

**ARCH 439:
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION WORKSHOP**

FALL 2024 | 2 UNITS
10 August – 18 August
MLA Corner
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, Rhinoceros). 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.
- 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.

Exercise Deliverables (15% x 5): Successful completion and submission of all exercises, 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/106iXcTNy-OfUojM86RPBPoc9fo_jls-j?usp=sharing

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day 1: Monday, August 19, 2024

Morning Session 10:00–12:00 am

- **Introduction**
 - Course overview and objectives.
 - Introduction to the faculty and students.
- **Lecture: Foundation of Landscape Architecture**
 - Introduction of Landscape Architecture
 - Overview of form, space, and foundational concepts.

Afternoon Session 12:30–14:30 pm

- **Tutorial: Sketching vs Measured Drawing**
 - Learn how to use drawing tools
 - Basic sketching and drawing techniques.
- **Exercise: Drafting a plan**

Day 2: Tuesday, August 20, 2024

- **Field Trip: Malibu Mountain-to-sea Transect**
 - Carpool to Tree People meet at 10:00
 - Drive to Malibu Lagoon State Beach, Lunch
 - Drive to Annenberg Community Beach House
 - Drive to Tongva Park
- **Exercise: Field Drawing @ Tongva Park**
 - Field drawing session focusing on capturing various landscape elements.

Day 3: Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Morning Session 10:00–12:00 am

- Review and Discussion
- **Lecture: Elements of Landscape**
 - Topography,
- **Tutorial: Rhino**
 - Introduction to Rhino software for landscape design.
 - Basic 3D Operations

Afternoon Session 12:30–14:30 pm

- **Exercise: 3D Modeling**
 - Modeling Landscape Elements in Rhino

Day 4: Thursday, August 22, 2024

Morning Session 10:00–12:00 am

- Review and Discussion
- **Lecture: Landscape System, Notation and Diagram**
 - Understanding landscape as a system
 - Understanding the importance of notation and diagramming in landscape design.
- **Tutorial: Illustrator**
 - Notation Language
 - Line weight, Line type
 - Rhino to Illustrator Workflow

Afternoon Session 12:30–14:30 pm

- **Exercise: Diagram & Site Analysis**
 - Hand-draw descriptive diagrams
 - Digitize one diagram in Illustrator
- **Field Trip: LA River Kayak Tour 15:45 – 18:30**

Day 5: Friday, August 23, 2024

- **Field Trip: Downtown LA**
 - Meet at Eggslut Grand Central Market at 9:00

Afternoon Session 12:30–14:30 pm

- **Lecture: Representation**
 - Perspective, Collage, Landscape Representations
- **Tutorial: Photoshop**
 - Enhancing sketches and drawings using Adobe Photoshop.
- **Exercise (Homework): Hybrid Drawing**
 - Adding Materials
 - Collage and Synthesize

COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

- Sketchbook (blank)
- Drawing Tools:
 - [Blick Studio Drawing Pencil – 2B](#) – \$1.50
 - [Sakura Pigma Micron Pens – Set of 3, Black, 01, 03, 05](#) – \$6.99
 - [Pentel Sign Pen](#) – \$1.95
 - [Bienfang Tracing Paper In Roll](#) – \$9.35
 - [Alvin Scholastic Triangular Scales – Arch. Scale](#) – \$6.47
 - [Alvin Scholastic Triangular Scales – Engineering Scale](#) – \$6.47
 - [Drafting Tape](#) – \$5.04
 - [Alvin Vinyl Eraser – White](#) – \$0.82
- Laptop capable of running Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, and ArcGIS: Varies by the student.
 - Adobe Creative Suite (\$80 per year)
 - Rhinoceros: 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 the 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.