

Environmental DESIGN

architecture + landscape architecture + planning

University of Calgary / Faculty of Environmental Design

Landscape Architecture History and Theory

EVDL 629, 3 units, H(3-0)

Winter 2019

Friday 09:10 - 12:20, Room PF 2165

Instructor Enrica Dall'Ara

enrica.dallara@ucalgary.ca - (403) 220-7075 - PF 3196, hours by appointment

Course Syllabus | Draft, December 2018

INTRODUCTION

An introduction to the history, theory and contemporary issues of landscape architecture. Develop a critical awareness of major conceptual frameworks, and the socio-political contexts in which they developed, both conceptually and in realized projects.

OBJECTIVES / COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the completion of the course, students should be able to

1. discuss foundational notions on the history of landscape transformations, related to various eras, geographies and cultures, ranging from prehistory to the 20th century;
2. summarize the historical evolution of past concepts, styles and projects;
3. analyze the main styles of historical gardens/parks, through an investigation on drawings and photographs;
4. explain essential theoretical references related to the contemporary concept of landscape architecture;
5. argue the complexity of functional, social, symbolic, and aesthetic values inherent the discipline and profession of Landscape Architecture;
6. debate the implications that issues inherited from history and scholars can have on nowadays practice in Landscape Architecture.

TEACHING APPROACH

The course is designed to provide a theoretical education in the field of Landscape Architecture, focusing on analysis and interpretation of historical and contemporary theories and projects. The study of history is conceived as a fundamental tool to acquire a critical knowledge, and design skills that will be further developed in the landscape architecture studio sequence, which follows in the Master's Program.

The course is divided into the following two broad topic areas: (1) LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE HISTORY, and (2) MODERN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND CONTEMPORARY VOICES. Each topic area will be subject of Lectures by the instructor or a guest speaker, and of Assignment(s). For further detail, see the following Chapter *Contents and Activities*.

CONTENTS AND ACTIVITIES

UNIT 1 - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE HISTORY

- **Lectures**

- Glossary and Ancestral Origins
- Cultures of the Ancient World
- The Middle Ages and the concept of *Hortus Conclusus*
- Italian Renaissance and Mannerism
- Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries in Europe
- The Eighteenth Century. The Chinese school and the English landscape gardening
- Public Parks. Origins and evolution in Europe and North America

- **Highlights**

Class discussion on readings and lectures' contents, supported by previous individual highlights writing - Assignment/Assessment #1

- **Historic gardens styles spatial characters**

Analysis of an historic garden by means of plan diagram(s) based on figure/ground representation technique - Assignment/Assessment #3 (individual work)

- ***Standing on the shoulders of giants* - Time line set up**

Investigation and installation - Assignment/Assessment #2 (group work) - on the historical evolution of concepts and projects following the red thread of the following topics:

- *Hortus conclusus*
- Landscape gardening
- Urban agriculture and vegetable gardens
- Pleasure gardens / Amusement parks

UNIT 2 – MODERN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND CONTEMPORARY VOICES AND WORKS

[The 20th century and the 21th century - Theory and Practice]

- **Lectures**
 - The Twentieth Century. Open spaces as a system: Planning theories
 - Modern Landscape Architecture
 - Contemporary authors and works - 1
 - Contemporary authors and works - 2
- **Voices** - Contemporary definition(s) of Landscape Architecture - Assignment/Assessment #4
 - PART 1: Scholars' theories and Projects - Presentations (7 min) by students (individual)
 - PART 2: My voice - Reflective paper/ Final presentation (10 min) by students (Individual)

COURSE SCHEDULE

UNIT 1 – LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE HISTORY

Week 01 - Jan 11

- Course presentation
- Lecture #1 - ***Glossary and Ancestral Origins***
- Assignment #1 - presentation by the Instructor
- Assignment #3 - presentation by the Instructor

Week 02 - Jan 18

- Class discussion [Assignment #1.1]
- Lecture #2 - ***Ancient Cultures***

Week 03 - Jan 25

- Class discussion [Assignment #1.2]
- Lecture #3 - ***The Middle Ages in Europe. Hortus Conclusus***

Week 04 - Feb 01

- Class discussion [Assignment #1.3]
- Lecture #4 - ***Italian Renaissance and Mannerism***

Week 05 - Feb 08

- Class discussion [Assignment #1.4]
- Lecture #5 - ***The Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries***
- Assignment #2: Presentation by the Instructor

Week 06 - Feb 15

- Class discussion [Assignment #1.5]
- Lecture #6 - ***The Eighteenth Century***
- Assignment #2: work in class

February 17 - 24, 2019, Block Week / Mid-Term Break

Week 07 - Mar 01

- Class discussion [Assignment #1.6]
- Lecture #7 - **Public Parks. Origins, and their evolution in the Nineteenth Century**
- Assignment #2: work in class

UNIT 2 – MODERN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND CONTEMPORARY VOICES AND WORKS

Week 08 - Mar 08

- Assignment #2: Submission by 9.30 AM
- Class discussion [Assignment #1.7]
- Lecture #8 - **The Twentieth Century. Open spaces as a system: Planning theories**
- Assignment #4 "Voices": presentation by the Instructor

March 11 - 15, 2019, Block Week

Week 09 - Mar 22

- Lecture #9 - **Modern Landscape Architecture**
- Assignment #3 "Time-line": work in class (set-up on the wall)

Week 10 - Mar 29

- Lecture #10 - **Contemporary authors and works 1**
- Assignment #3 "Time-line": work in class (set-up on the wall)
- Assignment #4 "Voices" - PART 1: Submission on D2L by 9.30 AM and Presentations during class time

Week 11 - Apr 05

- Lecture #11 - **Contemporary authors and works 2**
- Assignment #3 "Time-line": work in class (set-up on the wall)
- Assignment #4 "Voices" - PART 2: desk review

Week 12 - Apr 12

- Assignment #3 "Time-line": completed work
- Assignment #4 "Voices" - PART 2: Submission on D2L by 9.30 AM and Final Presentation

MEANS OF EVALUATION

General expectations

- The course evaluation will be based on the assignments completed during the term. There will be no final examination.

- Students are expected to be in attendance for the entirety of each class period, and are required to attend all assignment reviews.
- Students are expected to complete all course assignments on time, and submit a digital copy of the work on D2L by 9:10 AM on the day listed on the schedule unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Late pinning up/submission of material to be presented is not acceptable (grades will be deducted for work pinned up or submitted later than the deadline specified in the course/assignment brief or as discussed in class).
- Work will be assigned individually or in groups. Normally, students will receive a common grade for work done in groups; but the instructor reserves the right to evaluate students individually, if it appears that the work has been distributed unequally. In this case, the instructor will have a conversation with the group to discuss the distribution of work.
- Students must obtain an overall passing grade (i.e. minimum B-) to pass this course, however, if a student fails any phase of the course worth 30% or more they will fail the course. A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, drawings, etc.) has been unfairly graded may have the work re-graded. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. More information can be found in the Graduate Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html>
- Assignment #1 Highlights and Assignment#4 PART 2: My voice - Reflective paper/ Final presentation include writing components; the writing quality will be a relevant factor in the evaluation of student work.

Evaluation Breakdown

Assignment	% of Course Grade
Assignment # 1 Highlights	35
Assignment #2 Historic gardens styles spatial characters	15
Assignment #3 <i>Standing on the shoulders of giants</i> - Time line set up	20
Assignment #4 <i>Voices</i> (PART 1 + PART2)	30
Total	100

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the

				Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

Note: A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

READINGS

Landscape Architecture History

- Aben, R., de Wit, S. (1999). *The Enclosed Garden: History and Development of the Hortus Conclusus and Its Reintroduction into the Present-day Urban Landscape*. 010 Publishers.
https://books.google.it/books/about/The_Enclosed_Garden.html?id=5ihAR9ASr4gC&hl=it
- Girot, C. (2016) *The Course of Landscape Architecture. A History of our Designs on the Natural World, from Prehistory to the Present*. Thames and Hudson (Book on reserve for the class at the TFDL Library, Jan 07-April 26, 2019).
- Jellicoe, G. (1975). *The landscape of Man: shaping the environment from prehistory to the present day*. Thames and Hudson (Book on reserve for the class at the TFDL Library, Jan 07-April 26, 2019).
- Moore, C. W., Mitchell W. J., and Turnbull, W.(1988). *The poetics of gardens*. MIT Press (Book on reserve for the class at the TFDL Library, Jan 07-April 26, 2019).
- Mosser, M. and Teysot, G. (Eds) (1991). *The Architecture of Western Gardens: A Design History from the Renaissance to the Present Day*. The MIT Press (Book on reserve for the class at the TFDL Library, Jan 07-April 26, 2019).
- Treib, M. (Ed.) (1993). *Modern Landscape Architecture: A critical Review*. MIT Press.
- Treib, M. (2012). *From the Garden. Lawrence Halprin and the Modern Landscape*. Landscape Journal: design, planning, and management of the land, 2012, Volume 31, Issue 1
<http://muse.jhu.edu.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/article/499467>
- Walker, P., Simo, M. L. (1994). *Invisible gardens: the search for modernism in the American landscape*. MIT Press.

Landscape Architecture Theory

- Sheffield, S. (Ed.) (2002). *Theory in Landscape Architecture*. A reader. University of Pennsylvania Press (Book on reserve for the class at the TFDL Library, Jan 07-April 26, 2019).
- Corner, J. (Ed.) (1999). *Recovering landscape. Essays in Contemporary Landscape Architecture*. Princeton Architectural Press. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3387283>
- Gilles Clement, Sandra Morris, and Gilles A. Tiberghien (2015). *The Planetary Garden and Other Writings*. University of Pennsylvania Press. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3442537>
- Nicolin, P., Repishti, F. (2003). *Dictionary of Today's Landscape Designers*. Milan: Skira (Book on reserve for the class at the TFDL Library, Jan 07-April 26, 2019).

Note: Other texts and articles will be provided by the lecturer(s) to help with specific topics.

GENERAL NOTES

1. Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
2. Academic Accommodations. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the designated contact person in EVDS, Jennifer Taillefer (jtaillef@ucalgary.ca). Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience). For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/
3. Plagiarism - Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.
4. Appeals: If a student has a concern about the course, academic matter, or a grade that they have been assigned, they must first communicate this concern with the instructor. If the concern cannot be

resolved with the instructor, the student can proceed with an academic appeal, which normally begins with the Faculty: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/appeals>

5. Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>)
6. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)
7. Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)
8. Contact Info for: Student Union (<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/contact/>); Graduate Student representative (<https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/about-the-gsa/gsa-executive-board/>) Student Union Wellness Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>; Library Resources: <http://library.ucalgary.ca/> and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>).