

Syllabus - Spring 2023
Clemson University
Landscape Architecture Program
College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities

LARC 2810/6810: Landscape Architectural Professional Practice
Credit hours: 3
11:15 – 12:30 TTr
Room: LARC 3-101

Course Title: Landscape Architectural Professional Practice

Instructor: Professor: Tom Schurch PhD, FASLA, PLA
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description: Seminar pertaining to the practice of landscape architecture and professional procedures. Topics include the professional relationship between the landscape architect and client, including ethical, legal and business issues, as well as portfolio development.

Prerequisites: Third year student or higher, professional standing, or consent of instructor. (outdated/)

Required Text:

The Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture: A Complete Guide to Starting and Running Your Own Firm, Second Edition, Walter Rogers.

Note: Print/E-mail/Save up to 60 pages; there is restricted copy/paste; there is unrestricted download.

Recommended Texts:

Landscape Data Manual, James M. Griffin
Landscape Management, James M. Griffin

Course Introduction: Professional practice in landscape architecture can be a complex topic that - importantly - is inclusive of good design outcomes beyond narrow parameters of design and planning in the profession. In short, the “good” practitioner in landscape architecture is not only an individual with sound design, and planning skills, but someone who has construction design acumen and professional practice knowhow. Therefore, LARC 2810/6810 addresses four aspects of the practice of landscape architecture as a framework for consideration of basic topics important to practical ends. In doing so, this course introduces four dimensions of the profession that other aspects of the BLA and MLA curriculums do not address. The four dimensions and their associated topics include:

The Professions – professional organizations, licensure, ethics and professional judgment, as well as career options within the profession.

Practice – modes of practice (public and private); firm structure and management; with possible attention to financing, accounting, business administration; and firm identity and marketing.

The Project – project management, administration and leadership; multidisciplinary team organization; contracts; scheduling and budgeting; contract documents; construction administration; and the client’s role.

The Community – responsibility and roles of the landscape architect beyond that of professional ethics and serving client needs.

Course Goal: The primary goal of this course is to initiate an understanding of professional practice that adds to your ability to be effective and responsible as an aspiring landscape architect.

Learning Outcomes: In achieving the course goal the following learning outcomes are significant.

- Understand the meaning of the BLA and MLA curriculums within accredited professional degree

granting programs

- understand the significance of professional associations, especially the American Society of Landscape Architects
- **understand the importance of licensure in the profession, why to earn licensure**
- explore ethical, social, and political issues significant to professional practice, particularly as related to the ASLA Code of Ethics
- exploration of professional citizenship and responsibility
- understanding management principles and procedures regarding project development and implementation
- understanding organization, practices, and factors that permit responsible and cost-effective office administration
- understanding the significance, difficulty, and opportunities towards management of various stakeholders significant to a project
- develop an understanding of types of public and private offices employing landscape architects, and various professional career opportunities in that regard
- develop an understanding of legal issues as related to professional practice

An important facet of the course includes meeting with various practitioners either in class or via Zoom meetings in fulfillment of course goals and learning outcomes.

Course Requirements - participation, exams, and exercises:

- Attendance/participation/reading 15% 15 points
- Summaries of guest speakers – two summaries @ 15 pts. each 10 point per summary
- Quizzes from most if not all book chapters + special topics, e.g., “Ethics” 1 pt. per question

NOTE: Points accrued from quizzes will comprise about 50% of overall course point totals

Grading criteria:

The performance-based criteria cited below are guidelines for determining grades. Primarily, the instructor considers the quality and accuracy of the work when determining grades. Secondly, the instructor considers outstanding effort, improvement, student participation, interest, attitude, following directions, and contributions to the quality of the course.

- A=Excellent (90-100)** The work reflects significant depth of understanding and mastery of the assignments, to their full potential. The problems have been both fully developed and communicated exceedingly well verbally and graphically. This means outstanding and expertly crafted work.
- B=Good (80-89)** Work shows an above-average depth of understanding. The problem solutions demonstrate an attention to detail and a consciousness of good craft. This means above-average *good* work.
- C=Fair (70-79)** All the requirements of the assignments have been met and the problems have been solved adequately, but the solutions lack depth of understanding and development. The overall work demonstrates skills appropriate for this level. This means average

work.

D=Poor (60-69) The work is weak and lacks full resolution of the stated problems. Organization is weak. Skills appropriate to this level have not been demonstrated. This means poor work.

F=Failed (0-59) The work is incomplete and/or poorly portrayed. The solutions to problems evidence a lack of understanding and skills appropriate to this curricular level, and a general lack of effort in fulfilling assignments. This means “unacceptable work” and the student must repeat course to get credit.

If you wish to dispute a grade, for any reason, you must submit your argument for why the grade is not an appropriate reflection of your effort to me, in writing, for my consideration. **You must submit this promptly after the grade is given.**

University policies

Clemson Academic Integrity Code

“As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson’s vision of this institution as a ‘high seminary of learning.’ Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.”

Clemson Disability Access Statement

“It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities. Students are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services to discuss their individual needs for accommodation.”

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes and related activities unless you have an excused absence, e.g., by prior permission; have an illness, which can be verified by a physician; or have a family emergency. Three unexcused absences will result in one letter grade reduction for the semester; up to five results in an additional letter grade reduction; more than five unexcused absences will result in a final grade no higher than “D”. Three arrivals to class more than 5 minutes late will equate to 1 absence.

Specific COVID-19 Related Information for Student Absences:

For a student who reports testing positive or is being asked to quarantine because of exposure to the virus, it will be up to the student to inform the instructor that they will be moving to online only instruction for at least the next five days. Students are directed to use the Notification of Absence form in Canvas to initiate this notification, which can be found under the “Help” button on the left navigation. (For courses where Canvas is not used, the direct link to the Notification of Absence form can be found through the Division of Student Affairs site.) Additional communication via email is encouraged; students should follow up with their instructor to develop a continued plan of study for each course. Students cannot be penalized in their grade for needing to move to online instruction.

COVID-19 Related Expectations for Face Coverings

While on campus, face coverings are required in all buildings and classrooms. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distance cannot be guaranteed. Please be familiar with the additional information on the Healthy Clemson website, such as the use of wipes for in-person classes. If an instructor does not have a face covering or refuses to wear an approved face covering without valid accommodation, students should notify the department chair. If a student does not have a face covering or refuses to wear an approved face covering without valid accommodation, the instructor will ask the student to leave the academic space and may report the

student's actions to the Office of Community & Ethical Standards as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. If the student's actions disrupt the class to the extent that an immediate response is needed, the instructor may call the Clemson University Police Department at 656-2222.

Assignments

All work is to be handed in at the designated times. Late work will be penalized by 10% for each day it is late. Lateness due to campus printing and plotting problems will be excused only if problems are university-wide; in which case there will be an extension granted.

Syllabus Changes

The professors reserve the right to make any changes in the syllabus throughout the course as necessary. Changes in assignments, point values, due dates are also discretion of the professor and will be announced in advance of due dates.

Student Work Documentation (Accreditation)

You are expected to keep all work throughout the semester. A few selected projects may be stored for use in future accreditation visits. At the end of the semester, you may be required to record some or all of your work on a CD and submit it to the instructor.

COURSE OUTLINE: subject to revision based on availability of guest visits and speakers; specific dates will be arise as the course develops.

- Week 1** 1/11 Course introduction and orientation
- Week 2** 1/16 The Profession of Landscape Architecture and Professionalism
- Week 3** 1/23 Clients and Projects
- Week 4** 1/30 Professional Practice Relationships - (working with public agencies, architects, contractors)
- Week 5** 2/6 HSW
- Week 6** 2/13 Professional Ethics
- Week 7** 2/20 Business Administration and Record Keeping
- Week 8** 2/27 Marketing
- Week 9** 3/6 Contracts
- Week 10** 3/13 Project Management
- Week 11** 3/20 **No class – Spring Break**
- Week 12** 3/27 Presentations – Office profiles
- Week 13** 4/3 Presentations – Office profile
- Weeks 14** 4/10 Presentations – Office profiles
- Week 15** 4/17 Presentations – Office profiles
- Week 16** 2/24 Presentations – Office profiles