

Rutgers—The State University of New Jersey,  
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
**Introduction to Environmental Design II**  
11:550:232

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **Spring 2021**

**Instructors:** Richard Alomar, RLA  
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**Credits:** Five (5)  
**Schedule:** Tuesday/12:15 p.m. - 1:35 p.m., Remote  
Thursday 2:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m., Remote  
Common Lecture: Wednesday 3:55 p.m. – 5:15 p.m., Remote

**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **Learning Objectives**

Studio and lecture activities have been developed to accommodate the following objectives:

- **Explore** . . . the potential of space and spatial relationships to create socially vibrant and culturally inclusive design solutions.
- **Analyze** . . . and thoughtfully incorporate natural features and systems to create enduring and ecologically sensitive design solutions.
- **Master** . . . technical and industry standards to effectively and sustainably foster safe accessible environments using the materials, methods, and technologies of site design and engineering.
- **Apply** . . . design principles at large as well as small scales. Develop graphic, written and oral skills to express thoughts, ideas and designs.

### **Overview**

The goal of the studio is to continue to advance the understanding and use of the foundation principles utilized in the Introduction to Environmental Design I studio. The class will continue to explore the possibilities of landscape design that can shape purposefully, productively, and (when at our best) provocatively, the built environment. Assignments will concentrate on the aesthetic and practical applications of landscape architecture. Students will work to refine their design process and graphic skills through a series of projects at a variety of scales and

project program complexity. The selected projects will address site and park planning, accessibility, sustainable development, principles of vehicular and pedestrian circulation as well as basic landform manipulation.

The course is composed of lectures and studios. Lecture topics will introduce theories and methods relating to the assigned design projects with an emphasis placed on the research and the practice of Landscape Architecture. Students will research topical issues as they relate to varying scales. Projects and associated assignments are intended to engage students in an investigation of graphic language and representation, form, spatial and material articulation and the communication of design intent through sketching, model making and drawing techniques.

### **Expectations of Student Participation**

Students are expected to participate fully in the studio by being prepared for each class and to be open to the ideas and challenges that unfold. They should read the syllabus and project schedules carefully and be aware of required readings, upcoming lectures, and due dates. Students will be given daily studio assignments that will be due at the start of the next studio where it will be discussed with the instructors and classmates. Each student is expected not only to present thoughts on his/her own designs, but to contribute to conversations about the work of others.

Readings: You are expected to read selected materials prior to class. Required readings will be posted on the class Sakai website.

Lectures: The studio lectures are both project-specific and topic-based to equip you with general knowledge needed in the field. You are expected to take notes in your design journal and to explore topics independently introduced by the suggested readings and professional work. This also applies to the Common Lecture and to the spring Cekada lecture.

Studio: Much of your learning will occur through your active engagement in studio – both during the actual class and while working at your studio desk during non-class time. You are expected to engage in all activities, including site visits and site analysis, design exercises, individual desk critiques, group pin-ups, and project reviews. Project development will occur over a series of weeks, but **continued development of your design work is expected to occur on a daily basis**. For the studio to be an engaged learning experience, you are expected not only to present thoughts/processes of your own design, but also to contribute to the learning of your peers through conversations and critiques during and outside of studio time. You should plan a minimum of 10 hours per week outside of class to read, develop designs, prepare for desk critiques, and presentations.

Project Reviews: Project reviews are opportunities to present your work, respond to questions, consider other interpretations, and gather feedback. You are expected to be at all reviews for the entire period.

Project Evaluation: For each project, you will receive two sub-grades:

1. Design Concept Development (how well did you develop your design ideas over the duration of the assignment to meet the stated project goals and provide a creative expression).
2. Presentation of Final Design (quality of your final drawings, model and an explanation of your process and design intent).

Design Journal: Your journal should include a mixture of assigned and self-directed work--an approximately equal amount of text, diagrams, and drawings. Accompany drawings should include explanatory notes as necessary. This will be graded several times during the semester.

Canvas and Email: The class Canvas website serves as the clearinghouse for materials. Please make sure to check it regularly. The instructor and graduate assistant may send out email announcements occasionally.

### **Dailies/Exercise/Project Descriptions**

Dailies (T/TH) Design Journal Studio Exercises (5-10 minutes) (10%)

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Project 1 | Large- Master Planning (20%)<br>(a) Master Plan Analysis and Diagramming<br>(b) Master Plan Programming and Design |
| Project 2 | Medium-Urban Open Space and Structure (40%)<br>(a) Site Analysis and Design<br>(b) Urban Site Design               |
| Project 3 | Small- Residential Design (30%)<br>(a) Site programming<br>(b) Residential Design                                  |

### **Course Schedule: See Schedule Handout**

### **Materials and Supplies**

The drafting and model making equipment utilized last semester should remain available for all class meetings. Additional material may be required throughout the semester. It is imperative that each student be prepared with the necessary equipment and materials for each studio period. It is not acceptable for students to take time from studio to purchase materials.

### **Grading**

All studio assignments and exercises are due at the beginning of the studio period unless otherwise specified. Late projects will be accepted up to a maximum of one week after due date with a loss of one full letter grade. No credit will be given for work more than one week late.

The grading in this course will be based upon the individual student's personal performance and improvement on studio projects and exercises throughout the semester. Attendance, attitude, participation and overall contribution to the studio environment will also be considered.

Each project will receive two grades: one for design concept and development (how well you developed your design ideas over the duration of the assignment to meet the stated project goals and provide a creative expression); second: drawing craft (the quality of final drawings and model).

Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

> 90	A
> 87 < 90	B+
> 80 < 87	B
> 77 < 80	C+
> 70 < 77	C
>60 < 70	D
< 60	F

The Department of Architecture uses the following guidelines for understanding appropriate grading in its courses:

**A – Outstanding** –This not only means fulfilling the requirements, but impressing and going beyond the initial expectations and assigned elements of the project. The student has demonstrated a superior grasp of the subject matter coupled with a high degree of creative or logical expression, individual initiative, and a strong ability to present these ideas in an organized and analytical manner.

**B – Very Good** – The student has demonstrated a solid grasp of the material with an ability to organize and examine the material in an organized, critical, and constructive manner. The projects and in-class performance reveal a solid understanding of the techniques, issues and related theories, with some additional work completed.

**C – Acceptable** –The student has shown a moderate ability to grasp concepts and theories for the class, producing work that, while basically adequate, is not in any way exceptional. The performance in class displays a basic familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques.

**D – Unacceptable** – The work demonstrates a minimal understanding of the fundamental nature of the material or the assignment with a performance that does not adequately examine the course material critically or constructively. Students cannot graduate from the Landscape Architecture program with 2 D's in required 550 classes.

**F – Failure** – The student has demonstrated a lack of understanding or familiarity with course concepts and materials. Their performance has been inadequate. Failure is often the result of limited effort and poor attendance which may indicate that the student is not in the proper field of study. It will be the responsibility of each student to track their own academic process throughout the semester. Interim grades will be available to students on an individual basis. Students should make an appointment with the instructor to review interim grades.

## Assignments

Additional assignments may be scheduled to assure that all work is completed on time. Additional drawings, models or research papers/presentations may be required to assist you in the development of your design. Failing to complete any assignment (for example, developing one alternative design when three were assigned) or not demonstrating progress in design development (for example, simply re-drawing what was discussed the day before rather than applying the critique to a revised design) will negatively impact your project grade.

### Suggested Readings

Lynch, Kevin; Hack, Gary: *Site Planning*, Maple-Vail Inc., Third Edition (1984)  
Booth, Norman K.; James E. Hess: *Residential Landscape Architecture, Design Process for the Private Residence*, Pierson Prentice Hall, any addition is valuable.

Grant Reid: *Landscape Graphics*, Crown Publishing Group (2002)  
Sustainable Sites Initiative, available as a downloadable pdf at [sustainablesites.org](http://sustainablesites.org)

### Sketchbook/Journal

Studio sketchbook assignments are intended to complement a design project development, reinforce the development of design ideas through sketching and help to refresh drawing techniques. For more information, see the sketch exercise description handout.

### Attendance

**The Department of Landscape Architecture requires attendance in all course meetings including Lecture, Studio and the Common Lecture Series.** If a circumstance arises which prohibits your attendance at any class session, please notify the instructor 24 hours prior to the class and an alternative arrangement may be made. The individual student's development as a landscape architect is largely dependent upon two aspects of education. First, the exposure to and the assimilation of a body of information which relates to the field. Second, the application of this knowledge through studio projects and problem-solving skills developed through critiques, reviews and interactions during each project. The Rutgers Landscape Architecture curriculum is designed to develop both areas. Attendance and participation in all lectures and studios are essential if the student is to achieve his/her maximum potential. It is the policy of the Department that **more than three unexcused absences will result in a step reduction of the final course grade** (for example, a B down to a C). Each additional three absences will result in another step reduction.

**Please note that attendance will be taken at the start of each class and late arrivals of more than ten [10] minutes will be marked as an absence.**

### Ownership of Student Work

It is the intent of this course to return as much work as possible to each student; however, examples of work may be kept by the Department for its professional accreditation and for purposes of exhibition. Submitted drawings, models, photographs, or written papers for any project assigned in Landscape Architecture courses are considered the property of the Department and may be retained in its archives for exhibition and accreditation purposes. All projects will be graded and returned to the student at a location designated by the instructor. Should your drawings be retained by the Department for its professional accreditation or for purposes of exhibition, you will be given the opportunity to obtain a print, scan, or photographic record of your work. Department files are off limits to students.

### Facilities

Studio cannot be taught without reliable facilities. The student is expected to use the facilities responsibly with particular regard to the clearly established rules about their use as specified in the student handbook:

[http://landarch.rutgers.edu/current\\_students/student%20handbook/StudentHandbo](http://landarch.rutgers.edu/current_students/student%20handbook/StudentHandbo)

[ok\\_web SectII.pdf](#)

These rules cover access to the building, vandalism, personalization of working spaces, smoking and drinking, use of lockers, use of department equipment, access to the reference collection, and basic rules governing the use of studios.

### **Personal Circumstances**

If you encounter any personal circumstances that inhibit your ability to fulfill the requirements of this course, you should contact the Instructor immediately. Likewise, any student with a special need, circumstance or disability should make an appointment with the Instructor during the first week of class. Please strive to maintain a clean workspace by keeping all desks and floors cleaned and undamaged. All spraying of adhesives or paint must take place outside the building.

### **Academic Integrity**

The intentional copying of another student's work or a portion of work and representation of the work as your own work is in direct violation of the University Integrity Policy:

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work.

#### **Facilitating Violations of Academic Integrity:**

It is a violation of academic integrity for a student to aid others in violating academic integrity. A student who knowingly or negligently facilitates a violation of academic integrity is as culpable as the student who receives the impermissible aid, even if the former student does not benefit from the violation.

As a result, **any copying and/or "sharing" of exercises, homework assignments, and projects will be treated as Level 2 violations and subject to the sanctions as outline in the Integrity Policy:**

- 1. A failing grade on the assignment.**
- 2. A failing grade for the course.**
- 3. Disciplinary warning or probation.**

Repeat violations will be treated as separable Level Three violations and referred to the AIF of the school for adjudication. Please refer to the complete Integrity Policy at: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>.