LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 4/540 INTRODUCTION TO LANDSCAPE PLANNING ANALYSIS
Spring 2024 with Emeritus Professor Robert Ribe, PhD, FASLA
Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 – 5:50 in 115 Lawrence Hall

This class focuses on how larger scale landscape areas can be mapped and analyzed in prescriptively effective ways. Students in this class often arrive with GIS, urban design, or large-scale design analysis skills that are not fully grounded in the ways that law, policy, economics, politics, and cultural perceptions constrain and direct such analyses to be valid and attempt to make a real difference.

Class lectures, discussions, and projects will focus on the relationship between a few important policy domains and how landscape planners have and can respond with appropriate creative spatial analyses. Expected focal policy topics will be the United States land tenure system, Oregon Land Use Planning System, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Federal Land Protection and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, and climate-change-related wildfire and renewable energy planning.

Landscape analysis skills often expected of landscape architects will be taught enough to get students up the learning curve. These will likely include visual resource analysis and stewardship, suitability analysis, cultural resource assessment, watershed analysis, ecological assessment, and urban analysis.

Current plans call for students to achieve in three proof of learning activities: (1) online Canvas quizzes corresponding to class sessions; (2) solve a few lab problems with some presented to the class; (3) work in a team and present a term-project investigating project reports to see how professional planners and landscape architects have used prescriptive landscape analyses to solve a particular category of problem.

This class is required for BLA and MLA students. Students from other majors are most likely to succeed if they have taken LA 4/513 Analyzing Landscape Systems or an equivalent geography or environmental studies class that enables them to read and interpret maps about natural and social topics. To best succeed students should have at least basic geographic information systems skills, and/or experience working with public-access, on-line GIS data bases, and/or the ability to use Adobe Creative Suite software to make maps and diagrams. Students must also be able to prepare digitally projected class presentations using software like PowerPoint, Miro, or other presentation preparation software.

This class may be taken as pass/no-pass or for a grade. There will be no required field trips or extra class sessions. All class readings will be PDFs available through Canvas.

Dr. Ribe has worked on landscape planning projects around the world for 43 years as a researcher, professional, expert witness, and instructor and won national and regional awards for some of this work.