

LAND 447 – Comprehensive Landscape Design

Course Syllabus - Spring 2015

Course hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00am – 4:50pm

Location: Natural and Environmental Sciences (NESB), Room B110

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

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Tidal Ecologies, 2012 Capstone project by David Armesy

Overview

The senior capstone studio is an opportunity for students to spend a semester immersed in intensive research, analysis and design explorations focused on a site or topic of their own choosing. Through directed scholarship, individual critiques and group reviews, students are afforded the freedom to examine a personal interest within the field of landscape architecture that they may not otherwise be exposed to within the standard studio curriculum. Students are encouraged to choose subjects that incorporate aspects of current thinking in landscape architectural practice, such as contemporary design trends or green infrastructure, which will broaden understanding of the profession and better position the student following graduation. Through the course of their project work, students are expected to rigorously continue to develop their technical skills, including digital and manual drafting and representation techniques, analytical software such as GIS and design ideation and methodology.

Course Organization

The independent nature of this course will require that students maintain a self-regulated schedule of activities, punctuated by instructor-mandated deadlines for various forms of deliverables. Student activities will include, but not be limited to, research, writing, site and environmental analysis, design ideation, drawing and drafting, physical and digital model making and class presentations. The instructor will critique student work on a regular basis, both individually and in group settings. Students will be expected to defend their research and ideas, as well as participate in the critique of the work of fellow capstone students. In the end, the work produced in this studio should be the centerpiece of the student's portfolio and the culmination of all that has been learned in the CSU Landscape Architecture Program, showcasing a broad range of skills and aptitudes.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- demonstrate an ability for critical thinking and individual research methodology
- employ critical analysis and data gathering skills
- produce a conceptually sound, professional quality design proposal for a site
- compellingly represent and communicate their design ideation through a variety of media
- verbally and graphically present and defend design research and concepts

Studio Materials

- rolls of trace paper, range from 12" - 36"
- black felt tip pens (Sharpie), range from fine to bold; color markers and color pencils
- architectural and engineering scales; straight edge rulers
- digital camera and USB Flash Drive

Class Policy

Attendance

As a Capstone design studio, this class requires a high level of commitment to the work. Given the rapid succession of assignments and the cumulative knowledge that is to be gained from each assignment, prompt and consistent attendance is mandatory, with exceptions made only for illness and family emergencies. 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.

Students are expected to work diligently during the entire class period unless prior arrangements have been made. Attendance at all class presentations, pin-ups and the Final Review is mandatory for an above-average grade in the class.

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 can be made.

Assessment

Students will be asked to work in both team and individual formats. This encourages dialogue and interaction amongst students and simulates the types of conditions typically found in professional practice. Class presentations are expected from each student and should be anticipated at the completion of each major assignment in order to develop the students' public speaking skills and to promote a culture of learning and sharing of ideas within the class.

Students are expected to complete periodic assignments in a timely manner. The specific assignments chosen for the course are sequential by design and serve to incrementally contribute to the students' capacity to complete the final design project for the studio. As such, timely submission of assigned work is critical to the successful completion of this course. Specific grading details are listed below under the Grading Policy category.

Deliverables

All design representation materials to be presented in pin-ups and reviews need to be produced prior to the start of class. All assignment handouts, readings and lectures will be posted on the course RamCT Blackboard site. Unless instructed otherwise, digital materials must be submitted via RamCT Blackboard posting. No application-formatted files (Photoshop, InDesign, AutoCAD, etc.) will be accepted; JPG images or PDF files are expected unless otherwise noted. All files shall be clearly labeled with your name and the title of the assignment or image. Please plan your schedule accordingly to allow for needed production time.

Grading Policy

Grade Assessment of Work:

Work is evaluated by your instructor on the basis of interaction during desk critiques and project reviews. This evaluation includes consideration of the following:

- Daily progress towards completing the goals of project
- Quality of work presented (Originality of thought, craftsmanship & professionalism)
- Verbal and graphic explanation of work
- Response to criticism and suggestions
- Participation and contribution to the class
- Initiative and self-reliance
- And, demonstrated achievement in accomplishing intent

Grade Breakdown

40% Mid-semester cumulative average for progress submittal

50% End-semester cumulative average for final submittal

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 and Site Selection
Week 2	Project Narrative
Week 3	Site Reconnaissance
Week 4	Site Visualization
Week 5	Analysis and Diagramming
Week 6	Analysis and Diagramming
Week 7	Design Strategy Development
Week 8	Mid-Project Presentations
Week 9	<i>Spring Break – no class</i>
Week 10	Site Design
Week 11	Site Design
Week 12	Site Design Progress Review
Week 13	Site Design
Week 14	Site Design
Week 15	Site Design
Week 16	Final Review Preparation
Week 17	Final Project Presentations

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#1.5>

- 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