

DRAW THINK EXPLORE

Landscape Media
LA 350 Winter 2017
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This media course acts as the complement to the introductory studio for undergraduate students in Landscape Architecture.



Lawrence Halprin

Drawing is one of the primary tools of the designer. Drawing itself should not be a challenge; at its best, it should be a tool we turn to when we are confused, stumped, or challenged by other aspects of the design process.

The goal of this course is not just to help students make “better” drawings, but to help students develop a comfort with media that will serve them throughout their design careers. We draw to think, to document, to explore, and to communicate—fluency in drawing will help students tackle design problems with confidence and competence.

Drawings can be used to:

- document the world
- communicate design ideas and proposals
- clarify thoughts and solve problems
- explore ideas, concepts, and possibilities

This course touches on each of these roles of drawing. We will explore techniques for documenting the world as we see it and as we imagine it. We will also develop strategies for thinking through drawing, helping us to better understand our own ideas and what is going on in the world around us. Throughout the term we will develop our faculties and technical proficiency with an array of media while also exploring the role of drawing in an intellectual and creative practice.

In this course students can expect to:

- Gain a basic level of comfort with various media used for documenting and representing landscape
- Explore the various roles of drawing in design
- Take the first steps on a path towards fluency in visual communication
- Develop technical skills and proficiency in landscape media and conventions
- Discover personal style and creativity

Studio and Media will often meld into one cohesive learning experience in which students will become familiar with both the drawing conventions necessary for communication in the field while developing personal style and expression that will eventually help them stand out as professionals.

Expectations:

Upon the acceptance to this professional program you are preparing to enter a professional work environment. Respect for your peers and faculty is key to fostering a healthy and creative environment; you are expected to strive to maintain this professional atmosphere throughout the course.

Each student will be expected to put considerable effort towards improving his or her drawing skills, regardless of the level at which they begin the course. Students with little or no drawing experience will be asked to gain facility with the basic drawing issues. Students with more experience in drawing will be asked to push themselves to new levels of facility and develop multiple styles.

Students are expected to come to class on time with appropriate tools, ready to participate in the day's activities. Daily attendance is important since lessons move quickly and build upon one another. Only 2 absences will be accepted except under extenuating circumstances. Please email me in advance if you will not be attending class. You are required to get that day's lesson and assignments from a classmate. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

You will make a significant investment in drawing tools this term. All of the tools on the supply list will be used during the term. All of these tools will be necessary for this class and studio as well as for the rest of your career at UO and beyond. Think of it as a long-term investment in yourself.

Assessment:

Because this class is taught in conjunction with studio, formal assignments are minimal. This does not mean that expectations are minimal. Students are expected to put significant time and effort into their personal growth as designers. Students will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Careful and thoughtful completion of assigned exercises
- Participation in class activities, discussions, and critiques
- Regular and timely attendance
- Evidence of improvement
- The successful completion of a drawing journal
- The successful completion of a final project

Course Structure:

Each day of class is a new adventure! The outlined schedule is a draft only: new opportunities or topics of particular interest may modify our calendar and activities. At times, we may meet at field locations. I will always let you know where we will meet at least one class prior; all field locations will be accessible on bus, bike, or foot. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get this information from your peers. The format of each class session will differ from day to day. In general, class time will be spent in a combination of the following ways:

- Drawing exercises
- Field sketching
- Pinups and discussions
- Class activities

Outside of class students are expected to maintain a sketch journal. These journals should include drawings done in class, assigned exercises, and evidence of independent creative practice. Journals will be collected periodically throughout the term for students to receive feedback on their work. Students will also be asked to complete a final exploratory media project that will contribute to their work in studio.

Accommodation for Differently Abled persons:

Please let me know if you need special accommodation for a documented physical or learning "disability". I think of it not as a "dis" but a different and will do everything I can to accommodate your needs. I can also point you towards helpful University resources.