

# LA 260 Understanding Landscapes



Southern Willamette Valley  
Google Earth Aerial Image

**Time** T/H 4:00 pm - 5:50 pm **Office Hours** TBD

**Location** Lillis 182 **Credits** 4

**Instructor** Liska Chan, Associate Professor  
229 Lawrence Hall  
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**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 and Environmental Design degrees, and serves as an Arts and Letters Core Education elective.

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