

Landscape Architecture Program  
Department of Human Ecology  
University of California, Davis

LDA 170 Winter Quarter 2014  
Profs. David de la Peña, Ph.D.  
Stephen M. Wheeler, Ph.D., AICP

## **SYLLABUS**

### **LDA 170: SITE PLANNING AND DESIGN STUDIO**

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00-12:50

Rooms: Lectures: 142 Hunt; Studios: Hunt 114 (de la Peña) and Hunt 120 (Wheeler)

6 units

CRNs: 83337 (de la Peña) and 83338 (Wheeler)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Landscape Architecture (LDA) 170 is the required Junior-level studio for LDA majors that provides an introduction to many professional skills used by landscape architects to design real-world sites. Students take it after completing LDA 70 and most other introductory, lower-division courses, and before taking the required four LDA 181- or 191-series upper-division studios.

In LDA 170 we develop our site analysis, place-making, and problem-solving skills in relation to specific landscape sites. We will analyze social and environmental conditions in the field, discuss historical and contemporary theories and practices affecting the design of places, and link both sets of material to site and client needs. This intensive, 6-unit course includes readings, field trips, studio projects, lectures, guest lectures, and workshops on subjects such as computer-aided drafting. Some course elements such as lectures will be done with both sections together. Others such as desk crits and pin-ups will be conducted separately.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Understand how to set up and think through a design project
- Develop site and context analysis skills
- Synthesize multiple factors affecting project design to determine priorities
- Learn skills related to programming, circulation design, and locating structures in the landscape
- Improve ability to create effective graphics
- Improve ability to analyze, plan, and design at multiple scales of development

### **GRADING**

Grading will be based on Project 1 site analysis (10%), Project 1 design (20%), Project 2 site analysis (20%), Project 2 site plan and details (30%), quizzes (10%), and participation (10%).

Regular attendance is required for this classes and lack of this will result in a lower grade. If you have to miss classes, please let your instructor know in advance. Active participation in discussions is strongly encouraged. Don't worry about saying the wrong thing or not knowing enough. Many other class members may have the same question you do. But if you are naturally talkative make sure that you listen to others and allow them an opportunity to participate as well.

In this studio we will be doing professional-quality work for real clients. Therefore it is very important to finish your work on time so that presentations can proceed at the scheduled hour. Realistically, that means printing work well ahead of time to avoid problems with printer jams, queues, etc. Any work that is not pinned up at the scheduled time will be penalized one full letter grade, i.e. a B becomes a C.

## **READINGS**

There is one required text for LDA 170 in Winter 2014:

-- LaGro, James A., Jr. 2013. *Site Analysis: Informing Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design*. Hoboken NJ: Wiley.

Another book is recommended for those wishing more background in graphics (order online): Cantrell, Bradley and Wes Michaels. 2010. *Digital Drawing for Landscape Architecture: Contemporary Techniques and Tools for Digital Representation in Site Design*. Hoboken NJ: Wiley.

Other readings will be available on the course SmartSite under Resources.

The reading is an essential part of this class. Make sure you review it before each class. Read for key concepts, terms, names, and ideas.

## **STUDIO DESKS AND LOCKERS**

Students enrolled in LDA studios are required to check out the table that they will be using for the duration of the quarter, and to cover the table surface to protect it. A vyco surface is recommended (available at the bookstore). The laminated hang tags on each table need to be brought to the LDA Class Support Office (room 154 Hunt Hall) to check out the table. Students can also reserve lockers in the studio room through this office.

## **MATERIALS**

We will do initial design and site analysis work by hand. So the following drawing materials are required for this class:

- \* a sketchbook (small enough to carry with you everywhere!)
- \* a roll of tracing paper (24" or larger)
- \* drawing pens (various line weights) and pencils (soft lead)
- \* an architect's scale and an engineer's scale

- \* Prismacolor markers or other color media
- \* scissors, drafting tape, pencil sharpener, etc.

## **COURSE MATERIALS FEE**

Like other LDA studio courses, LDA 170 is subject to a course material fee of \$16. This fee is required by the College to help cover the cost of consumables used by students during class (for example paper and toner used for the printers/plotters). To eliminate financial barriers, the fee is automatically waived for financial aid students who are Pell Grant eligible. Students who are unable to afford the fee but who aren't Pell Grant eligible may seek a waiver from the department. Please note: Only in extreme cases of financial hardship can fees be waived. The waiver form is available on the LDA web site at <http://lda.ucdavis.edu/undergrad/CMFWaiverForm.pdf>.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

De la Peña: Wednesday mornings 9-11, or by appointment (email the instructor)  
Room: 155 Hunt Hall

Wheeler: Tuesday afternoons 1:30-3:30, or by appointment (email the instructor)  
Room: 165 Hunt Hall

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

In line with University of California at Davis policy, students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. This means that all work that you present as your own must in fact have been done by you, and that all sources must be properly cited. *Graphics must be credited as well as text.* There are a number of possible ways to cite information; please refer to standard reference books such as the Chicago Manual of Style or online citation resources available through <http://guides.lib.ucdavis.edu/citations>. If you have any questions about either citation procedures or academic honesty, please ask the instructors. Academic dishonesty may lead to the student failing the course or other more serious measures.

## **COUNSELING**

At times, we can all use help with our mental health. Please take advantage of the confidential campus services through Student Health and Counseling Services: <http://shcs.ucdavis.edu/>. If you are in crisis and need urgent care, come to Student Health and Wellness Center. Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS) offers both medical and mental health urgent care services on the [first floor of the Student Health & Wellness Center](#) during [normal hours of operation](#). For urgent needs you can call or walk in to speak with an [advice/triage nurse \(530\) 752-2349](#). The nurse will discuss your concerns and determine if urgent care is appropriate.

**CLASS SCHEDULE** (subject to change; please check with classmates, the instructor, or the SmartSite for updates)

Class 1 Course and Student Introductions  
Tues Jan 7 Lecture: Setting Up a Project (base materials, field notes, site analysis) (David)  
Studio: Begin Site Analysis Phase for Robbins Annex Landscape (walking tour)

Class 2 Lecture: Context Analysis (off-site issues, stakeholders) (Steve)  
Thur Jan 9 Studio: Desk crits to review initial site analysis sketches and findings

Reading: LaGro Chapters 1, 3, 4

Class 3 9-11:00: Work Time  
Tues Jan 14 11:00: **Present Robbins Annex Site Analysis** (142 Hunt; open-house-style peer review)

Reading: La Gro Chapters 5

Class 4 9-10:30: Bike Tour of Sustainable Landscapes on-campus w/ Skip Mezger  
Thur Jan 16 Studio: Begin site designs

Reading: LaGro Chapters 8, 9

Class 5 Guest Lecture: Planting Design (Elizabeth Boults)  
Tues Jan 21 **Quiz 1 on Readings & Lectures**  
Studio: **Site Design Pin-Up** (separate sections)

Reading: Beck, Travis. "Right Plant, Right Place: Biogeography and Plant Selection," from *Principles of Ecological Landscape Design*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. 2013.

Leszczynski, Nancy. 1998. "Composing the Planting Design." From *Planting the Landscape: A Professional Approach to Garden Design*. New York: Wiley.

Turner, Kimberly Duffy. 2013. "Plants as Functional Elements of Design." From *Botany for Designers: A Practical Guide for Landscape Architects and Other Professionals*. New York: Norton.

Class 6 **Present Final Robbins Annex Site Design** (142 Hunt; open-house-style)  
Thur Jan 23

Class 7 Begin Broadway Project; Field Trip to Site; Meeting with Jeff Louie of Capsity  
Tues Jan 28 Site Analysis

Class 8 Guest Lecture: Michael Rios, Broadway Corridor Planning  
Thur Jan 30 Sketch Exercise: A Neighborhood Plan for the Broadway Station Area

Readings: Read ULI TAP Broadway Report, on Smart Site;

Stephen M. Wheeler. 2009. "Sustainability in Community Development." In Phillips, Rhonda and Robert H. Pittman, eds. *An Introduction to Community Development*. London: Routledge.

Class 9           Lecture: Creating the Base Map: GIS and Autocad (David)  
Tues Feb 4       Studio: Work Time

Reading:       La Gro Chapters 6, 7

Class 10         **Have Base Maps complete and printed**  
Thur Feb 6       Desk Crits on Site Analysis

Class 11         Studio: **Present Site Analysis**  
Tues Feb 11

Class 12         **Quiz 2 on Readings and Lectures**  
Thur Feb 13     Studio: Concept Plan Exercise, Begin Design Phase

Reading:

Class 13         Guest Lecture: John Nicolaus, ASLA, Site Context, Street Frontages, Connectivity  
Tues Feb 18     Studio: Work Time

Reading:       To be announced

Class 14         Lecture: Sustainable Sites and LEED Strategies (Steve)  
Thur Feb 20     Studio: Desk Crits

Reading:       Skim U.S. Green Building Council. 2011. *LEED for Neighborhood Development Rating System*. Washington, D.C.

Class 15         **Present Master Plan Concepts** (142 Hunt)  
Tues Feb 25

Class 16         Lecture: Perspective Renderings and Street Sections (David)  
Thur Feb 27     Studio: Work Time

Reading:       Excerpts from Cantrell book (will be available on SmartSite)

Class 17         Studio: Work Time, Desk Crits  
Tues Mar 4

Class 18         **Studio: Pin-up Perspectives and Sections**  
Thur Mar 6

Class 19         Studio: Work Time, Desk Crits  
Tues Mar 11

Class 20      Studio: Work Time  
Thur Mar 13

Fri Mar 14      **Submit Final Presentation Sheets by 5pm**

Wed Mar 19      **Final Review, 5pm-8pm: At Capsity, 2572 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Sacramento**