

SPRING 2021

LARC 8920 (001) –Landscape Architecture Terminal Project – 6 Credits

Instructor: Hyejung Chang, Assistant professor, MLA, P.E., Ph.D.
Class Meeting Times: **MW** 1:30-5:30pm **F** 1:35-4:30pm (January 6–April 30)
Classroom: On-line
Office Hours: by appointment (hyejunc@clemson.edu) for emergency (505.506.1236)

■ Course Description:

“Students complete a complex and sophisticated independent project in landscape architectural research and/or advanced design.”

■ Pre(co)requisite:

- LARC 8210 (Research Method) + LARC 8430 (Research Colloquium)
- 1 consenting Chair and 2 committee members

■ Goals

- Thesis project offers students to carry out an independent, comprehensive, and rigorous research-based design project to fulfill the thesis requirement and to graduate in the spring of final year.

■ Course Objectives:

- Apply critical thinking and analytical skills acquired from the courses, “Key issues in LA,” “Research Method,” and “Research Colloquium” for the ramifications of the research to design process.
- Articulate issues-based design inquiries and conceptual framework for the project
- Employ various problem-solving strategies and research techniques for evidence-based design.
- Engage the role and values of the community in rigorous and comprehensive research in their project scopes.
- Acquire professional knowledge and skill sets in preparation for their professional careers in landscape architecture.

■ Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course-

- Students can Identify design problem, goals, and project scopes and position associated with research question that contribute to theory and practice within landscape architecture.
- Students can Analyze complex environmental issues related to the project scopes and related literature.
- Students can fully Develop site-specific programs and opportunities at various scales for the improvement of society and the built and natural environments.
- Students can Evaluate their research outcomes carried out during their preparation for a project proposal.
- Students can Demonstrate mastery that performs high-quality professional tasks and communication skills.

■ Course requirement

- MLA Thesis (Project) Committee
 - The minimum number of faculty members on your committee must total three.
 - Students are responsible for keeping them apprised of work in progress individually.
 - All LA faculty together with the committee members and will participate in all formal presentations, supervise your project, and initiate the recommendation for awarding your graduate degree.
- The course is structured around **THREE presentations/reviews** in the completion of the terminal (design thesis) project. The instructor will set the schedule for all **individual** presentations and inform the faculty as early in the scheduled weeks. All students are required to ensure their availability and your completion of the requirement.

I. PRELIMINARY: Summary of the project in progress (Weeks 1-3)

- Presented issues (landscape), the topic (research), scope (project) and the rationales for the site selection.
- Synthesized research questions, literature, methodologies, and expected research outcomes.
- Illustrated precedents/case studies (separately or in the literature review) applicable to design concepts/strategies (developed from Graduate Colloquium)
- Analyzed site conditions/inventories/suitability/feasibility
- Developed an outline for design thesis process and conceptual framework.
- Present and submit the work digitally (presentation).

2. INTERMEDIATE: Design Development (Weeks **4-8**)

- Continue to develop thesis document explaining design and thought process that describes how each design responds to topic, research questions, issues, a conceptual position, literature findings, social, cultural, and environmental factors and conditions of the site, and technical requirements.
- Able to indicate critical details, if necessary.
- Present the work (presentation), explaining your design process and outcomes fully.

3. FINAL EXAM (i.e. MLA Defense) (Weeks **9-14**)

- At this time, the project should be fully developed, completed, and documented in the project report document that include the following:
 - a. Articulation of design problem, issues, and a potential solution/hypothesis/propositions
 - b. Issues explored and the question(s) answered
 - c. Relevant information, concepts, and theories present in the existing literature
 - d. Synthesis of existing literature (i.e., conceptual framework)
 - e. Design research methodology and data collection method(s) used to explore and test listed in the above, including concept, goals, methods, procedures, expected outcomes, etc. to apply the results to site.
 - f. Outcomes of the research and findings and design development process from the outline of the project scope to design details.
 - g. Concise texts and graphic materials (images, plans, perspectives, sections, diagrams, etc.), analytic and projective representation (sketches, master plan, sections, details, etc. related to the specific project requirements).
 - h. The conclusion of the study includes an executive summary and future steps.
 - i. Must include a cover page, table of contents, list of tables and figures, and list of references.
- Present your work digitally (PPT/PDF). Be sure to submit the Final Draft document (a digital copy) to the committee chair before (or at) the time of the final presentation.
- Committee will evaluate the entire work process/performance and give you final feedback. Decisions will be either Pass (including *Conditional Pass*) or Fail, and complete GS7M (prior to April 14).

** Thesis (Project) DELIVERABLE + DOCUMENTATION

- At least Two digital presentations-preliminary and final (pdfs), immediately after each presentation.
- Panels (minimum 3boards, pdfs) for public presentation (location + format, TBD)
- The final (complete/proofread) project document (8.5x11 booklet form, pdf).

• Course FORMAT/Grading

- Students should keep daily/weekly log of meeting notes, project schedule, and plans.
- Students are strongly encouraged to participate in all presentations of their peers, or with at least one as a note taker.
- Class materials will be uploaded/shared via course **Box** as class proceeds.
- All presentations will take place in about **30** minutes, with another **25** minutes for feedback and discussion with faculty members.
- Students will receive a '**Pass/Fail**' grade when the course requirements are completed **satisfactorily**, independent of their final exam.

1. Preliminary (Week 1-3)	15
2. Intermediate (Week 4-8)	25
3. Final Exam (Week 9-14)	25
4. Thesis (Project) documentation	25
	100 %

■ Course Schedule

Week 1	Jan 6-8	Introduction work schedule
Week 2	Jan 11-15	pinup/discussion crit
Week 3	Jan 18-22	<i>Martin Luther King Day</i> crit

Week 4	Jan 25–30	Preliminary presentation
Week 5	Feb 1–5	pinup/discussion crit
Week 6	Feb 8–12	pinup/discussion crit
Week 7	Feb 15–19	pinup/discussion crit
Week 8	Feb 22–26	pinup/discussion crit
Week 9	Mar 1–5	Intermediate presentation
Week 10	Mar 8–12	pinup/discussion crit
Week 11	Mar 15–19	Spring Break
Week 12	Mar 21–26	pinup/discussion crit (Defense Form submitted to the Graduate School)
Week 13	Mar 29–Apr 2	pinup/discussion crit
Week 14	Apr 5–9	Final Exam/Review (File GS7M before Apr 14) https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/deadlines.html
Week 15	Apr 12–16	Thesis project documentation
Week 16	Apr 19–23	Manuscript SUBMISSION DEADLINE (Apr 23)

■ Policies

- Attendance (Specific COVID-19 related information)
 - Attendance at classes is mandatory. No more than TWO absences without a valid reason will be acceptable. An absence will be regarded as “excused” if it is for legitimate documented medical or personal emergencies.
 - Due to pandemic circumstances which may impact student attendance (such as quarantine), students should not receive grade penalties for unexcused absences. Instructors are encouraged to reallocate assessment grades for attendance to other engaged activities.
 - If the instructor is late for class due to unexpected events or emergencies, students must wait at least 30 minutes before leaving the classroom with a notification to the instructor via email.
 - Students who are consistently late will be dropped from the class.
- Assignments
 - All assignments are to be completed by the dates given, unless a medical certificate is supplied, or in the case of extenuating circumstances, as discussed with, and agreed upon by the instructor.
 - Please let the instructors know if you need special accommodation for a documented physical or learning issue.
- Syllabus Changes
 - The instructor reserves 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 instructor and will be announced in advance of due dates. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.
- Academic Integrity
 - "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. In instances where academic standards may have been compromised, Clemson University has a responsibility to respond appropriately to charges of violations of academic integrity."
 - In order to promote an academic environment of integrity, all students, faculty and staff must commit to fostering the fundamental values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage. Through our work with academic integrity, we have found that courage turns out to be indispensable in enacting the fundamental values, especially in the face of pressure to do otherwise. Any human subjects research should comply with campus IRB regulations, see: <http://www.clemson.edu/research/compliance/irb/>
- Plagiarism
 - Plagiarizing is theft of the work accomplished by someone else. It includes copying and pasting words, phrases, sentence structure, computer code or files, images, or ideas from any source, including the Internet, and attributing the work to one's own efforts. Blatant examples of plagiarism include failure to use quotation marks, to indent text of more than three lines and failure to cite consulted sources either in footnotes, endnotes or within the body of the text of a document. More subtle examples of plagiarism include paraphrasing or using others' conceptual frameworks for developing creative works without acknowledgment or permission or citing a

source within the text but then directly quoting the materials without the use of quotations marks or text indentation

- Copyrighted Material Use

- Materials in some of the courses are copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in a particular course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Tech Act. Students should be reminded to refer to the Use of Copyrighted Materials and "Fair Use Guidelines" policy on the Clemson University website. Additional information is detailed at <http://libguides.clemson.edu/copyright>

- Accessibility

- Clemson University values the diversity of our student body as a strength and a critical component of our dynamic community. Students with disabilities or temporary injuries/conditions may require accommodations due to barriers in the structure of facilities, course design, technology used for curricular purposes, or other campus resources.

- Students who experience a barrier to full access to a class should let the instructor know and make an appointment to meet with a staff member in Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. You can make an appointment by calling 864-656-6848 or by emailing studentaccess@lists.clemson.edu. Students who receive Academic Access Letters are strongly encouraged to request, obtain and present these to their instructors as early in the semester as possible so that accommodations can be made in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to follow this process each semester. You can access further information here: <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/sds/>.

- Sexual Harassment (Title IX)

- This policy is located at <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/title-ix/>. Ms. Alesia Smith is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator and the Executive Director of Equity Compliance. Her office is located at 110 Holtzendorff Hall, 864.656.3181 (voice) or 864.656.0899 (TDD). The statement is as follows: "Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972." https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/files/pdfs/policyhandbook_2020-21.pdf