

USC School of Architecture

Arch 542a Fall 2015 Territorial Landscape Studio – Southern California Coast

Syllabus August 22, 2015

6 Units

Instructors: Esther Margulies, ASLA, Brian Ulaszewski LEED AP

Meetings M,W, F 2 pm – 6pm Location: 3rd Floor Watt Hall

Instructor Contacts:

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Brian Ulaszewski: brian@cityfabrick.org

Office Hours: By Appt.

Territorial Scale and Design

1. **Territorial Design** is about developing thorough understandings of and strategies for a larger territorial geography. Analysis and strategies must address the physical, social and economic issues that affect and shape natural systems, social systems and land use. A comprehensive approach should strive to achieve ecological balance, economic sustainability, social justice and strong cultural identities.



US coastal areas are under increasing pressure from population growth and climate change. The coast has been the most populous area of the entire country with 39% of population living in 10% of the land area. Population increases in the near future on the

coasts are anticipated to be almost double the rate of other areas¹. At the same time, these coastal communities are being more exposed to the destruction of significant climate events including the Gulf Coast [Hurricanes Katrina and Rita] and Northeastern Seaboard [Hurricane Sandy]. In Southern California climate change is anticipated to include severe storms, warming ocean and land temperatures. Impacts will be seen on marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

From the scenic beaches drawing global tourism to nearly half the shipping containers entering the nation through the twin ports of San Pedro Harbor, the Coast is an essential setting for Southern California's robust economy. In 2011 Coastal counties in California generated 80% of the state's gross domestic population, and 74% of the jobs in the state². The state's economic, physical and cultural health depends upon the unique and multi faceted resources of the California Coast.

In 1976 after multiple failed attempts to enact legislation to protect the coast, a state referendum was passed and the California Coastal Commission was created to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean, for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations.

The 1976 Coastal Act stated the following:

(a) ... (T)he California coastal zone is a distinct and valuable natural resource of vital and enduring interest to all the people and exists as a delicately balanced ecosystem.

(b) That the permanent protection of the state's natural and scenic resources is a paramount concern to present and future residents of the state and nation.

(c) That to promote the public safety, health, and welfare, and to protect public and private property, wildlife, marine fisheries, and other ocean resources, and the natural environment, it is necessary to protect the ecological balance of the coastal zone and prevent its deterioration and destruction.

¹ <http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/population/welcome.html>

² [BLS, 2011; NOAA stics.noaa.gov estimates of BEA GDP, 2011; BEA, 2011; Government Development Bank of Puerto Rico, 2010](#)

(d) That existing developed uses, and future developments that are carefully planned and developed consistent with the policies of this division, are essential to the economic and social well-being of the people of this state and especially to working persons employed within the coastal zone.³

After almost 40 years of implementation it is now possible to evaluate the success or failure of the Coastal Act policies and their implementation. Has it achieved its goals? Has it preserved our natural and scenic resources, are the delicate ecosystems in balance? Do we have adequate and equitable access? Where are the greatest successes and failures? Using current theory, practices and technology could we develop more effective, equitable and successful strategies to protect our Coast?

This studio will address regional issues and landscapes at the territorial and local scales. Students will approach landscape problems that work at a regional scale, and ultimately at multiple design scales. This studio will address urgent problems and long standing social, economic and environmental inequities. Rigorous site analysis including visual observations, GIS mapping; review of demographic trends, economic factors, legal and policy frameworks and climate change will be synthesized to develop a land based future of the Southern California coast. This is an opportunity for students to identify critical issues and develop strategic solutions ranging from the radical to the practical. This work is intended to assess current policies and practices for the next 50 to 100 years.

Predicted Issues Preservation - Enhancement

1. Coastal Access
2. Coastal Ecology
3. Coastal Recreation
4. Coastal Economy
5. Coastal Resilience

Studio Process

1. **2 Day Field Trip to Catalina – Intensive Coastal Experience**
2. Map the Coast
 - a. Watersheds
 - b. Hydrology

³ <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/coactact.pdf>

- c. Access
 - d. Recreation
 - e. Ecological Zones
 - f. Vegetation
 - g. Land Use
 - h. Land Ownership
 - i. Urbanization
 - j. Transportation
 - k. Coastal Industries
 - l. Population
3. Assess Change over time 1700's – 1970's, 1976 – 2015
 4. Identify Critical Issues
 5. Research Case Studies
 - a. Coastal Plans
 - b. Urban Resilience and Compatibility
 6. Develop Coastal Preservation / Enhancement Strategies
 7. Apply Preservation/Enhancement Strategies to specific smaller scale sites in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Required Reading

Williamson, Burton,
HISTORY OF SANTA CATALINA ISLAND, UC Press, Historical Society of Southern California, 1903
See Blackboard

Hill, Mary, California Landscape Origin and Evolution, UC Press, Berkeley, Ca. 1984, p.
155 – 179 - Where the Land Meets the Sea
See Blackboard

Healy, Robert, Protecting the Golden Shore, The Conservation Foundation, Washington
DC, 1978 – p. 133 – 175 – An Economic Interpretation of the California Coastal
Commissions
See Blackboard

Healy, Robert, Protecting the Golden Shore, Clark, John R. The Conservation Foundation,
Washington DC, 1978 – p.177 – 206 Natural Science and Coastal Planning: The California
Experience
See Blackboard

Banham, Rayner, Los Angeles, The Architecture of Four Ecologies, Penguin, London, 1971 Surfurbia p. 37 - 57

Bibliography/Resources

Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk. An update to the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy. Natural Resources Agency (July 2014):

http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/Final_Safeguarding_CA_Plan_July_31_2014.pdf

2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy: A Report to the Governor of the State of California in Response to Executive Order S-13-2008. California Natural Resources Agency (2009):

http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/Statewide_Adaptation_Strategy.pdf • [California Water Action Plan.](#)

California Natural Resources Agency; California Department of Food & Agriculture; and California Environmental Protection Agency:

http://resources.ca.gov/california_water_action_plan/

Climate Change Scoping Plan: Building on the Framework, Pursuant to AB 32 The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Governor Brown; California Environmental Protection Agency; and Air Resources Board (May 2014):

http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/2013_update/first_update_climate_change_scoping_plan.pdf

Vision for Confronting Climate Change in California (September 2011); California Department of Fish and Game:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=37647&inline=1>

SCAG: Southern California Association of Governments:

<http://rtpscs.scag.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

LA County GIS Resources

<http://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2011/06/06/california-coastal-commission-zone-boundaries/>

http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/Web/cca_socoast1.htm

Heiman, Michael, Coastal Recreation in California: Policy, Management, Access, UC Press, 1986

Alanen and Melnick, Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America, Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Maryland, 2000

Alexander, Carolyn, Images of America Venice, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2004

Various Local Coastal Plans

CA Coastal Conservancy

California Coastal Commission

Experts/Guests

1. James Fawcett- USC Sea Grant
2. Coastal Commission/Morphology Lesley Ewing California Coastal Commission
3. Hydrologist –
4. Marine Ecology – USC Wrigley Institute
5. Coastal Ecology and Plant Communities – Bob Perry/Travis Long Core
6. Heritage Conservation – Trudi Sandmeier
7. Local Los Angeles Issues – Christine Robertson – Council District 11 Planning Deputy
8. California Coastal Conservancy – Joan Cardellino
9. City of Long Beach – Larry Rich Sustainability Officer
10. Orange County –tbd
11. CA State Parks – tbd
12. Malibu Lagoon – Clark Stevens

Schedule

Week 1 –Coastal Observations

Monday August 24 Introductions and Coast and Coastal Act Introduction **Prof. James Fawcett Sea Grant**

Wed August 26 Field Trip Orange County Coast

Friday August 28 Field Trip LA County Coast

Week 2

Monday August 31- Coastal Issues Topic Assignments and Research

Wed Sept 2 - Mapping Tools and Analysis – Travis Longcore

Friday Sept 4 - Mapping Tools and Analysis

Week 3 Catalina Intensive Marine Experience Coastal Research Tentative Dates

Monday Sept 7 Labor Day – **No Class**

Wed	Sept 9 – 2 Day Trip to Catalina Depart 7:30 am
Friday	Sept 11 – Coastal Issues preliminary pin up and discussion
Week 4	Critical Issue Identification and Distillation
Monday	Sept 14 Rosh Hashonah – Additional Research and Mapping
Wed	Sept 16 Issue Review desk Crits
Friday	Sept 18 Formal Issues Presentations
Week 5	Precedent Review
Monday	Sept 21 Precedent Research – Coastal Issues, Planning and Guidelines
Wed	Sept 23 (YK) Precedent Research - Coastal Issues, Planning and Guidelines – Lecture Brian Ulaszewski
Friday	Sept 25 Precedent Presentations
Week 6	Strategy Development
Monday	Sept 28 Territorial Strategy Development Lesley Ewing CCC tentative
Wed	Sept 30 Territorial Strategy Development Desk Crits
Friday	October 2 Territorial Strategy Development Desk Crits
Week 7	Territorial Strategy Development
Monday	October 5 - Territorial Strategies –Desk Crits LA Council 11 Chris Robertson
Wed	October 7 Presentation Joan Cardellino California Coastal Conservancy + tentative trip to LAPL Map Collection
Friday	October 9 Territorial Strategies Coastal Issues and Precedent research - Desk Crits -
Week 8	Mid Term Review
Monday	October 12 Mid Term Presentation Prep
Wed	October 14 Mid Term Review
Friday	October 16 – Sunday October 18 th Jordan Downs Vertical Studio
Week 9	Vertical Studios
Monday	October 19 Vertical Studios Production
Wed	October 21 Vertical Studios Reviews
Friday	October 23 Local Scale - Site Selection Strategy Individual meetings
Week 10	Local Scale Site Analysis
Monday	October 26 Local Scale Site Analysis Desk Crits
Wed	October 28 Local Scale Site Analysis Desk Crits
Friday	October 30 Local Scale Site Design Desk Crits

Week 11 – Site Analysis Presentation

Monday **November 2** Local Scale Site Design Desk Crits
Wed **November 4** Site Analysis and Concept Presentations
Friday **November 6** Site Analysis and Concept Presentations

Week 12 Local Scale Site Design Desk Crits

Monday November 9 Local Scale Site Design Desk Crits
Wed Nov 11 Local Scale Site Design Desk Crits
Friday Nov 11 Final Presentation Format Development by Class

Week 13 Site Scale Design

Monday November 16 Final Design Desk Crits
Wed Nov 18 Final Design - Desk Crits
Friday Nov 20 Final Design – Preliminary Presentations

Week 14 Site Scale Design

Monday November 23 – Final Design Production Desk Crits
Wed Nov 25 Thanksgiving No Classes
Friday Nov 27 Thanksgiving No Class

Week 15 Final Design Production

Monday Nov 30 Final Design Production Desk Crits
Wed Dec 2 Final Design Production Desk Crits
Friday Dec 4 Final Design Production Desk Crits

Week 16 Final Design Production

Monday Dec 7 Final Design Production Desk Crits
Wed Dec 9 Final Review

Class Attendance and Additional Work Requirements

Attendance at all studio meetings and required trips are mandatory. Students must notify their instructors and request to be excused prior to the class meeting time. Excused absences include religious holidays, illness and family emergencies. Students are expected to spend a minimum of 6 hours of additional work time each week outside of class time.

Specific content and presentation requirements for all assignments and reviews will be provided prior to each studio milestone.

Required Skills:

Observation, site analysis, site documentation, CADD, Adobe Creative Suite, punctuality, site research, data synthesis, creativity and communication.

Grading

Class participation	10%
Vertical Studio Participation	15%
Mid term Presentation	25%
Final Review	50%

Instructors

Esther Margulies ASLA is a part time lecturer in the University of Southern California School of Architecture Landscape Architecture discipline. She is a practicing landscape architect currently involved in site planning and design in the coastal communities of Santa Monica and San Diego. She is also a commissioner on the City of Los Angeles West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission, the body that hears and resolves coastal development permit appeals in the City of Los Angeles.

Brian Ulaszewski is the Principal and Executive Director of City Fabrick, a nonprofit design studio based out of Long Beach California. City Fabrick's work spans public interest design, planning and policy of types and scale, all dedicated to improving communities. Brian received his Bachelor's Degree of Architecture from the University of Southern California and has over a decade of experience working in the design and planning field. Brian has managed and led design efforts on award-winning urban planning studies and architecture projects and was recently recognized by the American Planning Association-Los Angeles with the John Chase Visionary Award. He frequently contributes to local and industry publications including the Long Beach Post and Urban Land Institute and speaks at numerous institutions. Through his involvement, accolades and featured articles Brian is a recognized leader for a better built environment.

USC Policies

Policies

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations

can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as

possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. The phone

number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Accreditation

The Master of Landscape Architecture degree program includes three curricula. Curriculum +3 for students with no prior design education and Curriculum +2 for students admitted with advanced standing have full accreditation by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board. Information about landscape architecture education and accreditation in the United States may be found on-line at <http://www.asla.org/Education.aspx>.

Religious Holidays

The University of Southern California recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation. The University provides a guide to such observances for reference and suggests that any concerns about lack of attendance or inability to participate fully in the course activity be fully aired at the start of the term. As a general principle, students should be excused from class for these events if properly documented and if provisions can be made to accommodate the absence and make up the lost work. Constraints on participation that conflict with adequate participation in the course and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the faculty and the student need to be identified prior to the add/drop date for registration. After the add/drop date the University and the School of Architecture shall be the sole arbiter of what constitutes appropriate attendance and participation in a given course.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors

courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

School of Architecture Attendance Policy

A student may miss the equivalent of one week of class sessions (in this case, **ONE, TWO, OR THREE (faculty, edit this as needed)** excused absences are permitted) without directly affecting the student's grade and ability to complete the course. An excused absence is a confirmed personal illness, family emergency, or religious holiday. For each absence over the allowed number, your grade can be lowered by 1/3-letter grade. If additional absences are required for a personal illness, family emergency, pre-approved academic reason/religious observance, you must discuss the situation with your faculty member immediately.

Any student not in class within the first 10 minutes is considered tardy, and any student absent (in any form including sleep, technological distraction, or by leaving mid class for a long bathroom/water break) for more than 1/3 of the class time can be considered fully absent. If arriving late, a student must be respectful of a class in session and do everything possible to minimize the disruption caused by a late arrival. It is always the student's responsibility to seek means (if possible) to make up work missed due to absences, not the instructor's, although such recourse is not always an option due to the nature of the material covered.

Sustainability Initiative

The School of Architecture has adopted the 2010 Initiative for Sustainability. Solutions to design problems must engage the environment in a way that dramatically reduces or eliminates the need for fossil fuel.