LAND 4900 – SENIOR PROJECT
Spring Semester 2008
College of Environment and Design
The University of Georgia

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 4.30-6.00pm

Class Time: 1.25-4.25 Mon / Wednesday
Location: 610 Caldwell

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 eight parts.
- Introduction
- Site Analysis
- Conceptual design
- Finalize conceptual design
- Focus area design
  - Grading and Drainage Plan
  - Landscape / Hardscape Plan
  - Construction Details
  - Cost estimate
  - Focus area master plan
- Final design presentation
- Final book
- Website development.

You will present your drawings at the end of each phase to the class. Drawings for each presentation but the Focus Area Design will be professional quality, color rendered, presentation drawings. Note: Focus area master plan will be color rendered, presentation drawing.

**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**
  o 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.
  o 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,
  o 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 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
    ▪ Planting plan
    ▪ Construction details.
    ▪ Hardscape plan
    ▪ Cost estimate

• **FINAL 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 / WEBSITE**
  o The senior project book will be a compilation of everything that you have worked on this semester. 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.

- 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 SED website.

**Grading:**

- Grading for this class will be according to the following percentages.
  - **Deadline grades: 33.3%**
    - Deadline grades are a pass / fail grade that is assigned based on whether or not you met the assigned deadline.
    - Students who meet the deadline receive a grade of 100.
    - Students who do not meet the deadline receive a grade of 0.
    - Deadlines may be extended under the following conditions:
      - Family or Personal Emergency.
      - Sickness with Doctor's excuse.
  - **Phase grades: 33.3%**
    - Phase grades are assigned at the time of the presentation of each project phase. They consist of the following criteria.
      - Do you have all the drawings you said you would have?
      - Are the drawings color rendered and professional looking?
      - Do the drawings convey your design program and design intent?
      - Do you give a professional presentation?
    - Phase grades are given via a comment sheet that is completed by the instructor at the time of presentation. Comments are either positive or negative.
      - Each student starts with a grade of 100 on the project.
      - Positive comments add 5 points on the final average. (NOTE: phase grade cannot exceed 100 points.)
      - Negative comments are a deduction of 5 points to the phase grade. (A list of Negative comments is attached to the end of this syllabus.)
  - **Attendance: 33.3%**
    - There are 32 total classes. You will be asked to sign out before leaving class each class period. Your attendance grade is the percentage of classes that you are present during the semester.

**SEMESTER SCHEDULE**

Below are the deadlines for the semester.

- Jan 19: MLK Holiday
• Jan. 21, 26: Introductory Presentations
• Feb 2, 6: Site Analysis Presentations
• Feb 16, 18: Master Plan Concept Presentation
• Mar 2, 4: Final Master Plan Presentation
• Mar 9 – 14: Spring Break
• Mar 23, 25: Focus area design Presentation
• April 6, 8: Grading/ Softscape/ Hardscape Preliminary
• April 27, 28, 30: Final Presentations
NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

NOTE: These are a few of the negative comments that I recorded from last year’s class. 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.