**LARC160 Introduction to Landscape Architecture** (3 credits)

**Grade Method:** REG/P-F/AUD.

CORE Humanities (HO) Course

GenEd: Distributive Studies - Humanities or Distributive Studies - Scholarship in Practice

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesdays 2-4pm online or by appointment
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**Course Description**

The course will cover the history, theory, philosophy and current practice of the profession of landscape architecture. We will explore the interactive relationship between humans and their environments by examining perceptions of and changing attitude towards the landscape, as well as an examination of how these are related to ecological and cultural influences. Projects included in course units will represent the broad range of scales and contexts in which landscape architects work.

**Office Hours**

I will be available anytime between 2-4pm Monday and Wednesday during the course. I will start a link in the Discussion section for this. You can send any general questions that you have and can expect a quick response. You may also request a conference during that time. You can also arrange office hours by appointment if you are not free at that time. You can contact me at kdc25@umd.edu as well.

**Textbook and Readings**


**Additional Readings**

All additional readings will be posted online. You will be notified when these are posted.

*I will routinely be adding new material to the website, so it is your responsibility to make sure that you keep up to date with new videos, notes, readings or guidelines that are posted.*
Scope and Objectives

Landscape architecture addresses issues that range in scale from regional planning and urban design to the specific details of small gardens. The class examines the challenges that arise and the opportunities that are presented when human beings make their imprint on the land. It studies the wide-ranging efforts in the field of landscape architecture, which is the art and science of planning, designing, and managing the land.

While examining landscape architecture’s influence upon places inhabited by people, students will become aware of the relationship between people and nature, and the potential for landscape architecture to transform the environments in which humans live, work, and play.

Course Organization

The course has eight major units of study.

Each unit will have corresponding readings, presentations and videos, a quiz, and readings to be completed. Each part should take no more than two-five hours to fully cover, from readings to watching videos. This allows time for you to also complete course projects. Projects are additional time that you will need to consider.

Unit 1 briefly introduces the profession of landscape architecture, the range of projects covered by the field and provides a overview of landscape design history.

Unit 2 covers Design Foundations. You will learn how designers think about the most elemental components of design, from line to volume, and beyond, and how such factors are combined to form a design approach to a problem.

Unit 3 will delve into how to do landscape architecture. It will demonstrate how professionals in the field use the materials of landscape, land, water and humans themselves, to create the vast variety of spaces that the practice creates. You will look specifically at how designers start projects.

Unit 4 carries on from Unit 3 and will explore how the design process works. You will investigate how designers develop the ideas they do and what conceptual thinking entails.
Unit 5 considers the variety of ways that landscape architects express or represent their ideas, from drawing, digital imagery, and film.

Unit 6 explores the logistics of project management, project management and asks essentially: “how do things get built?”

Unit 7 will introduce how landscape architects are trained, what landscape architecture education is actually like, and employment prospects.

Unit 8 concludes the course by asking students to consider the environment of the future and to consider how landscape architecture can be of benefit to it.

Throughout the course, examples of landscape architecture will be featured to coincide with the focus study areas.

Students enrolled in this course will:

• Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental concepts and ideas in the field of landscape architecture by completing quizzes and design projects.
• Demonstrate an understanding of how landscape architects and designers utilize the principles and methods of art and science to structure and shape outdoor space through completion of projects.
• Describe how the visual language of landscape architecture has a profound impact on the human perception of the environment, the recognition of pleasures and dangers, and the identification with places that have a significant impact on their everyday lives as well as places of periodic ceremony and ritual through online discussion participation, quizzes and projects.
• Observe, record and analyze designed landscapes and identify the design organization and the key elements of landscapes by completing exercises in both written, drawn and design formats through design projects.
• Explain how culture and other key elements of historical context have had an impact on designed and natural settings through online discussion.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between natural processes and human interventions in the landscape, the range of scales from regional planning to garden design, and how landscape architects transform the landscape to accommodate places for humans to live, work and play by completion of online quizzes.
Course Requirements and Expectations –
READ ALL OF THIS CAREFULLY.

All assignments can be uploaded to the website. In landscape architecture, it is common practice both in the educational environment and in professional practice to share one's work with others. Therefore you must submit your project to a discussion thread for that specific assignment. Please make sure that you make your project size no more than 20-30 MB.

Participation (20% of grade): Online participation in discussion topics, periodically announced, and online design critiques.

Design Exercises (60% overall): The exercises will be described to you over the next few weeks and you will be given guidelines about materials, methods and due dates. There are eight assignments in all varying in length from those you can complete quite quickly to ones that will require more time.

Quizzes (20 % of your grade): There are seven short quizzes for 7 of the 8 sections. You will need to successfully pass each Unit quiz to progress on to the next unit.

Assessment
Each assignment will be assessed in a different way because they demand different skills, knowledge and labor. The means of assessment, however, will be described individually for each task.

Grades break down as follows:

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You will be able to track your grades as soon as they are posted on the course website. Please refrain from challenging grades unless you have a very specific and important argument to make about them.