

Landscape Architecture 1: Landscape Meaning

This general education course examines landscape and its role in human life and culture. We will study all levels of landscape: the natural landscape, which is not always as “natural” as it appears; the built landscape, which humans have modified to fulfill their physical needs or desires; and the designed landscape, which is the result of conscious effort to produce meaning. Landscape meaning ranges from the divine to the humble and practical. Meaning is created in our experience of landscape, not in the landscape itself. In studying the ways people experience landscape, we will examine not only real-world landscapes but depictions of landscapes in writing, painting, maps, photography, and other forms of art.

This course is also an introduction to the field of landscape architecture. Guest lectures will highlight diverse areas of landscape design and design research. Assignments will include art, creative writing, and design projects. It is not necessary to have any prior skills or training in these areas. Your grade will be based on how well you incorporate concepts from the lectures and readings into your projects and final essay.

FORMAT

This a lecture and discussion course. There will be material introduced in lecture that is not in the text or reader. You will receive and turn in all of your assignments in discussion section. In addition, part of your grade will be based on section attendance and activities. It is important to show up to both parts of this course.

SCHEDULE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Lectures are given on Tuesdays and Thursdays in 100 Hunt Hall from 6:10-7:30 PM.

The instructor, Jason MacCannell, may be reached at lda1prof@gmail.com. He will monitor this e-mail address only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. If you have an urgent problem please e-mail your TA. Office hours are Wednesday 2-4 in 210 Walker Hall. Office phone is 530-752-6437.

TAs and their sections are:

Shauna Cozad: A04 F 2:10-3, A06 T 7:40-8:30, A07 T 5:10-6. skcozad@ucdavis.edu

Gerrie Robinson: A01 F 11-11:50, A03 R 5:10-6, A09 F 1:10-2. glrobinson@ucdavis.edu

Innisfree Seyman: A02 W 12:10-1, A05 F 10-10:50, A08 R 5:10-6. ilseyman@ucdavis.edu

TEXTS

The textbook for this course is *The Meaning of Gardens* by Mark Francis and Randolph T. Hester, Jr. The additional course reader will be available at Campus Copies/Classical Notes in the MU. Both texts are required.

GRADING

There will be three projects during the term and a final take-home essay. Each of the first two projects will count for 20% of your grade. The third project and the final will each count for 25%. 10% of your grade will be based on section attendance and participation.

TOPICS AND READINGS

Disclaimer: Schedule is subject to change via announcements in lecture.

9/28. Introduction: Experiencing landscape. Six facts of life that affect landscape meaning.

10/3. Describing/depicting Landscape. Terms, typologies, tools of the trade.

READING: In text: "The Garden as Idea, Place, and Action"; Walker/Blake; Groth.

10/5. Landscape values. Why we think some landscapes are better than others.

READING: In text: Thayer; McNally; McHarg.

10/10. Landscape meaning in religion.

READING: In text: Matthews; Stein. In reader: Tuan.

10/12. Landscape meaning in literature.

READING: In reader: "Selected Landscapes from World Literature."

10/17. Landscape meaning in visual media. Painting, maps, photography, film, new media.

READING: In reader: Sullivan; Wood.

10/19. Landscape as medium. The meanings of famous and not-so-famous landscapes.

READING: In text: Alanen; Grampp.

10/26, 10/31. The profession of landscape architecture today; the future of landscape.

READING: In text: Eckbo; Harkness; Lee. In reader: Hood.

11/2, 11/7. Landscape and human well-being; childhood and healing landscapes.

GUEST LECTURES: Patsy Owens 11/2, Mark Francis 11/7.

READING: In text: Kaplan; Howett; Lewis.

11/9, 11/14. The science of landscape. Ecology, geomorphology. Landscape's environmental impact; threatened landscapes.

GUEST LECTURES: Eric Larsen 11/9, Steve Greco 11/14.

READING: In text: Dawson. In reader: Francis; Davis.

11/16, 11/21, 11/28. Landscape and society. Inclusion and exclusion; tourist landscapes.

GUEST LECTURE: Dean MacCannell to lecture 11/21 on tourist landscapes.

READING: In text: Giraud; Severson. In reader: MacCannell; Dordick.

11/30, 12/5. Art in the landscape. Public art and community development.

READING: In text: Sullivan. In reader: Scher.

12/7. Concluding thoughts. Q & A Session.

DUE DATES: Project 1, Week of 10/16 in section. Project 2, Week of 11/13 in section. Project 3, Week of 12/4 in section. Final essay due by 5 pm on Wednesday, 12/13.