EAS 501.080 VISUALIZING THE ENVIRONMENT
DIGITAL FUNDAMENTALS

WELCOME!

Just like the ability to draw by hand is an important communication tool, the ability to work across the analog and digital divide is a critical skill for landscape architects and designers. Additionally, you will add value as an intern or entry-level landscape architect by being able to contribute to the design process early in your career (especially in programs other than Autocad). It is my goal through this course to introduce you to the Adobe Creative Suite programs and provide you with best practices for creating professional and beautiful work. Even though I have been working in these programs for 20+ years, the software continues to improve and I continue to learn new and better ways to do things.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is intended as an introduction to intermediate-level course to supplement the Landscape Architecture visualization curriculum with specific instruction in the Adobe Creative Suite programs Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. Ensure that you have these programs installed, in addition to Adobe Acrobat Pro.

We will explore these three programs in the context of developing professional presentation materials, as well as how to work between these programs and AutoCAD and integrating hand graphics. Students will use and explore digital imaging tools, methods, vocabulary and concepts as well as demonstrate an understanding of digital media, scanning equipment, storage methods, and output options. I will also mention other programs like Adobe Fresco, Procreate, and Adobe Capture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

You will continue to build your visual communication skills and develop a comfort level with the software, understand the most appropriate application of the software, and to expand professional skills to create compelling graphics. Remember, these are ONLY TOOLS available to you as a design professional. I encourage you to be curious, willing to challenge yourself, and have fun.

COURSE STRUCTURE

We meet once per week in a seminar-style format. We will have technical demonstrations, Q&A, studio time to work on exercises.

I will also be providing resources for further exploration using LinkedIn Learning, which you all have access to. Activate your account here: https://its.umich.edu/academics-research/teaching-learning/linkedin-learning

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS / EQUIPMENT

- There is no textbook for this course, but I recommend Digital Drawing for Landscape Architecture by Cantrell & Michaels (2015)
- Laptop (or access to a computer) with Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and Acrobat Pro installed
- I highly recommend using a mouse—it will make a lot of the precision work much less frustrating!
- Sketchbook to test ideas, take notes, and draw concepts
- Storage device (when you start working on very large Photoshop files, an external hard drive may be useful as a scratch disk for Photoshop to use)—this may not be 100% necessary for us during the half-semester, but I recommend it for you in the long term if you want to work on large files.
- An optional, but useful and fun, tool is a digital graphics tablet. There are many different brands, sizes, and price points in the market. A good entry-point model is produced by Monoprice (www.monoprice.com)—their 10” x 6.25” model, with shipping, is approximately $55 (much less than those produced by Wacom).
- Use of the iPad (Adobe Fresco or Procreate) can be fun for doing renderings; There are apps for Illustrator and Photoshop for the iPad, but they don’t have the full functionality of the desktop app (but are continuing to improve.)
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EXPECTATIONS

Communication. We will use CANVAS for various tasks, including: announcements, reference material, tutorials, downloading assignments, submitting assignments, engaging in discussions and for course communication. I will always do my very best to reply to email messages in a reasonable amount of time. Email is the best way to reach me since I do not have an office in the Dana Building and am only on campus on class days. Please ask questions! My office hours are by appointment, and I can meet with folks after class or other days via Zoom, with advance notice. And in return, I hope that you are a clear communicator with me!

Attendance and participation. This is so critical with only a half-semester course. If situations come up that make it impossible for you to attend class, please talk to me in advance if possible. It is your responsibility to access any assignments or materials that are posted on Canvas. Keep in mind that excessive absences will affect your final grade.

Evaluation. We will have the following projects this semester:

3 Bi-Weekly Assignments ............................................. 60%
Final Project ................................................................. 40%

The Final Project will be evaluated by a combination of craft, creativity, and productivity which are graded on a score of 0-4 and weighted as shown below.

Craft (35%). Craft includes (but is not limited to) attention to detail, developing organized files, and adhering to specifications in the project statements.

Thoughtfulness and Creativity (35%). This includes thoughtful solutions to the assigned projects, with appropriate problem solving, aesthetic considerations, and creativity. This area addresses the amount of effort or degree of difficulty exhibited in finished projects, evidence of extra research and planning.

Productivity (30%). This will be assessed by evidence that you tested various approaches and that revisions and corrections were made along the way based on feedback from me and others. This includes using class time effectively, having projects ready and turned in on time, showing up for class prepared and ready to work, being prepared for critiques and paying attention during tutorials and discussions.

Late Items.
All submission materials, assignments and exercises are due at the scheduled deadline. Late projects with no prior notice will receive a one-step grade deduction for every 24 hours beyond the deadline. (Thirty minutes doesn’t really count as prior notice under most circumstances). If you’re having trouble with the work, or need help, or are ill – just have clear communication. If you have a concern about your progress at any point in the semester, all you need to do is ask.

Grading Scale
Grades will be calculated by dividing points earned by total possible points. This will give a percentage, which I use with the scale from the Rackham Graduate School >>>>>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100 - 99</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>98.9 - 94</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93.9 - 90</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89.9 - 86</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85.9 - 83</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82.9 - 80</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75.9 - 73</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72.9 - 70</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69.9 - 66</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65.9 - 63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62.9 - 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 - 0</td>
<td>All final grades below C- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward degree requirements.</td>
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**Introduction & Overview**

**MODULE 01: INDESIGN**

Document design

**MODULE 02: ILLUSTRATOR**

Vector-based mapping and diagramming

**MODULE 03: PHOTOSHOP**

Plan/section rendering, photo retouching and manipulation

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**FINAL PROJECT: DUE DATE TBD.**
ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY
The University of Michigan community functions best when its members treat one another with honesty, fairness, respect, and trust. The college promotes the assumption of personal responsibility and integrity, and prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct. For more information, including examples of behaviors that are considered academic misconduct and potential sanctions, please see the Rackham Academic and Professional Integrity Policy: https://rackham.umich.edu/academic-policies/section8/ and the Rackham Academic Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedures: https://rackham.umich.edu/academic-policies/section9/

Plagiarism is covered by the Academic and Professional Integrity policy—which includes representing the words, ideas, or work of others as one’s own in writing or presentations, and failing to give full and proper credit to the original source. Failing to properly acknowledge and cite language from another source, including paraphrased text. In a studio setting, this also covers improperly cited imagery. When in doubt, ask your instructor.

DISABILITY STATEMENT
The University of Michigan is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all classes, programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located at G664 Haven Hall. The SSD phone number is 734-763-3000. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation (VISA) form. Please present this form to me at the beginning of the term, or at least one week prior to the need for the specific accommodation.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING
The University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 734.764.8312 and caps.umich.edu during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in schools on both North and Central Campus. You may also consult University Health Service (UHS) at 734.764.8320 and https://www.uhs.umich.edu/mentalhealthsvcs, or for alcohol or drug concerns, see https://www.uhs.umich.edu/aodresources. For a listing of other mental health resources available on and off campus, visit http://umich.edu/~mhealth/

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY
Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students’ academic success and we encourage anyone dealing with sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need. Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) on their 24-hour crisis line, 734.936.3333 and at sapac.umich.edu. Alleged violations can be non-confidentially reported to the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE) at institutional.equity@umich.edu

RELIGIOUS/CULTURAL OBSERVANCE
Persons who have religious or cultural observances that coincide with this class should let the instructor know in writing (email is fine) as early as possible.