

Syllabus  
Fall 2019

## LA 260 Understanding Landscapes



Southern Willamette Valley  
Google Earth Aerial Image

**Time** T/H 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Location** Lawrence Hall, Room 115

**Credits** 4

**Instructor** Michael Geffel  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
Lawrence Hall, Room 214  
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**Course Description** The goal of this course is to expand your understanding, perception and knowledge of landscapes. This is a project-based course, centered on making works that investigate landscapes as cultural artifacts. Our efforts will seek to break the surface of the visual landscape to understand the actors that create these environments. Invisible processes, histories, culture, people, animals, politics, and events help shape our physical experience of a place - understanding these unseen characteristics allows us gain a deeper understanding of sites and engage places beyond that which we ordinarily perceive. This is an interdisciplinary course. Readings and lectures will draw from landscape architecture, geography, art theory, and psychology to inform our work and practice. We will explore “ordinary” landscapes as well as designed ones: from the yard to the street, the garden to the farm, the park to the city.