EAS 587  
**Place and Environment Design Studio**

Fall Half Term, 2017  
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: Shannon Sylte (734-780-9407, email: ssylte@umich.edu)

This course provides a basic foundation of principles and processes in landscape design with emphasis on the analysis of site conditions, local ecosystems and urban settings leading to place-based 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
- sharpening observational skills for studying and analyzing the natural and built landscape,
- developing skills for critiquing landscape designs, and
- 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 Fleming Creek watershed in east 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 be graded on the basis of work that has been completed. “Incompletes” will be given only in extenuating circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Projects</th>
<th>Point value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Prairie Sketch Problem</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Woodland Sketch Problem</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Campus/Urban Area Sketch Problem</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 4: Fleming Creek Streambank Sketch Problem</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 5a: Fleming Creek Watershed Analysis (in groups)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 5b: Dix Pond Area Site Analysis (individual)</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Course calendar**

**Sept**

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

11 Mon Field trip to Arb: PRAIRIE  
Assign #2 Woodland Sketch Problem

13 Wed Lecture and discussion  
Share sketch problems #1

15 Fri Field trip: WOODLAND

18 Mon Share sketch problems #1  
Assign #3 Campus Sketch Problem

20 Wed Lecture and discussion  
Share sketch problem #3

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

25 Mon Field Trip to Fleming Creek Watershed  
Assign Fleming Creek Watershed Site Analysis, organize into teams

27 Wed Share sketch problem #4

29 Fri Project teams workday/desk critiques

**Oct**

2 Mon Desk critiques

4 Wed #5A Team analyses due. share in class

6 Fri Field trip to Dix Pond site at Matthaei, begin work on individual analysis (5B)
9 Mon  Desk critiques

11 Wed  Desk critiques

13 Fri  Final projects due at the end of class

Oct. 16-17 Fall Break

18 Wed  Field trip TBD (tentative)

20 Fri  Presentations of analysis projects (tentative)

23 Mon  Visit Urban Design Studio reviews (tentative)

25 Wed  Class wrap-up and discussion (tentative)

27 Fri  SEAS Celebration

**Required readings will be assigned with individual assignments and posted on class Canvas site or available through Mirlyn**

**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)