LARCH 2367: Making and Meaning of the American Landscape

Boswell

Look around. The built environment that we experience on a daily basis, from our sprawling cities to the houses that we grew up in, didn’t come about by chance. It isn’t luck, good or bad, that our cities and towns and farms and suburbs take the forms that they do. Rather, those forms have result from the collective and layered actions of people both great and small over many generations. The resulting landscape, whether we’re talking about a national park or a suburban strip mall can be read and understood both as an artifact of the technology and design practices of its time and also as a signifier of the cultural ideas, political movements, and economic forces that drove its creation. In this course we will explore the breadth of ideas that have shaped the built landscapes of the United States.

This course counts as both a Culture and Ideas General Elective and a second Writing in the Curriculum General Elective. Because the course fulfills two General Electives its structure is divided in order to honor both sets of requirements. The lecture portion of the course fulfills the Culture and Ideas General Elective. Lectures, visual presentations, films and documentaries shown in class will explore three core ideas: 1) That every element of the built environment reflects not only its specific location, but also the socio-cultural, technological, political and economic context of its time; 2) That understanding these forces can enable an observer to more fully read and appreciate the built environment around them; and, 3) That in understanding how to read embedded meaning in the landscape around them students will be better prepared to engage that landscape in sophisticated and critical ways.

Writing assignments and verbal presentations in the recitation sections are intended to fulfill the requirements of the second writing course. Writing assignments focus on critical readings of visual landscapes and landscape elements. Recitations will be devoted to discussing and workshopping the organization, tone, content, style and argument of selected academic essays and student work.

Prereq: English 1110 (111) or 110, or equiv. GE writing and comm: level 2 and cultures and ideas course.

3 credit hours

LARCH 2600: Outlines of Landscape Architecture: Visual Literacy in the Built Environment

Kentner

Outlines in Landscape Architecture surveys landscape design as a cultural artifact of historic and contemporary times. The course considers how landscapes, large and small, reflect cultural rituals, arts, technologies, and economies toward establishing each student’s visual landscape literacy. The course
culminates in a review of the contemporary role of landscape in cities as it relates to green infrastructure and sustainable urban futures.

GE VPA course.

3 credit hours

LARCH 2780/7890: Parametric Surfaces

Malmstrom

Within parametric design lies the ability to explore an infinite number of design solutions with any given set of variables. So what happens when this design process meets the very surfaces we interact with on a daily basis? This seminar seeks to break down and explore existing projects utilizing parametric design techniques gaining a further understanding of their constructs while also allowing students to implement similar methods within their own studio designs.

Utilizing the Grasshopper interface within Rhino 4.0, students will begin by replicating a series of contemporary case-study projects employing the parametric design software. These projects range in scale from large topographies such as Eisenman’s Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe to façade studies such as Herzog & De Meuron’s Signal Box and more. After understanding each case-study, students will then take the project further as they propose their own modification to the parametric definition resulting in an altered version of the original project. The course will culminate in the fabrication of one these modified systems utilizing the school’s various prototyping and fabrication equipment.

A prerequisite beginner/intermediate knowledge of Rhino 4.0 is strongly recommended.

This course has been approved for architectural elective credit.

3 credit hours

LARCH 3194: Introduction to Landscape Architecture

Hilbert

One credit hour exploration of the Profession of Landscape Architecture through discussion of current projects and conversations with practitioners.

1 credit hour
LARCH 4410/7410: 3D Visualization with AutoCAD and the Basics of Revit (session 2)

Cartwright

Learn how to use 3D AutoCAD; communicate 3 dimensional information to a client; render, lighting, and quick animations.

Learn the basics of Revit and how it can add to different scales of projects ranging from a city, landscape, or architectural design

2 credit hours

LARCH 4410/7410: Professional Drawing Standards for designers using AutoCAD (session 1)

Cartwright

Learn the tools and skills to use AutoCAD to create drawings and plans for the professional office (Blocks, Line weights, Parametrics, etc.).

Learn techniques of preparing CAD files to be transferred between programs such as GIS, Photoshop, Illustrator and 3d modeling software.

2 credit hours

LARCH 5620: History & Theory: Parks

Georg

Contemporary history and theory of landscape architecture practice and criticism, with an emphasis on evaluating conceptual, formal and performative aspects of designed landscapes. Focus on parks.

Note: 603 exclusion is not in effect.

3 credit hours