Background

While design on the land has occurred since prehistoric times, the profession of landscape architecture was born during the nineteenth century in the United States at the time that Central Park was designed for New York City. Full professionalization came with the formation of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899 and with educational programs developing at many American universities in the subsequent years. The University of Georgia’s program is among the oldest in the nation with the first students and faculty having arrived in the 1920s.

Landscape architecture is a very broad interdisciplinary profession. Landscape Architects need to know a great deal about social and cultural issues and also much about the natural environment. They practice at many scales from small gardens to large regional landscapes. And they work in the densest urban environments in the world, in unpopulated wilderness areas, and every type of human or natural landscape in between.

Course Description

In Design and the Environment, you will engage in hands on landscape observation, while being introduced to the broad scope of professional practice in landscape architecture. While the University of Georgia’s programs in landscape architecture are perennially among the nation’s very best, the BLA and MLA programs within the College of Environment and Design (CED) endeavor to increase educational quality by preparing students for a rapidly changing world.

Toward that end, a new strategic plan was developed by the college, which encourages the appropriate mix of change and continuity, prepares students to actively engage all types of communities through a participatory process, promotes the vital importance of green design and planning, and emphasizes international engagement. Each of those four strategic goals comprises a section of LAND 1500.
Continuity and Change

Because of peak oil, the rapid advancement of technology, climate change, an aging population, increasing ethnic diversity, and other factors, the world you will work in after graduation will be a vastly different place than your parent’s world. We will consider many of those changing conditions in this class.

While change is part of natural state of things and part of the human condition, when it happens haphazardly or too quickly negative consequences occur. Therefore, designers must consider how new forms can be build upon the aspects of the landscape that should be kept in place. The profession itself must change along with changing conditions, while also maintaining its essential strengths. We will discuss all of those issues during the opening weeks of the semester.

Community Engagement

The College of Environment and Design is dedicated to the participatory process—working with various groups and individuals within each community to design and plan for the future. Through lectures, exercises, and discussions we will learn how an understanding of people and the places they build may influence the creation of better community spaces.

Green Design and Planning

Sustainable design is no longer just a catchy slogan. Most experts accept that the concept is of vital importance to our future survival. Landscape architects engage in green design and planning at various scales and for many purposes. We will engage that wide scope of environmentally sensitive work through discussions of specific sites, large regions, and the UGA campus.

International Engagement

Because of technological advancements, global economic factors, and the ease of travel, globalization will continue to increase. Therefore, landscape architects must practice at the international level and students of landscape architecture need international experiences. We will discuss international opportunities at the UGA and international practice within the profession.

Objectives

- To gain a renewed interest in the composition of natural and social places
- To learn to see the landscape in a new way
- To gain a basic understanding of landscape architectural practice
- To learn landscape design basics
To understand various approaches to landscape architectural education at the University of Georgia

Assignments

Four types of assignments will be given throughout the semester: readings, exercises, quizzes, and journal entries.

Readings

A number of readings will be uploaded on e-Learning Commons. All students are responsible for reading each article or book chapter at the assigned time. In some cases we will simply discuss the reading(s) in class. At other times you will use the reading for an exercise or project. You also may be quizzed on the assigned reading.

Exercises

You will be given a series of exercises throughout the semester. Some of the exercises will hone your observation skills and help you learn from a direct engagement with the landscape. Other exercises will teach design principles or facilitate the analysis of readings.

Quizzes

Several announced and unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester. While each quiz is worth only a few points the cumulative effect of the quizzes will be substantial. Again, it is very important not to miss class.

Journal

Each of you will keep a visual notes journal for the entire semester. In the journal you will record landscape observations, make notes on readings, include notations about exercises, and make other landscape-based observations. Portions of the journal will be photocopied and handed in at various times during the semester. The completed journal is due at the end of the semester.

Attendance

Attendance in class is required. While we will not formally take attendance, absences will be noted when discovered. Also, you may not make up quizzes missed because of unexcused absences.

Study Groups

The entire class will be organized into study groups (generally about five people in a group). The groups will provide you an opportunity to discuss readings with your
peers as well as to collaborate on various exercises. You also may get together with your group members to study for quizzes or compare approaches to your journals.

**Grades**

Grades will be determined based on the following percentages for assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of Reading, Participation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>20</td>
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**Schedule**

Aug. 16: Course Introduction: Introduction to Landscape Architecture; Introduction to Course; Readings Assigned; Exercise One Assigned.

Aug. 18: Study Groups Assigned, Quiz in Groups.

Aug. 23: Change and Continuity I: Agents of Change: What are the change agents that will influence landscape architecture practice? Reading Discussion; Journal Assigned.

Aug. 25: Change and Continuity II: Preemience of Landscape Architecture: The Importance of Landscape Architecture in these changing times. Reading Discussion; Quiz.

Aug. 30: Change and Continuity III: Guest Lecture Danny Sniff: Layers of History on the UGA Campus. Exercise One Due at Class Time, Reading Assigned.

Aug. 31: Convocation: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM; College of Environment and Design offerings and food.

Sept. 1: Change and Continuity IV: Incorporating the Parche: Designs that build on Place. Guest Lecture Melissa Tufts.

Sept. 6: Change and Continuity V: Building on Landscape Architectures Strengths: Synthesize, Facilitate, Create.

Sept. 8: Change and Continuity VI: Building on Landscape Architectures Strengths: Providing the Vision; Reading Discussion; Exercise Two Introduced.

Sept. 13: Change and Continuity VII: Building on Landscape Architectures Strengths: Design Fundamentals; Exercise Two in class.

Sept. 15: Community Engagement: Introduction, Reading Assigned

Sept. 20: Community Engagement II: Tracked Through Time

Sept. 22: Community Engagement III: Understanding Social Issues and Community; Reading Discussion; Quiz; Exercise Three Assigned.

Sept. 27: Community Engagement IV: Film: Social Life of Small Urban Spaces; Reading Assigned.
Sept. 29: Community Engagement V: For the Health of the Population.

Oct. 4: Community Engagement VI: Contemporary Community Designs; Reading Discussion.

Oct. 6: Community Engagement VII: Guest Lecturer Pratt Cassity; Community Charrettes, Exercise Three Due.

Oct. 11: Green Design and Planning: Introduction to Green Design; Reading Assigned; Natural Systems.


Oct. 18: Green Design and Planning III: The Region, Reading Discussion; Quiz; Exercise Four Assigned; Reading Assigned.

Oct. 20: Green Design and Planning IV: UGA Green Team; Guest Lecture Kevin Kirsche.

Oct. 22: Trip to Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center.

Oct. 25: Green Design and Planning V: Site Scale; Guest Lecture Alfie Vick.

Oct. 27: Green Design and Planning VI: Last Child in the Woods; Reading Discussion; Quiz.

Nov. 1: Green Design and Planning VII: Site Scale Continued; Exercise Four Due; Guest Lecture Jon Calabria.

Nov. 3: Green Design and Planning VIII: Food Systems; Guest Panel.

Nov. 9: Green Design and Planning IX: Sustainable Designs.

Nov. 11: International Engagement I: CED Experiences; Exercise Five Assigned; Reading Assigned.

Nov. 16: International Engagement II: International Urban Genesis and Form; Guest Lecture Umit Yilmaz.

Nov. 18: International Engagement III: International Offering in Cortona, Italy.

Nov. 22: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Nov. 24: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Nov. 29: International Engagement IV: Quiz; Reading Discussion; Exercise Five Due; International Practice Continued.

Dec. 1: Course Wrap Up: Journals Due, Course Evaluation; Concluding Comments.

* A separate bibliography will be provided.