SNRE 587
Place and Environment Design Studio

Fall Half Term, 2016
2 Credits (+2 credits for second half of the term)

Monday-Friday 1-4:00; Wednesday 1-3:00

Instructor: Robert E. Grese (office-3576 Dana, 763-0645, email: bgrese@umich.edu)
Graduate Student Instructor: Jiayang Li (734-780-9407, email: jiayang@umich.edu)

This course provides a basic foundation of the principles and processes involved in landscape design with emphasis on analysis of local ecosystems and urban settings as way of building a sense of place and understanding the context of site design.

The goals of this class are to develop:
- an ability to read and share landscape patterns through drawing and writing both in the field and in the studio,
- research skills for uncovering the stories associated with local places,
- an initial familiarity with the language and literature of landscape analysis and design,
- an ability to analyze, critique, and create existing landscape designs, and
- an understanding of regional ecosystems as a background for design, human culture.

Auxiliary goals:
- introduce resources and tools for use in landscape architecture,
- explore regional landscapes,
- provide opportunities for synthesizing/integrating information learned from other courses (woody plants, ecology, graphics) in the design process, and
- develop sense of community with classmates.

Approach:
The course will be taught as a combination of studio work, lectures, and field exercises aimed at
1) sharpening observational skills for studying and analyzing the natural and built landscape,
2) developing skills for critiquing landscape designs, and
3) building confidence in communicating analyses and design ideas.

Throughout all of these we will explore the relationship between ecological context, historical pattern and tradition, and design interventions. Particular emphasis will be on the main section of the Huron River Valley as it winds through central Ann Arbor.

The class will meet each week for approximately eight hours of presentation, critique, discussion and individual and group work time. An assortment of readings will be placed on our Canvas website

Grading/Student Evaluation
Grading will be based on individual performance on the various exercises in the class as well as on your class participation. It is critical that you participate in class field trips and be in the studio during class time. If at any time, you have questions about your work in the class please ask.
LATE POLICY: For the sake of fairness to all students in the course, deadlines will be strictly enforced. If you have trouble completing a particular assignment, please talk to us prior to the deadline. Late projects will have points deducted. At the end of the semester, students with outstanding work will graded on the basis work that has been completed. “Incompletes” will be given only in extenuating circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Projects</th>
<th>Point value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Prairie Sketch Problem</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Woodland Sketch Problem</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Campus/Urban Area Sketch Problem</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 4: Streambank Sketch Problem</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 5: Huron River/Fuller Site Analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Context analysis (in groups)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Site analysis (individual)</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong></td>
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**Course calendar**

**Sept**

7 Wed Course introduction: design process and site analysis

9 Fri Field trip to Arb: LANDFORMS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES
Due: sketch problem (we’ll discuss in the field)
Assign: #1 Prairie Sketch Problem

12 Mon Field trip to Arb: DESIGNED SPACES/WOODLANDS
Assign #2 Woodland Sketch Problem

14 Wed Lecture and discussion
Share sketch problems #1-2

16 Fri “Parking Day” Exercise
Assign #3 Campus/Urban Area Sketch Problem

19 Mon Campus/Urban Area Sketch Problem--work in studio

21 Wed Lecture and discussion
Share sketch problem #3

23 Fri Field trip study streams/shorelines
Assign #4 Streambank Sketch Problem

26 Mon Share sketch problem #4
Assign Huron River/Fuller Site Analysis, organize into teams

28 Wed Field trip to Huron River/Fuller Site

30 Fri Project teams workday/desk critiques

**Oct**

3 Mon Desk critiques

5 Wed #5A Team analyses due. share in class
7 Fri  Field trip to Huron River/Fuller site, begin work on individual analysis (5B)

10 Mon  Desk critiques

12 Wed  Desk critiques

14 Fri  Final projects due, presentations and review

**Oct. 17-18 Fall Break**

19 Wed  Field trip TBD

21 Fri  Class wrap-up and discussion/visit to 3rd year Urban Design reviews

**Readings will be assigned with individual assignments and posted on class Canvas site**

**General references:**

Washtenaw County Online Mapping: [http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/gis/MapWashtenaw_Main.htm](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/gis/MapWashtenaw_Main.htm)


Vegetation circa 1800 maps: [http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/data/veg1800.cfm](http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/data/veg1800.cfm)

Ann Arbor Then and Now: [http://aaobserver.aadl.org/aaobserver/18380](http://aaobserver.aadl.org/aaobserver/18380)