

LDA 201 - THEORY & PHILOSOPHY OF THE DESIGNED ENVIRONMENT

Spring Quarter, 2018, Thursdays 9-11:50am, Hunt 166

Instructor: David de la Peña, PhD, dsdelapena@ucdavis.edu, 530-902-6080

Office hours: M & Th 1-3pm by appt: goo.gl/4CJy8Y

COURSE OVERVIEW

This seminar will familiarize students with major ideas and thinkers in landscape architecture and environmental design. It will include both historical literature and contemporary voices on topics such as nature, wilderness, stewardship, place, livability, justice, participation, aesthetics and pluralism. This is a graduate level seminar but is open to undergraduate students with permission of the instructor.

COURSE FORMAT

The course meets weekly for 3 hours. During this time, we will discuss readings focused on a specific theme, and students will be guided in the facilitation of debates or activities that connect the material to their own research, experiences, and current practices. Each student will help facilitate 2 class discussions. Prior to each class, students will prepare a brief 1-2 page reading response, which will include reactions to the readings as well as questions that the readings provoked. The course depends on the active engagement of students in the reading materials and discussions, and pedagogically it is based on the notion of co-learning rather than a top-down dissemination of knowledge. Each student will also write a 4-5000 word research paper on that expands upon the literature and discussions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the completion of the course, students should be able to:

- summarize key themes and literature in environmental design theory
- compare and critique literature and engage in debates around salient issues in the field
- apply theoretical frameworks to their own research projects and to current practices
- position themselves and their work as researchers and practitioners within broader discourses in the field

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend all of the weekly class meetings, and to come prepared to contribute to discussions. This means having read the materials and submitted a reading response on time. It also means arriving to class on time and remaining engaged throughout the class period. Additionally, students will prepare research papers for the class, including a preliminary paper proposal, which will be due midway through the quarter. The final class period will be dedicated to student presentations of their papers, in a style similar to a conference presentation.

COURSE MATERIALS

Course readings will be available online via the Canvas site. A printed reader will not be available, but students are encouraged to print materials on their own if this is helpful to them. Students should consult Canvas for any additional announcements or readings throughout the class.

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://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/dept/instruc/research/cites.php>. If you have any questions about either citation procedures or academic honesty, please ask the instructor. Academic dishonesty may lead to the student failing the course or other more serious measures. Please refer to the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct for additional information: <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.html>

COUNSELING & WELLNESS

At times, we can all use help with our mental health. Your instructor is available to help but other professionals are better equipped to assist you. 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 (24 hours/day) 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.

LDA 201 THEORIES AND PHILOSOPHIES OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Class Reader Table of Contents

Week 1 – Introduction to Landscape Theory

- 1-1 Swaffield, S. (2002). The Nature of Theory in Landscape Architecture. In Swaffield, S. (Ed.). Theory in landscape architecture: a reader. University of Pennsylvania Press
- 1-2 Meinig, D. W. (1979). The beholding eye: Ten versions of the same scene. The interpretation of ordinary landscapes: Geographical essays, 33-48.

Week 2 – Nature and Wilderness

- 2-1 Evernden, L. L. N. (1992). Nature and Norm. In Evernden, L.L.N. The social creation of nature. JHU Press.
- 2-2 Nash, R. (2014). Toward a Philosophy of Wilderness. In Wilderness and the American mind. Yale University Press.
- 2-3 Emerson, R. W. (2012). Excerpt from Essays. Jazzybee Verlag.
- 2-4 Thoreau, H. D. (1893). Excerpt from Walking.
- 2-5 Muir, J. (2010). Chapters 1 & 16. The Yosemite. Modern Library.
- 2-6 Cronon, W. (1996). The trouble with wilderness: or, getting back to the wrong nature. Environmental history, 1(1), 7-28.

Week 3 – Stewardship and Restoration

- 3-1 Leopold, A. (2014). The land ethic. In The Ecological Design and Planning Reader (pp. 108-121). Island Press, Washington, DC.
- 3-2 McHarg, I. L., & Mumford, L. (1969). Excerpts from Design with nature. New York: American Museum of Natural History.
- 3-3 Herrington, S. (2010). The nature of Ian McHarg's science. Landscape Journal, 29(1), 1-20.
- 3-4 Katz, E. (2009). The big lie: Human restoration of nature. Readings in the Philosophy of Technology, 443.
- 3-5 Light, A. (2008). Restorative relationships: from artifacts to natural systems. Healing natures, repairing relationships: New perspectives on restoring ecological spaces and consciousness, 95-115.
- 3-6 Forman, R. T. (2002). The missing catalyst: Design and planning with ecology roots. Ecology and design: Frameworks for learning, 85-109.

Week 4 – Second Nature / Urban Open Space

- 4-1 Olmsted, F. L. (2013, orig 1870). Public parks and the enlargement of towns. In *The urban design reader* (pp. 56-64). Routledge.
- 4-2 Olmsted, Frederick Law Jr., and John Nolen. (2012). The Normal Requirements of American Towns and Cities in Respect to Public Open Spaces. In *Reprints 14:2*. Originally printed in *Charities and the Commons: A Weekly Journal of Philanthropy and Social Advance*, Volume 19, 1906
- 4-3 Jacobs, J. (1961). Excerpts from *The death and life of great American. Cities*.
- 4-4 Franck, K., & Stevens, Q. (2013). Tying Down Loose Space. *Loose Space: Possibility and Diversity in Urban Life*, 1-30.
- 4-5 Lynch, K. (1972). The openness of open space. In Lynch, K. (1995). *City sense and city design: writings and projects of Kevin Lynch*. MIT press.
- 4-6 Meyer, E. K. (2008). Sustaining beauty. The performance of appearance: A manifesto in three parts. *Journal of Landscape Architecture*, 3(1), 6-23.

Week 5 – Place, Experience, and Memory

- 5-1 Tuan, Y. F. (1974). Topophilia and Environment. *Topophilia. A Study of Environmental Perception, Attitudes and Values*, 92-112.
- 5-2 Wylie, J. (2013). Landscape and phenomenology. In *The Routledge companion to landscape studies* (pp. 72-83). Routledge.
- 5-3 Cresswell, T. (2004). *Defining Place. Place: a short introduction*. John Wiley & Sons, 1-14.
- 5-4 Dovey, K. (2009). *Making Sense of Place. Becoming places: urbanism / architecture / identity / power*. Routledge, 3-11.
- 5-5 Massey, D. (1995, April). Places and their pasts. In *History workshop journal* (No. 39, pp. 182-192). Oxford University Press.

Week 6 – Health and Livability

- 6-1 Mitman, G. (2005). In search of health: Landscape and disease in American environmental history. *Environmental History*, 10(2), 184-210.
- 6-2 Thompson, C. W. (2011). Linking landscape and health: The recurring theme. *Landscape and urban planning*, 99(3-4), 187-195.
- 6-3 Kaplan, S. (1995). The restorative benefits of nature: Toward an integrative framework. *Journal of environmental psychology*, 15(3), 169-182.
- 6-4 Gehl, J. (2011). *Life between buildings: using public space*. Island Press, 10-40.
- 6-5 Southworth, M. (2005). Designing the walkable city. *Journal of urban planning and development*, 131(4), 246-257.

- 6-6 Kuo, F. E., & Sullivan, W. C. (2001). Environment and crime in the inner city: Does vegetation reduce crime?. *Environment and behavior*, 33(3), 343-367.

Week 7 – Gender and Pluralism

- 7-1 Amin, A. (2008). Collective culture and urban public space. *City*, 12(1), 5-24.
- 7-2 Limerick, P. N. (1992). Disorientation and reorientation: the American landscape discovered from the West. *The Journal of American History*, 79(3), 1021-1049.
- 7-3 Day, K. (1999). Embassies and sanctuaries: women's experiences of race and fear in public space. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 17(3), 307-328.
- 7-4 Merchant, C. (2012). *Ecofeminism. Radical ecology: The search for a livable world*. Routledge, 183-210.
- 7-5 Rojas, J. (2010). Latino Urbanism in Los Angeles. *Insurgent public space: Guerrilla urbanism and the remaking of contemporary cities*, 36-44.

Week 8 – Power, Participation and Justice **note these readings subject to change**

- 8-1 Hou, Jeffrey, "Differences Matter: Learning to Design in Partnership with Others," in Angotti, C. Doble and P. Horrigan (eds.) *Service-Learning in Design and Planning: Educating at the Boundaries*, Berkeley, CA New Village Press, 2011.
- 8-2 Setten, G., & Brown, K. M. (2013). *Landscape and social justice*. Routledge Companion to Landscape Studies. Routledge, Oxford, 243-252.
- 8-3 Arnstein, S. R. (1969). A ladder of citizen participation. *Journal of the American Institute of planners*, 35(4), 216-224.
- 8-4 Hester, R.T. (2008). No representation without representation. In Treib, M. (Ed.). *Representing landscape architecture*. Taylor & Francis, 96-111.