LAND 4900 – SENIOR PROJECT
Spring Semester 2009
College of Environment and Design
The University of Georgia
Class Time: 8:00-11:00 am; Mon & Wedn
Location: 610 Caldwell

Instructor: Dale Hall
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Office: 510C Caldwell Hall
Phone: 706-542-2916
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:
A comprehensive design or research project in which the student is able to demonstrate the proficiency acquired in the professional program of study.

Course Objective(s):
Knowledge: Upon completion of this course, students with a passing evaluation will have demonstrated the following:
• An understanding of the use of the various aspects of “traditional” landscape architectural design processes (site analysis, concept design and construction drawings) to achieve a desired design concept.
• The ability to produce a set of analysis, design and construction drawings that graphically convey and justify the decisions made by the designer in arriving at a solution which achieves the desired objectives.
• The ability to integrate the aforementioned drawings into a professional quality package that successfully communicates the designer’s intent to a third party audience.
• An understanding of professional presentation skills and how to successfully justify design decisions to a client.

Skills: Upon completion of this course, students with a passing evaluation will have demonstrated the following:
• An ability to demonstrate and justify a thoughtful, logical progression through the design process from concept to finished project.
• The ability to present a design proposal, site analysis, and construction drawings to a client and intelligently discuss the positives and negatives of the design with all interested parties.
• The ability to properly manage time and resources to accomplish a task with a firm deadline.

Values: Upon completion of this course, students with a passing evaluation will have demonstrated the following:
• An appreciation of the complexities of managing a design project.
• An understanding of critical thinking and presentation skills as it pertains to making and justifying design decisions.
• An awareness of how to apply the various skills and knowledge in traditional landscape architectural practice to a specific design project.
Methodology:
The class will be conducted in a studio format, using critiques and presentations to assist the student in arriving at a final design solution.

The project itself will consist of nine (9) parts worth in total 1,000 points.
- Introduction (50 Points)
- Site Analysis (50 Points)
- Master Planning/Conceptual design (100 Points)
- Finalize conceptual design (50 Points)
- Focus area design (150 Points)
  - Grading and Drainage Plan
  - Soil and Erosion Sedimentation Control Plan
  - Landscape / Hardscape Plan
  - Construction Details
  - Cost estimate
  - Focus area master plan
- Final design presentation (150 Points)
- Final book (250 Points)
- Website development (100 Points)
- ASLA 2008 Student Competition Submission (100 Points)

You will present your drawings at the end of each phase to the class. Drawings for each presentation may be presented in black and white however the Focus Area Design will be professional quality, color rendered, presentation drawings.

Examples of what you need to show at each phase:
- **INTRODUCTION**
  - Using your senior project proposal, and Time Saver Standards, or Graphic Standards for Landscape Architects, prepare an introductory presentation for the class. This shall include the following information:
    - Air photo of site with boundary.
    - Site location map (US, State and Regional Maps.)
    - Written Site concept Statement
    - Precedents (including visuals – pictures master plans, etc.)
    - Existing land uses / Site Context.
    - Based upon your reading, what critical issues need to be discovered in your site analysis?

- **SITE ANALYSIS**
  - A graphical site analysis of each project using the overlay method to determine the unique opportunities and constraints of each site as it pertains to your particular design program.
  - Analyses may include, but are not limited to the following: Soil, Slope, View, Hydrology, Vegetation, Environmental (Wetlands, floodplains, etc.), Sun/Shade, Pedestrian Circulation, Vehicular circulation, existing zoning and setbacks,
  - A composite analysis drawing will then be prepared which shows how your overall site analysis determines the opportunities and constraints on the site.
• **MASTER PLANNING / CONCEPTUAL DESIGN**  
  o Develop three (3) master plan concepts based upon a combination of your design program and analysis. You will then list the positives and negatives of each concept and from this, choose or develop a final design.

• **FINALIZE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN**  
  o Prepare a final master plan drawing for your project based upon the concept that you have chosen. This master plan will be color rendered and be presented to class.

• **FOCUS AREA DESIGN**  
  o Enlarge a portion of your master plan and prepare the following site design / development drawings for this area:
    - Grading and drainage plan
    - Soil and Erosion Sedimentation Control Plan
    - Planting plan
    - Construction details
    - Hardscape plan
    - Cost estimate

• **FINAL DESIGN PRESENTATION**  
  o This is the final package that you will present – a complete set of drawings showing all the work you have completed this semester.

• **SENIOR PROJECT BOOK**  
  o The senior project book will be a compilation of everything that you have worked on this semester. At a minimum, it will consist of the following parts:
    - Cover Design
    - Title Page
    - Acknowledgements
    - Table of Contents
    - Project Proposal
    - Problem Statement
    - Written Documentation of Research
    - Design Phase Drawings listed in order
    - Design Development Drawings listed in order.
    - Bibliography.

• **SENIOR PROJECT WEBSITE**  
  o The senior project website will consist of reconfiguring your project in order to fit a predetermined website template, so that it may be posted on the University website.
    - More information can be found at:  
      [http://www.eits.uga.edu/myweb/](http://www.eits.uga.edu/myweb/)
• **ASLA 2008 STUDENT AWARDS COMPETITION**

Students shall prepare their final project in a format conducive for submittal to the 2009 Student ASLA Awards. Several items to note include:

- Entry forms and payment ($15 Student ASLA Member) deadline is Friday, May 29, 2009.
- Submission binders must be received by ASLA for Student Awards by Friday, June 12, 2009.

The Student Awards jury will review all submissions June 26-28, 2009.

Official entrants receiving an Award of Excellence in the Student Awards program will receive a complimentary full registration to the 2009 ASLA Annual Meeting including travel and hotel accommodations for the meeting ($1,000+ value).

For examples and more information please visit the following site:


More information will be available as the term develops.

**Course Policies**

The following policies are to be followed concerning attendance, participation, and project completion (subject to modifications by instructor or as the situation warrants):

- **Attendance is mandatory** and will be recorded at the start of each class meeting. Each student is allowed three (3) absences during the semester. Absences exceeding this amount will be considered unexcused. Each absence beyond the allowed amount will constitute a reduction of one (1) letter grade from your final course grade; habitual tardiness (arriving after the start of class) will lower your grade at the instructor’s discretion. Excessive absences (6 or more) and/or tardiness will result in an automatic withdrawal (WF) in the course.

If you have a medical condition or extenuating circumstances (i.e. death of an immediate family member) that results in your absence from a class meeting, you must contact me ahead of time. Students are expected to attend all studio classes and are responsible for all material covered during class meeting times.

*The importance of attending class cannot be overemphasized!*

- **Students shall come to class prepared.** Each student is responsible for the timely completion of interim project deadlines and all other project requirements. Students are expected to continually advance their project design work through the efficient and effective use of studio time. Work not complying with all project requirements will not be accepted.

- **Participation is required.** Each student is responsible for actively participating throughout the duration of the course. Design does not occur in a vacuum; the studio environment is a great pollinator of ideas therefore you are required to attend all the critiques sessions of your fellow class mates. Utilize the information and ideas that flow around the room; the best
ideas are often hybrids grown from deskside critiques and peer-to-peer discussion(s). Active participation and successful completion of readings and assigned exercises will be factored into your final grade.

- **Due Dates, Deadlines & Presentations**: assignments must be submitted on the stated due date, time, and place. Any project (phase) not presented at the required time will automatically receive a zero (0). Any exception must have prior written approval from the SED Director no less than 24 hours before project is due. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor to coordinate an after-deadline project submission.

- **Honesty and integrity** are two keystone traits of a professional practitioner. Use common sense, respect others, and adhere to all University of Georgia policies.

**Classroom Etiquette**
During studio classes the following will not be permitted; use of tobacco in any form, playing radios or tape/CD players (including use with ear phones), laptop computers, and I-Pods. Cell phones must be turned off and stored out of sight during class. Under no circumstances should phone conversations be carried out in the classroom or during a class meeting. If a cell phone disrupts class in any fashion, it will be confiscated and turned into the Dean’s office.

While working in the studios outside of class time, radios and tape/CD players may be used only with earphones. These are departmental policies and apply to all students in the landscape architecture program. Please observe common courtesy when working with others in the studio, particularly while other classes are being conducted.

**Dress Code**
Please dress professionally. Students are expected to wear professional dress during all project presentations. Casual clothing suitable for work in an office is expected during studio sessions. Eight o’clock classes can place time constraints on preparing oneself for the day. So, please allow adequate time in your morning to negotiate campus traffic, park, ride the bus, etcetera, and arrive in class on time and prepared to have a successful day.

**Special Note**
Calendar and syllabus are subject to change. SED reserves the right to select and retain possession of digital copies of all written and graphic student work. All SED policies and procedures applicable to studio facilities and computer lab operation will be enforced. Please read and observe all these policies. Studio and labs are monitored by camera to insure your safety and compliance.
EXAMPLES OF NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

NOTE: These are a few of the negative comments that have been recorded in past projects. These are not the only negative comments that might come up during the semester. Use these as a guide to help prepare your presentations.

- Existing land uses not labeled on land use map.
- Composite analysis does not point out optimal location for placement of site features.
- No air photo with boundary.
- No graphic scales on drawings.
- No context on presentation – key maps or context maps that show where a specific portion of the project is located.
- Figure ground analyses in 2D and or Sketch up.
- Legends are not legible.
- No legend on drawings.
- Fonts used on presentation are too small to read.
- Presentation takes longer than the allotted time.
- Too much text on a presentation slide.
- Streets not labeled.
- Site features not labeled.
- Presentation does not use compass directions to refer to objects on the plan.
- Colors on Graphic make it hard to read.
- Graphic is too small.
- No listing of positive and negative aspects of master plan concept.
- No transition from composite analysis into first design concept.
- Overly complex plan. (Too many things going on to make a plan legible.)
- Failure to back up design decisions with actual facts.
- Misspellings on presentation slides.
- Poor grammar on presentation slides.
- Poor labeling of plan features (poor leader positioning, crossing leader lines, leader lines that are too long.)
- Lack of key plan on perspective to show viewers how they are looking at site.
- Lack of key plan on photographic analysis to show viewers where pictures are taken.
- Lack of organization on graphics – inconsistent label directions, inconsistent graphic symbols.
- Poor choice of fonts on presentation slides.

- END OF SYLLABUS -