

LAR 150B1 - American Design on the Land (Online)

3 Credit Hours

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Course Description

This course is a broad exploration of the natural and built American landscape and how the unique character of American culture continues to shape this place. With readings, discussions, and videos, students will examine dynamic dialogue between humans and nature to understand the creation of the American landscape. Students will understand that both the built environments, such as cities, parks, gardens, and preserves of wild, scenic, and cultural landscapes can be interpreted as physical manifestations of different American ideologies.

America has served as a melting pot for cultures and ideologies each with its own unique history. In order to better understand the American landscape, it is imperative to take a global approach and analyze international landscape and recognize the tenets they all share. Viewing the American landscape through an international lens will illuminate what exactly has shaped the American design on the land.

Weekly topics will structure lectures, group discussions, independent student research, and quizzes. Through this exploration students will learn about the lives of everyday Americans as well as the contributions of great individuals from various cultural backgrounds and periods in time. These will include Native Americans, artists, architects, landscape architects, planners, natural and social scientists, political figures, businessmen and women, and writers.

Course Objectives

After completing the course requirements, students should be able to:

- Introduce students to the field of landscape architecture as a wide-ranging discipline whose impact is seen throughout history. Students will research the impact of land design in regards to landscape architecture and the associated fields of civil engineering, urban planning, environmental design, cultural geography and architecture.
- Through studying international examples of land design, students will have a deeper understanding of the American landscape. Students will be able to view an area and generally understand its historic settlement patterns, influences from other cultures, and any physical/cultural trends.

- By analyzing the role of landscape design in the structure and location of cities, suburbs, recreational sites and infrastructure, students will understand how city planning decisions are made. The concept of a city being a final, unchanging product will be challenged.
- Students will be able to analyze elements that have led to any issues relating to land planning, environmental degradation, and climate change (e.g. flooding, tsunamis, water shortages, fire frequency, and etc).
- Students will ultimately gain an understanding of the social, cultural, and political factors that have influenced the American landscape. Students will be able to discuss landscape design as a comprehensive art form and expression of culture.

Teaching Format

This is a fully online course is taught utilizing D2L.

Required Reading Material

This course will use a combination of textbook excerpts, scanned readings, PDF documents, and videos that students will be required to read.

The course textbook is **The Course of Landscape Architecture** by Christophe Girot (ISBN-13: 978-0500342978 | ISBN-10: 0500342970).

Prerequisites

No prerequisites are required for this course. As this is a hybrid course, a computer, reliable internet connection, webcam and microphone, and working knowledge of D2L are expected of all students.

Grading

Course grades and feedback are available for your review at all times. It is your responsibility to monitor your academic progress throughout the course. Final grades are based on the following:

Discussions (40%)

Discussions and at least one response to another classmate's discussion post are due on Fridays at 11:59 P.M. throughout the semester and require completion of their associated lesson and readings. Active participation in the online discussions is a required part of this course worth 40% of the final grade. The goal of the discussions is to expand your understanding of the course material and work with classmates towards creative solutions. Discussions are graded based on the following **rubric**:

- - Needs Improvement (0-2.25 / 3 points): Needs substantial improvement in order to meet guidelines and shows lack of understanding of lesson and reading material.
 - Good (2.5 / 3 points): Meets all guidelines and displays an understanding of lesson and reading material.

- Excellent (3 / 3 points): Exceeds guidelines and shows substantial understanding of lesson and reading material.

Use an academic style of writing with correct grammar and spelling with correct citations. For more information about the discussions, review the Discussion Rubric posted on D2L.

Final Paper (30%)

The final paper, worth 20% of final grade, will be a minimum of 9 pages, academic paper dealing with the American Design on the Land. There will be a required rough draft (3-4 pages) due in the middle of the semester worth 10% of your grade. The topic will be introduced to the students a few weeks into the course.

Quizzes (20%)

There will be weekly short quizzes. These quizzes will follow a multiple-choice style format and will follow a short, open-note format with no time limit.

VoiceThread Presentations (10%)

You will give two VoiceThread presentations. For the first presentation, you will explore a weekly discussion topic of your choosing in more detail (except for the first topic). Your second VoiceThread presentation will give a short summary of the major points presented in your research paper. These presentations will need to include a **minimum** of 7 slides and be a **minimum** of 7 minutes long

Final Course Grades

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

E = 60% or below

Late, incomplete work, and missed presentations will not be accepted, unless there is documentation of a medical or family emergency. Students are given ample opportunity before assignment due dates for instructor feedback.

Requests for incompletes (I) and withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with University policies which are available at <https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/grades/grading-policy-manual-index?audience=students&cat1=15&cat2=242>

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored. See: <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/>