

LA 260

Understanding Landscapes



Southern Willamette Valley
Google Earth Aerial Image

Time M/W 12:00 pm - 1:50 pm **Office Hours** T/H | 9:00 - 11:00 am

Location Global Scholars Hall 123 **Credits** 4

Instructor Michael Geffel
Dept. of Landscape Architecture
Lawrence Hall, Room 214
mgeffel@uoregon.edu

Course Description The goal of this course is to expand your understanding, perception and interpretation of landscape as a design medium. This is a project-based course, centered on making works that seek to break the surface of the visual landscape and 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 to gain a deeper understanding of sites. 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.

LA 260 is a required course for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree, and serves as an Arts and Letters Core Education elective.

Eligibility This seminar is open to all undergraduate students. No prerequisites.

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Class Format	Class meeting times will be organized around lectures and presentations. Outside of class time, students are required to review readings, conduct site research and complete their projects.
Attendance Policy	Due to the potential for unexpected changes in class format, we will not be keeping attendance this term.
Learning Objectives	By the end of this course you should demonstrate: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An educated way of perceiving the landscape2. A broad understanding of the interplay of culture and nature in landscapes3. An ability to make graphically and visually engaging works that help to shift your own and others' sense of a place
Readings	Required textbooks: Gareth Doherty, Charles Waldheim, <i>Is Landscape...?</i> , London, New York: Routledge, 2015. Available digitally through the UO Library. Kimmerer, Robin. <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i> . Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2013. Additional readings will be provided digitally on Canvas.
Grading	This class may be taken for a letter grade or Pass/No Pass. Please consult your departmental curricular requirements regarding classes that may be taken P/NP,
Assessment	20% Environmental Autobiography 20% Lonely Landscape 10% Mid-Term Exam 20% Field Guide 30% Final Exam
Deadlines, Extensions, Incompletes	Assignments are due on or before the beginning of the class period of their due dates, unless otherwise noted. Late assignments are automatically penalized 10% per day, including weekends and holidays. Assignments not submitted after 10 days earn 0 points for the assignment. Exceptions to these policies are rare and must be arranged well before the deadline; email the GE's as soon as you can if anything may prevent you from meeting a deadline as scheduled.
Expectations	Highest professional standards will be expected and maintained throughout the term. Plagiarism in this class is extremely obvious and will not be tolerated.