INDV 102  AMERICAN DESIGN ON THE LAND

College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, CALA  The University of Arizona

Spring, 2010

TIME & LOCATION:

INSTRUCTORS:

Wendy Lotze, MLA
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DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:

This course is a broad exploration of the natural and built American Landscape, and how the unique character of American culture continues to shape this place. With readings, discussions, projects and lectures, we will examine dynamic dialog between man and nature, and how this dialog was and is fundamental in the creation of the American Landscape.

Students will learn about the lives of everyday Americans as well as the contributions of great individuals from various cultural backgrounds and periods in time. These will include American Indians, artists, architects, landscape architects, planners, natural and social scientists, political figures, businessmen and women, and writers.

Built environments such as cities, parks, gardens, vernacular expressions, and preserves of wild, scenic, and cultural landscapes will provide the framework for discussion about landscape design as a comprehensive art form, expression of culture, and contact point between man and nature.

The purpose of this study is threefold:

• To increase the vocabulary available to students in describing, discussing and comparing built and natural places, to critique physical design and to participate in public forums on upcoming community development.

• To raise awareness of the role of conscious design in a variety of conditions found in the world around us including the structure of our cities and rural areas, recreation, societal divisions and infrastructure.

• To hone the lens through which we examine the world around us.
FORMAT:

This class will combine readings, lectures, discussions and presentations from a variety of experts to not only examine its subjects through multiple-learning strategies, but also to provide a wide variety of points-of-view on the topics.

Sunday of each week, a DETAILED SCHEDULE will be posted on D2L and on the Google Calendar. The following is a general rule, however you are responsible for checking the calendar prior to class each week for any changes or special situations.

Monday: Lecture
Wednesday: In-class activities and assignments
Friday: Guest presentation and exam review

SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Part 1: The American Landscape

1/17 - 2/11  Unit 1: Shape of the Land
- *America by Design*: Chapter 5 The Shape of the Land (pp. 277-352)
- *The Control of Nature*: Los Angeles Against the Mountains (pp. 183-272)

2/14  Project #1 Due

2/14 – 3/4  Unit 2: Public Places
- *America by Design*: Chapter 3 The American Street (pp. 135-203)
- *America by Design*: Chapter 4 The Public Realm (pp.205-276)
- Video *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces* (D2L)

3/9  Exam 1

3/12 – 3/20  Spring Break

Part 2: Where Are We Going?

3/21 – 4/8  Unit 3: Tools and Techniques of Contemporary Designers
- Excerpt from “*The Last Landscape*” – William H. Whyte (D2L)
- Excerpt from “*Cadillac Desert*” - Marc Reisner (D2L)
- Case Studies from: [http://www.asla.org/sustainablelandscapes/](http://www.asla.org/sustainablelandscapes/)

3/28  Project #2 Due

4/11 – 5/4  Unit 4: The Future for American Spaces

5/9  Project #3 Due

5/11  Exam 2 (Final) 8am – 8pm
STUDENT EVALUATION

Attendance
Attendance at all class sessions, discussions and guest lectures is mandatory for the successful completion of this class. Attendance will be taken at each class, and students will be dropped after three unexcused absences. The course readings will support but will not correspond directly with the lectures. It is therefore, critical that students attend lecture sessions in order to prepare themselves for examinations and assignments. Students who are unable to attend class for any reason are asked to email the instructor and show documentation of their illness or other approved activity.

Late Work
Late work will not be accepted.

Grades will be based on the following categories:

60%  Projects
The details of each of the 3 project assignments will be distributed and discussed during the Wednesday class period. They will involve exploration of the designed environment, writing, photography and design. The first two projects are individual, and the final two will be completed in groups.

20%  Exams
The comprehensive final exam will include multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions.

10%  Discussions
Students are required to participate in online discussions at least once per week. Weekly discussion topics are posted on Monday and graded the following Monday. Comments and participation posted more than 7 days after the discussion topics are posted will not be counted for a grade. Non-participation in the discussions could result in being removed from the course or a failing grade.

Additional information about the substance and format of these discussions is available in the Guide to Online Discussions in the Course Documents section of the course content on the D2L site.

10%  In-Class Assignments
In-class assignments will relate to the readings, will be guided by the TA’s and the instructors and will be collected at the end of the class period.
REQUIRED TEXTS


RECOMMENDED REFERENCES

Birnbaum, Charles A and Foell, Stephanie 2009. *Shaping the American Landscape; New Profiles from the Pioneers of American Landscape Design Project*.

Whyte, William H. *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*

Pregill, Philip, and Volkman, Nancy. *Landscapes in History, Design and Planning in the Western Tradition*.

STATEMENTS:

Subject to Change

With the exception of the grade policies, parts of this syllabus are subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

RETENTION OF WORK:

The University has the right to retain any student work whether it is for display, accreditation, documentation or any other educational or legal purpose.

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

Academic policies for this course can be found in *The University of Arizona 2010-2011 General Academic Catalog*. Refer specifically to the section titled “Code of Academic Integrity” for the principles, policies and procedures governing issues of academic integrity. More detailed information can be found at [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity) or in the Dean of Students office, Rm. 203 Old Main. Policies against plagiarism, etc., also can be found within Student Code of Academic Integrity.