University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability

Place & Environment Design Studio

EAS 587 001 | First Half of Fall Term 2023 | 2 credits
Monday & Friday 1:00 - 3:50; Wednesday 1:00 – 2:50

Instructor: Mark Lindquist marklin@umich.edu | Dana 2528 | office hours W 11:00-1:00
Link to appointment slots
GSI: Xiaohao Yang xiaohaoy@umich.edu | office hours email for appointment

Introduction

This course provides a foundation of principles and processes in landscape design, emphasizing 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 and 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 a sense of community with classmates.

Approach

The course is 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.

We will explore the relationship between ecological context, historical pattern, and tradition, and design interventions. Emphasis will be on the Allen Creek watershed in Ann Arbor that includes much of the west side of Ann Arbor, including the downtown. The class will meet each week for approximately eight hours of presentation, critique, and discussion, with both individual and group work time. An assortment of readings will be placed on our Canvas website.

Grading/Student Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on the elements listed below. There will be no final examination. Assessment will be based on day-to-day performance, as well as on the quality of work presented at reviews. While the *product* of studio work is important, equally important is the student's ability to develop a practical, appropriate and coherent design *process*. Students are expected to be in attendance for the entirety of each studio period. Because the studio work is evaluated during the interim and final reviews, all work must be completed on time, and all students must take part in the presentations and reviews. Some work will be completed individually with some completed in groups. Students will receive a common grade for work done in groups. Attendance and engagement are expected as a requirement for progress in design and are characterized by active involvement in the work and discussions.

Projects

Assignment 1: Favorite art/design/landscape	5%
Assignment 2: Prairie & Woodland sketches	15%
Assignment 3: Campus spatial analysis (teams of 2)	15%
Assignment 4: Allen's Creek watershed analysis (groups)	25%
Assignment 5: Eberwhite Woods site analysis (individual)	40%
Total	**100%**

Important Policies from Rackham Graduate School Concerning Grades

(summarized from http://www.rackham.umich.edu/current-students/policies/academic-policies/section4#45)

- To maintain satisfactory academic standing, graduate students must make satisfactory progress toward their degrees and have a minimum Rackham cumulative grade point average (GPA) of B (3.00 on a 4.00 point scale)
- Students who fall below the GPA requirement of their program or Rackham are placed on academic probation
- Coursework is graded with a letter system (A, B, C, D, or E)
- Courses in which grades of D or E are earned cannot be used to fulfill degree requirements
- An instructor may add "+" or "-" to grades

Grading scale

Grade	Grade Point Value*	Description
A+	4.3	Outstanding
A	4.0	Good
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	Proficient
B	3.0	
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	Partially proficient
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	All final grades below C- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward degree requirements
D	1.0	
D-	0.7	
F	0.0	

*Letter grades for programs on the Ann Arbor campus are converted into numbers, or points.

Schedule

week	date	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	28-Aug	**Studio intro, Assign: #1 Favorite Art/Design/Landscape**	**Due: Project #1 Favorite Art/Design/Landscape; Assign: #2 Prairie/Woods Sketches**	**Field trip to Arboretum**
2	4-Sep	Labor Day, No Classes	**Field trip to North Campus Woodlots**	**Due: #2 Prairie/Woods Sketches; Assign: #3 Campus place analysis**
3	11-Sep	Desk/field time for working on Campus place analysis	Desk/field time for working on Campus place analysis	**Due: #3 Campus analysis; Assign #4 Allen's Creek watershed analysis - organize into teams**
4	18-Sep	Project teams' workday/desk critiques	Project teams' workday/desk critiques	**Allen's Creek field trip**
5	25-Jan	Project teams' workday/desk critiques	Project teams' workday/desk critiques	**Due: #4 Allen's Creek analysis; Assign #5 Eberwhite Woods site analysis**
6	2-Oct	Desk/field time for working on Eberwhite Woods site analysis.	**Field trip to Eberwhite Woods**	Desk/field time for working on Eberwhite Woods site analysis.
7	9-Oct	Desk/field time for working on Eberwhite Woods site analysis.	Desk/field time for working on Eberwhite Woods site analysis.	**Due: #5 Eberwhite Woods site analysis**
8	16-Oct	Fall Study Break, No Classes	EAS 587 002 Intro	EAS 587 002

Online Resources

Adobe Creative Cloud: https://its.umich.edu/computing/computers-software/adobe-creative-cloud

Autodesk Student software https://www.autodesk.com/education/students

Maize and Blueprint - This website provides the latest updates about the University of Michigan and COVID-19: https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/

Orientation and general resources: https://seas.umich.edu/orientation-2023

Photoshop essentials: https://www.linkedin.com/learning/photoshop-2020-essential-training-the-basics/

ITS Recording and Privacy Concerns FAQ

https://safecomputing.umich.edu/be-aware/privacy/privacy-u-m/videoconferencing/recording-privacy-concerns

Required readings will be assigned with individual assignments and posted on class Canvas site or available through the library.

Course Expectations Regarding the Use of GenAI

Referencing and validating. You are taking full responsibility for AI-generated materials as if you had produced them yourself: ideas must be attributed and facts must be true.
Openness. We encourage you to use AI tools to explore the field, play with knowledge, and help you study. But you need to be open about this, and fully document your use.
Academic Integrity Statement. Academic integrity is our foundation as a community of scholars and learners. It defines the values we personally uphold, and it expresses a shared understanding of why we do so. This includes a commitment to truth; a commitment to personal integrity; and a commitment to certain standards and shared values on which membership in this community is based.
Assignment Instruction statement. By submitting an assignment for evaluation:
-you assert that it accurately reflects the facts and to do so you need to have verified the facts, including if they originate from generative AI resources;
-you assert that all your sources that go beyond common knowledge are suitably attributed. Common knowledge is what a knowledgeable reader can assess without requiring confirmation from a separate source;
-you assert that you have respected all specific requirements of your assigned work, in particular requirements for transparency and documentation of process, or have explained yourself where this was not possible.

If any of these assertions are not true, whether by intent or negligence, you have undermined the academic integrity of your work. Under U-M and Rackham rules, which apply to SEAS, this may constitute academic misconduct.

General references *(digital copy available via Umich library unless otherwise noted)*

Corner, James. (1999). Recovering landscape: essays in contemporary landscape architecture. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Dee, C. (2001). *Form and fabric in landscape architecture: A visual introduction*. CRC Press LLC.

Hough, Michael. 2004. *Cities and Natural Process (2nd edition).* NY: Routledge.

James A. LaGro, Jr. 2013. *Site Analysis: Informing Context Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design.* Hoboken, NY: John Wiley and Sons.

Kaplan, Rachel, Stephen Kaplan, and Robert L. Ryan, 1998. *With People in Mind: Design and Management of Everyday Nature.* Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

Kellert, Stephen R. 2018. *Nature by Design: The Practice of Biophilic Design*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Margolis, L. & Robinson, A. (2007). *Living Systems: Innovative Materials and Technologies for Landscape Architecture*. Berlin, Boston: Birkhäuser.

Pickett, Stewart T. A. 2008. “Natural Systems and Greenspaces,” in *Urban Regions: Ecology and Planning Beyond the City,* edited by Richard T. T. Forman. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp. 80-112.

Spirn, Anne. 2012. “Ecological urbanism: a framework for the design of resilient cities.” https://annewhistonspirn.com/sharefiles/Spirn-EcoUrbanism-2012.pdf

Tiberghien, Gilles A. & Desvigne, Michel. (2009). Intermediate natures: the landscapes of Michel Desvigne. Basel; Boston: Birkhäuser.