lab' course has been organized to expose students to the seven topic areas that most directly influence the built landscape: art, horticulture, sociology, engineering, construction, site planning and communication. Each of these topics will be disseminated through weekly multi-media lectures and labs, where students will work on short-term assignments, give oral and visual presentations of their work and engage in class discussions. Further, students will hone their analytical skills through thoughtful critiques of readings as well as design projects produced throughout the course. The semester culminates in a final design project that will be assigned in the last few weeks. Sketchbook journals are to be kept and updated throughout the semester to record lecture notes, **complete assignments**, sketch inspirations and jot down musings. These recordings are to be turned in at the mid-term break and at the end of the semester for evaluation.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the 'big picture' comprehensive view of the profession of landscape architecture
- Describe the development of landscape architecture within its historical context
- Identify prominent designers and works of landscape architecture
- Understand the creative design process
- Broadly understand the technical aspects of landscape design
- Verbally and graphically present and defend design research and concepts
- Gain familiarity with the tools and materials used in landscape architectural practice
- Understand the unique terminology and jargon used in design
- Identify and analyze the factors that affect the design of outdoor spaces
- Understand how ecological processes factor into design to create sustainable built environments

References

The text books for the course are available at the CSU bookstore and / or through discounted internet sources such as Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com. I will post additional reading materials to the RamCT Blackboard site in a timely manner.

- McHarg, Ian L. Design with Nature. Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York: 1992.
- Starke, Barry W. and John Ormsbee Simonds. Landscape Architecture, Fifth Edition: A Manual of Land Planning and Design. McGraw-Hill, San Francisco: 2013.
- www.asla.org
- www.aslacolorado.org
- www.land8.com
- www.pps.org

Required Materials

- Sketchbook (no larger than 8.5"x11"). Canson Field Sketchbook, 8"x 8" recommended.
- USB Memory Stick and Digital Camera

**Additional materials may be required during the course of the semester.*

Class Policy

Attendance

Given the rapid succession of lectures and assignments and the cumulative knowledge that is to be gained from each class, prompt and consistent attendance is mandatory, with exceptions made only for illness and family emergencies. In the event of a missed class, it is your responsibility to obtain the information that was presented in class from one of your classmates and to complete any assignments due before the next class. More than three unexcused absences will warrant a mandatory meeting with the instructor to discuss the student's academic status and possible expulsion from the course.

Additional Assistance

Any students having difficulties due to personal or physical constraints should consult with the instructor prior to the beginning of the semester in order to develop alternative strategies for progressing through the course. The instructor should be informed of any unavoidable absences as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements for the missed class and / or assignment can be made.

Assessment

See Grading Policy below.

Deliverables

All assignment handouts, readings and lectures will be posted on the course RamCT Blackboard site. Unless instructed otherwise, all assignments are to be submitted via RamCT posting and via personal journal assignments to be turned in at mid-semester and at the end of the semester. No application-formatted files (Photoshop, InDesign, AutoCAD, etc.) will be accepted at any time. JPG images or PDF files are required unless otherwise noted. All files shall be clearly labeled with your name and the title of the assignment or image.

Grading Policy

Grade Breakdown

- 45% Mid-semester cumulative average for assignments
- 45% End-semester cumulative average for assignments
- 10% Participation and class attendance

Score	Grade	Description
98 or greater	A+	Exceptional Quality of Work
94-97	A	Excellent
90-93	A-	Very Good
87-89	B+	Good
84-86	B	Average
80-83	B-	Below Average
70-79	C	Fair
60-69	D	Poor
59 and below	F	Fail, Incomplete and/or Unacceptable Quality of Work

Late assignment policy

Assignments that are completed late will be penalized 1 point for each day past the due date. Assignments that are completed more than two weeks late will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 'F'.

Schedule of Classes (subject to revision)

Week 1	Class Introduction
Week 2	History of Landscape Architecture
Week 3	Module 1: Art: Creativity, Meaning, Composition, Concept and Craft
Week 4	Natural Construct Project
Week 5	Module 2: Horticulture: Designing with Plants
Week 6	Module 3: Sociology and Environmental Psychology
Week 7	Module 4: Planning: Urban Design History, Site Analysis and Policy
Week 8	Module 5: Construction: Equipment, Methods and Materials
Week 9	Module 6: Site Engineering: Soils, Grading, Structures and Roads
Week 10	Module 7: Communication: Tools and Methods for Design Representation
Week 11	Architectural Drawing Conventions
Week 12	Final Project
Week 13	Final Project Workshop
Week 14	<i>Fall Break (No Classes)</i>
Week 15	Final Project Presentations – Sketchbook Journals Due
Week 16	Professional Practice
Week 17	Exam Week

Honor Pledge

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. All graded activities of the course will comply. Additional information concerning CSU's academic policies can be found at: <http://facultycouncil.colostate.edu/files/manual/sectioni.htm#I.5>

- I pledge on my honor that I will not receive or give any unauthorized assistance in this course and endeavor toward meaningful social and environmental responsibility.

Print student name

Student signature and date