

ARCH 439: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION WORKSHOP

FALL 2023 | 2 UNITS

10 August – 18 August

Instructor: Xun Liu [xliu8081@usc.edu]

Office Hours: By appointment

[Course Folder](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This one-week workshop for incoming Master of Landscape Architecture students provides an introduction to essential skills, tools, and concepts in landscape architecture, with a focus on regional ecology, field drawing, measured drawings, and computer software (Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, GIS). Through a combination of field trips, lectures, and hands-on exercises, students will gain a solid foundation in landscape architecture and be equipped to succeed in their future coursework.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Develop an understanding of regional ecology and its impact on landscape architecture design.
- Gain proficiency in field drawing and measured drawings as tools for landscape architecture practice.
- Become familiar with essential computer software used in landscape architecture, including Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, and GIS.
- Develop skills in site analysis, visualization, and representation through various scales and lenses.
- Cultivate an understanding of design thinking and design vocabulary within the context of landscape architecture.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND METHODS

Participation (15%): Active participation in all field trips, lectures, and exercises.

Homework Assignments (15% x 5): Successful completion and submission of all homework assignments, demonstrating the application of skills and concepts learned during the workshop.

Final Documentation (10%): Clear and concise documentation of the results of the week's work, showcasing the student's understanding of landscape architecture concepts and tools.

GRADING SCALE

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

A	95-100	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICY

Please upload high resolution files in the appropriate format (jpeg, pdf, etc), 3D model files, and properly photographed images of completed assignments to the Google Drive folder for the course.

To remain fair to the rest of your classmates, any assignments that are received after the deadline will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade for every day late.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The School of Architecture's attendance policy is to allow a student to miss the equivalent of one week of class sessions (so one class session for ARCH 439) without directly affecting the student's grade and ability to complete the course. If additional absences are required for a personal illness/family emergency, pre-approved academic reason/religious observance, the situation should be discussed and evaluated with the faculty member and appropriate Chair on a case-by-case basis. For each absence over that allowed number, the student's letter grade will be lowered 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-).

Any student not in class within the first 10 minutes is considered tardy, and any student absent 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 instructors', although such recourse is not always an option due to the nature of the material covered.

COURSE FOLDER

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DMPcCTf4Tw78lgkF5ksLfeS4nAIB-a_U?usp=sharing

COURSE SCHEDULE

DAY_0: Thu. August 10th

9:00-17:00

- Malibu Transect Trek x Drawing in the Field

Homework_0:

- Mountain-to-sea Transect

Fri. August 11th

Orientation

DAY_1: Mon. August 14th

10:00-14:30:

- Intro to AutoCAD

Homework_1: Drafting a Plan/Section

DAY_2: Tue. August 15th

10:00-14:30:

- Intro to Rhino

Homework_2: 3D Modeling

DAY_3: Wed. August 16th 10:00-14:30

10:00-14:30:

- Intro to Illustrator

Homework_3: Diagrams

DAY_4: Thu. August 17th

10:00-14:30:

- Workflows
- Homework_4: Hybrid Drawing

DAY_5: Fri. August 18th

10:00-14:30

- Intro to ArcGIS and mapping
- Homework_5: Contextualizing the site
- 15:00- 18:00
- Los Angeles River Kayak Tour

COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

- Sketchbook, drawing tools (e.g., pencils, erasers, rulers): Approximately \$25
- Laptop capable of running Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, and ArcGIS: Varies by student.
- Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, and ArcGIS software: Free for students through the university's software licensing program or available for use in university computer labs.

Optional:

- Camera or smartphone for field documentation: Varies by student, but most smartphones should suffice.

Shared Resources and Alternative Access:

- Online tutorials and resources are available through the university's subscription to Lynda.com, allowing students to learn and practice software skills outside of the workshop.