

LA 289 DESIGN STUDIO

Space | Site | Change



Time M, W, F
8 am - 11:50 am

Location Lawrence 320-325

Credits 6

Instructor John Anderson, jander22@uoregon.edu

Prerequisites No previous studio experience required

Studio Description So, you think you may want to become a landscape architect? This is where you start. Welcome to LA 289! As the foundational studio in the BLA sequence, this course will introduce students to the fundamental concepts and techniques of space making. Through a real property located on the University of Oregon campus, we will study **space** as the elemental medium of landscape architecture; **site** as the grounding for design proposition; and **change** as a unique and essential quality of landscape. In conjunction with LA 350, drawing takes priority as the critical language of design, and students will learn to see, think and speak through drawings. We will also make models, exploring the physical, three-dimensional qualities of design thinking. At the conclusion of the class, you will

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have created your first portfolio item- a point of beginning in documenting your design education and the first step toward becoming a designer!

In this studio, we value the breadth of diverse experiences that each student brings to the studio and we benefit from multicultural perspectives (in readings and case studies) in architecture, interior architecture, and landscape architecture.

Objectives By the end of this studio, you should be able to demonstrate:

- Clear, precise, and thorough communication of the basic concepts of architectonics (mass, space, light);
- Proficiency in representing space using orthographic projections such as plan, section, elevation and axon;
- Proficiency making physical models to study and represent design ideas;
- The ability to research, diagram and present key case studies;
- The ability to apply these fundamental concepts and techniques to create and represent a design proposition.
- The ability to integrate reading, diagramming, and talking about ideas into the design studio process.

Class Format Studio meeting times are primarily structured around design critiques, class discussion, lectures, project work, site visits, and occasional guest presentations. Outside of studio time, students are expected to complete workshop exercises, execute site visits as needed, develop designs for intermediate assignments, and prepare for midterm and final reviews.

The first half of the course will be dedicated to understanding and interpreting the site (site analysis). In the mid-term review, each student will present their graphic analysis imagery and discuss a program of what they hope to accomplish with their design for the community garden. The second half of the course will be dedicated to learning about the design process, creating case studies of projects exhibiting similar scale and program and producing color graphics and imagery to explain your design ideas.

Evaluation Consistent with all Department of Landscape Architecture studios, this studio

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is graded Pass/No Pass. This grading policy is intended to encourage critical inquiry and risk-taking that pushes the boundaries of contemporary landscape architectural practice. Formative feedback will be provided by the instructor, studio guests, and mid-term and final reviewers. Summative feedback based on achievement of the course learning objectives will be provided by the instructor during exit interviews in Week 11.

Critique The word critique often conjures up images of negativity. To be critical of someone means to express hurtful comments or actions. At the same time, critique is an integral component in design-based education. Everything you do in this course will be evaluated and discussed, but be assured it will always be in a positive manner. No one is trying to hurt your feelings- we are only trying to make you a stronger designer. You will come into contact with a number of people during the quarter, each of which will express opinions on your work. Your job is to listen to them, and process what they say. You may not agree with their opinions, but there will likely be some take away, some thought that may trigger another design idea in your mind. There is no such thing as a bad idea, but there is always a way to make any idea better. Design is a process that takes time and thought. Through critique, you can arrive at a strong and personal design solution that may be presented to others with confidence.

Theory Design based theory represents the underpinning and reasoning for the designs we create. To be able to express your design in theoretical terms allows you to better explain your thought process and compare your design ideas to previous professionally executed design examples. We will begin your theoretical journey in this course (theory lite) through readings and discussion from the text *Landscape Theory in Design* by Susan Herrington. I have secured an electronic copy of the book through the UO library which I will share with you.

Requirements

Reading and diagramming On days when readings are due to be discussed, read them thoroughly, making notes and diagrams in your sketchbook to share during studio discussion and to help learn the material.

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Portfolio Document all of your work digitally for upload at the end of the term on Canvas.

Assignments Please see assignments for requirements and expectations.

Deadlines Projects are due on or before the beginning of the studio period of their due dates,

unless otherwise noted. Email the instructor as soon as you can if anything may prevent you from meeting a deadline as scheduled. Failure to submit a project(s) on time may result in a Marginal Pass or a Fail grade.

Attendance Everyone is expected to attend all studio meetings, be on time, and stay for the entire scheduled session working on studio activities. Absences are

discouraged. Excused absences (such as illness, personal emergency or required participation in university events) should be reported to the instructor prior to the missed class. Students who have missed two classes, excused or unexcused, are required to meet with their instructor before returning to studio. Three (3) absences from studio is equivalent to one week of instruction and may be cause for a grade of "No Pass."

Participation Highest professional standards will be expected and maintained throughout the term. Active in-class participation is very important. Participation will include research, preparation for class activities, respecting the rights and property of others, working cooperatively with other students, completing their share of team projects satisfactorily, and completing assignments on time.

The First Five Minutes The first five to ten minutes of every class will be dedicated to talking about landscape architecture. Current landscape projects in the media, getting a job, trends in design, cutting edge firms, etc. **It is important that you be on time in order to participate in this dialog.**