LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & REGIONAL PLANNING (LARP)

LARP 501 Studio I
The focus of this foundation studio is to explore ways of recording and representing landscape - with an emphasis on material, space, rhythm and measure - through a range of drawings and constructions. The studio attempts to create a sensibility toward landscape where the act of surveying a site is as much an imaginative endeavor as is the crafting of an artifact or the construction of a path in a landscape. Emphasis is placed on visual and manual skills in two-dimensional and three-dimensional constructions (drawing, fabrications, model-making, etc.), while developing ways to "see" landscape.

Taught by: Faculty
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Studio
2.0 Course Units

LARP 502 Studio II
This foundation design studio explores the relationship among sites, drawings, models and the making of landscape architectural projects. Sites are fairly large in size and present a complex set of issues, including fragmentation, lack of access, and contamination. Through the design of a park, students test and refine the relationship among project concept, modes of visualization, and project formation (organizational and material). The objective for the studio is to develop an informed and imaginative response to the site in order to create new relationships among the site, its immediate edges and the larger neighborhood or region.

Taught by: M’Closkey/Faculty
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: LARP 501
Activity: Studio
2.0 Course Units

LARP 511 Workshop I: Ecology and Built Landscapes
This workshop explores a sequence of sites extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Appalachian Mountains that illustrates the changing geology and topography of the regional physiographic provinces including the Atlantic Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Valley and Ridge. In moving westward along the transect, field trips to natural areas and constructed sites will highlight the diversity of regional plant communities ranging from primary dune to salt marsh, serpentine Virginia pine-oak forest to seepage wetland, and more. Analysis of the inter-connections between the underlying geology, topography, hydrology, soils, vegetation, wildlife, and human interventions will reveal patterns reflecting process and demonstrate key ecological and cultural systems and processes through the production of field notebooks as well as large-scale measured drawings. Ultimately students will develop a vocabulary (recognition, identification and nomenclature) of the materials of landscape, its substance, its ecology, and its changing nature owing to place and time. NOTE: COURSE MEETS IN ASSIGNED CLASSROOM FROM 9-1PM. CLASS MEETING FROM 2-5PM IS DEDICATED TO FIELD WORK.

Taught by: Willig and Popowsky
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 512 Workshop II: Landform and Planting Design
Workshop II combines two of the most elemental tools in the practice of landscape architecture: landform and planting design. Grading - the shaping and sculpting of the landform - is both art and science, and thus Workshop II aims to provide an appreciation of landform as an evocative component in the design vocabulary as well as a critical tool in solving difficult design problems. The basic techniques and strategies of grading design (slopes, terraces, water management, grade change devices) will be introduced, practiced and reinforced, so that grading design becomes an integral part of the students’ design approach. Lecture, field trips, modeling, in-class exercises, and group projects will be used. The Planting component provides students with a working overview of the principles and processes of planting design. Plants will be considered both as individual elements and as part of larger dynamic systems. The natural distribution of plants, concepts of plant community and successional patterns, and the relationship of planting to topography will be used as the initial framework for planting design. Planting design typologies will be examined as an outgrowth of these "natural" patterns. The role of plants as a key element in the structural design of the landscape will be explored through a combination of modeling, plan and section drawing, temporal studies, writing, field trips and case studies. Emphasis will be placed on process and evolution: the temporality of planting (daily, seasonal and annual changes), establishment and maintenance of plantings, and the process of planting design. During the first week of May, a five-day field ecology course focuses on techniques of urban revitalization, sustainable land use, reclamation, and restoration. The field trips offer insight into the diversity of approaches to using plants to promote positive environmental change.

Taught by: Kaufer
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: LARP 511
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 533 Media I: Drawing and Visualization
Drawing is the ability to experience deeply things we see and envision. It allows us, not only to represent things or images seen, but, to discover and construct space and depth on the two dimensions of drawing surface. Expanding the tools of drawing, this course presents inquiries into applied media providing a basis for envisioning the speculative and developing an economy of expression. Work will be closely related to work in Studio I. Students will be introduced to the formal syntax of drawing (line, contour, structure, texture, chiaroscuro), graphic grammar (orthographic, oblique, perspective projection drawings and free-hand sketching) alongside exercises in material expression (collage, assemblage).

Taught by: Faculty
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
LARP 535 Theory I: Histories and Theories of Landscape and Environment
This course introduces students to relevant topics, themes, and sites that help us understand the conception, production, evolution, and reception of designed and found landscapes throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It aims at building an understanding of landscapes as both physical spaces and as cultural media and constructions that sit at the nexus between art and science and that contribute knowledge about humankind's relationship with non-human nature. Landscapes are the result of social, political, artistic and intellectual endeavors. The topography, soil and climate of a site also condition its design, use and habitation. As much as designed and found landscapes are a product of their time, they have also contributed to shaping history, both through their physical materiality and through the mental worlds they enable. Embedding found and designed landscapes into their social, political and cultural contexts, the course also pays close attention to the role of expert knowledge and the professions that have contributed to creating them. The course explores the various tensions and relationships embodied, created and represented by designed landscapes; the tensions between nature and culture, practice and use, design and reception, the visual reception of landscapes and their inhabitation, and site-specificity and purposefully "international" design expressions. Using a variety of sources including texts, illustrations, and film the course offers insights into the development and transfer of ideas between different cultures, countries and geographical regions, and time periods.
Taught by: Dumpelmann
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 540 Theory II: The Culture of Nature
Landscape architecture, architecture and visual art are all mediations between nature and culture. This course is designed to help students form their own view regarding our relationship with the "natural" world around us in an age of ecological crisis. To achieve this, the course provides a stimulating historical and contemporary survey of ideas of nature. We explore ways "nature" has been understood mythically, theologically, ideologically, philosophically, scientifically, and artistically through the ages, with an emphasis on contemporary culture. We survey the way in which the polarity of culture and nature has been historically constructed and more recently, deconstructed. The pedagogical philosophy of this course is that an appreciation of the broad pattern of history and the ideas that have shaped it are foundational to living a critical and ethical life and central to the process of making contemporary art, architecture, and landscape architecture.
Taught by: Weller
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 542 Media II: Fundamentals of 3D Modeling
Continuing the sequence of the Landscape Architecture media classes, this course will provide students with the techniques to explore and examine precision surface profiles and land forming strategies, in both physical and digital models. These models provide a basis to speculate on what processes and programs might be engendered or instigated. Rhino will be the primary modeling platform. Associated plug-ins of Grasshopper, Rhino Terrain, Sonic, and Bongo will help extend the toolset. GIS will facilitate the collection and analysis of extent data. The Adobe Creative Cloud will also be used for documenting and expressing modeling processes through static and time-based visualizations.
Taught by: VanDerSys
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: LARP 533
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 543 Media III: Landscape and Digital Dynamics
This course is the third in the media sequence and is required of all MLA students at the 600 level. This course engages the generative potential of the dynamic and temporal attributes of the landscape medium. Time-based visualizations are used to investigate landscape organizations shaped through the dynamic interplay of varying processes and their spatial consequences. Emphasis will parallel the LARP 601 on urban ecology and landscape systems.
Taught by: VanDerSys/Faculty
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 601 Studio III
This studio brings together both two-year and three-year MLA students for a landscape studio problem that works at a regional scale, as well as multiple design scales. LARP 601 - the Green Stimuli studio - emphasizes rigorous site analysis, the strategic organization of living material, and the potential of design to produce a wide range of effects. Studio problems are "live" - local leaders and experts are actively trying to solve them, there is an audience for student work outside the University, and projects have the potential to stimulate debate and new directions. The Green Stimuli studio takes on design problems where soil, terrain, geology, mineral resources, climate, water, plants, wildlife, and living systems interactions are major drivers. Studio projects explore one or more of these dimensions in depth to reach high levels of design exploration, strategic thinking, technical resolution and physical expression. The studio’s topics intersect with a broader universe of practical concerns, including land use, local and regional economies, real estate development and public policy, as well as philosophical and artistic questions about nature and ecology. The intent is that designed Green Stimuli make new connections between the material of landscape and the economic, infrastructural, scientific, social, cultural and creative attributes of a region.
Taught by: Faculty
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Studio
2.0 Course Units
LARP 602 Studio IV
This studio is the fourth and final studio in the core sequence and is designed to introduce students to essential competencies related to contemporary problems in urban design. The studio operates in what have been referred to as “global cities” - contexts in which there are significant pressures on the physical form of a metropolis from substantial population and economic growth (both ongoing and projected). These pressures induce considerable demands for the development of new contexts. The studio is focused on managing and negotiating these pressures through landscape-driven strategies capable of guiding and organizing this urbanization. Students develop individual design strategies through a process of mapping, modeling, scenario building and fieldwork that lead to both conceptual and physical proposals for the development of new urban districts and metropolitan agendas.
Taught by: Marcinkoski/Faculty
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Studio
2.0 Course Units

LARP 611 Workshop III: Site Engineering and Water Management
Building upon the skills and concepts developed in Workshops I and II, this intermediate workshop focuses on technical aspects of site design, with an emphasis on landscape performance. Functional considerations related to landscapes and their associated systems - including circulation, drainage and stormwater management, site stabilization and remediation - will be explored as vital and integral components of landscape design, from concept to execution. Lectures, case studies, field trips, and focused design exercises will enable students to develop facility in the tools, processes and metrics by which landscape systems are designed, evaluated, built and maintained. In concert with the concurrent design studio, students will consider the means by which functional parameters can give rise to the conceptual, formal, and material characteristics of designed landscapes.
Taught by: Kaufer
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 612 Workshop IV: Advanced Landscape Construction
Advanced Landscape Construction: The Art and Craft of Design
Documentation and Detailing introduces students to the process of landscape documentation as means of strengthening design intent through careful material selection and articulation of form. The course builds upon Workshop III by expanding the concept of site systems to the full range of drawings, details, specifications, and contracts used by landscape designers in the creation of the man-made environment. The course features lectures, case studies and field walks, exploring documentation from initial concept through construction administration. Topics will include materials and their use in exterior environments, documentation phases and their role in a projects evolution and the art of detailing to ensure beautiful, durable landscapes that define cohesive design.
Taught by: Burrell
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: LARP 611
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 660 Fundamentals of Urban Design
This course is a requirement for students enrolled in Certificate in Urban Design and for Master of City Planning students enrolled in the Urban Design concentration. How should urban designers give shape to the city? What urban design methods could they apply? This course helps students acquire the principles that can inform urban design practice. It has three major pedagogical objectives. First, it helps students understand the contemporary city through a series urban design tools. Second, it covers both historical and modern urban design principles. Finally, it includes all the scales in which urban designers operate, ranging from the fundamentals of social interaction in public space, to the sustainability of the region.” This course is open to other interested PennDesign students if there is space and with permission of the instructor.
Taught by: Lin, Zhongjie
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CPLN 660
Activity: Studio
2.0 Course Units

LARP 685 Environmental Readings
In this seminar, we will explore this green thread and analyze its influence on how we shape our environments through design and planning. The course has three parts. Throughout, the influence of literature on design and planning theory will be explored. The first part will focus on three most important theorists in environmental planning and landscape architecture: Frederick Law Olmstead Sr., Charles Eliot and Ian McHarg. The second part of the course will critically explore current theories in environmental planning and landscape architecture. The topics include: frameworks for cultural landscape studies, the future of the vernacular, ecological design and planning, sustainable and regenerative design, the languages of landscapes, and evolving views of landscape aesthetics and ethics. In the third part of the course, students will build on the readings to develop their own theory for ecological planning or, alternatively, landscape architecture. While literacy and critical inquiry are addressed throughout the course, critical thinking is especially important for this final section.
Taught by: Dean Steiner
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CPLN 660
Activity: Seminar
2.0 Course Units

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Taught by: Lin, Zhongjie
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CPLN 660
Activity: Studio
2.0 Course Units

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Taught by: Dean Steiner
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CPLN 660
Activity: Seminar
2.0 Course Units
LARP 701 Studio V
These advanced elective studios provide opportunities for focused exploration of particular themes in contemporary landscape architecture. Important emerging and accomplished designers, often from divergent points-of-view, interests and backgrounds, are invited to run these studios. Collaborative options (between Landscape and the Departments of Architecture or City Planning) are sometimes offered across the School. In addition to our own faculty who offer some of these studios (Fabiani Giannetto, Gouverneur, Marcinkoski, Mathur, M’Closkey, Neises, Olin, Pevzner, Sanders, Tomlin), visitors have included Paolo Burgi (Switzerland), Peter Latz (Munich), Bernard Lassus (Paris), Margie Ruddick (Philadelphia), Chris Reed (Boston), Peter Beard (London), Nicholas Quennell (New York), Ken Smith (New York), Raymond Gastil (New York), Alessandro Tagliolini (Italy), Ignacio Bunster (Philadelphia), Perry Kulper (Los Angeles), James Wines (New York), Lee Weintraub (New York), Charles Waldheim (Chicago), Stanislaus Fung (Australia), Dennis Wedlick (New York), Sandro Marpillero (New York), Peter Connolly (Australia), and former associate professor Anita Berrizbeitia. More recent visitors have been Claire Fellman (New York), Catherine Mosbach (Paris), Nanako Unemoto/Neil Cook (New York), Valerio Morabito (Italy), Carol and Colin Franklin (Philadelphia), Keith Kaseman (Philadelphia), Silvia Benedito (New York), Claudia Taborda (Lisbon), Mark Thomann (New York), Jerry Van Eyck (New York), and Martin Rein-Cano (Berlin).

Taught by: Faculty
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Studio
2.0 Course Units

LARP 702 Studio VI
These advanced elective studios provide opportunities for focused exploration of particular themes in contemporary landscape architecture. Important emerging and accomplished designers, often from divergent points-of-view, interests and backgrounds, are invited to run these studios. Collaborative options (between Landscape and the Departments of Architecture or City Planning) are sometimes offered across the School. In addition to our own faculty who offer some of these studios (Fabiani Giannetto, Gouverneur, Marcinkoski, Mathur, M’Closkey, Neises, Olin, Pevzner, Sanders, Tomlin), visitors have included Paolo Burgi (Switzerland), Peter Latz (Munich), Bernard Lassus (Paris), Margie Ruddick (Philadelphia), Chris Reed (Boston), Peter Beard (London), Nicholas Quennell (New York), Ken Smith (New York), Raymond Gastil (New York), Alessandro Tagliolini (Italy), Ignacio Bunster (Philadelphia), Perry Kulper (Los Angeles), James Wines (New York), Lee Weintraub (New York), Charles Waldheim (Chicago), Stanislaus Fung (Australia), Dennis Wedlick (New York), Sandro Marpillero (New York), Peter Connolly (Australia), and former associate professor Anita Berrizbeitia. More recent visitors have been Claire Fellman (New York), Catherine Mosbach (Paris), Nanako Unemoto/Neil Cook (New York), Valerio Morabito (Italy), Carol and Colin Franklin (Philadelphia), Keith Kaseman (Philadelphia), Silvia Benedito (New York), Claudia Taborda (Lisbon), Mark Thomann (New York), Jerry Van Eyck (New York), and Martin Rein-Cano (Berlin).

Taught by: Faculty
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Studio
2.0 Course Units

LARP 703 Traces and Inscriptions
This course is a requirement for students enrolled in the Certificate of Urban Design. The course focuses on contemporary and historical urban design, providing a comprehensive understanding of the complexities and contingencies of urban design and planning. Taught by: Anuradha Mathur
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 704 Urban Design Research Studio
This course is a requirement for students enrolled in the Certificate of Urban Design. The course focuses on contemporary and historical urban design, providing a comprehensive understanding of the complexities and contingencies of urban design and planning. Taught by: Gouverneur
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Studio
2.0 Course Units

LARP 710 Implementation of Urban Design
This course is a requirement for students enrolled in the Certificate of Urban Design. The course focuses on contemporary and historical urban design, providing a comprehensive understanding of the complexities and contingencies of urban design and planning. Taught by: Gouverneur
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 720 Topics in Representation
In these advanced representation courses the work extends to new ways of documenting and seeing landscape. These courses are open to all interested School of Design students who have previous drawing experience or have taken foundation studios. Recent topics have been: Landscape Representation (fall annually), instructors: Valerio Morabito; Terrains of Wetness (spring 2017-2020), instructors: Anuradha Mathur, Matthew Neff; Landscape Drawing, instructor: Laurie Olin (spring 2014); Traces and Inscriptions (spring 2013), instructors: Anuradha Mathur, Matthew Neff.
Taught by: Faculty
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: LARP 501 OR LARP 533 OR LARP 601 OR ARCH 501 OR ARCH 532 OR ARCH 601
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
LARP 730 Topics in Professional Practice
These seminar courses explore ideas and methods in current landscape architectural practice. They include instruction in professional procedures, project development, leadership, and professional identity. They include visits to construction sites, professional offices and archives. Recent topics have been: Transformational Leadership (fall annually), instructor: Lucinda Sanders; Unruly Practices (spring 2021), instructors: Rebecca Popowsky and Sarai Williams; The Practice of Landscape Architecture (spring 2021, fall 2021).
Taught by: Faculty
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Fall 2016: course offering is limited to LARP majors or by permission of the instructor.

LARP 734 Designing a Green New Deal: From Concept to Program
This advanced social science and design seminar is about mobilizing expert knowledge to develop transformative policy ideas to make the Green New Deal come alive. We'll look at cutting edge social science and design scholarship on the problems we're trying to solve, and the successes and failures of past efforts at transformative policy. And we'll focus in particular on the built environment. How might a Green New Deal make the physical changes to our infrastructures, homes, energy landscapes, transportation systems, public recreation amenities, care facilities, and more, in ways that slash carbon emissions, increase resiliency, and abolish inequalities of race, class, gender, and nation? That's not a rhetorical question: in this class, we'll assemble knowledge, get into teams, and come up with concrete proposals.
Taught by: Daniel Cohen and William Fleming
Also Offered As: SOCI 434
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 738 Cultural Landscapes and Landscape Preservation
The course surveys and critically engages the field of cultural landscape studies. Over the semester, we will explore cultural landscape as a concept, theory and model of preservation and design practice; we will read cultural landscape historiography and creative non-fiction; we will examine a range of types (national parks, community gardens, designed landscapes, informal public spaces), and we will map the alternative preservation, planning and design methods that ground cultural landscape studies practically. Readings, class discussions, and projects will draw on cultural geography, environmental history, vernacular architecture, ecology, art, and writing.
Taught by: Randall Mason
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HSPV 538
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 740 Topics in Digital Media
These courses offer advanced instruction in the uses and applications of various digital media, including Geographical Information Systems, 3-D modeling, video, animation, and web-design. These courses are open to all interested School of Design students who already have a working knowledge of basic digital graphic techniques and with permission of the instructor. Recent topics have been: Sensing and Sensibility (fall 2019-2021), instructors: Keith VanDerSys, Sean Burkholder; Simulated Natures (fall 2014-2018), instructors Keith VanDerSys, Joshua Freese; Digital Fabrication (spring 2009-2013), instructor: Keith VanDerSys; Non-Static Representation: Video, Animation, and Interactive Media (fall 2013, 2012), instructor: Todd Montgomery
Taught by: Faculty
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: LARP 543
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 741 Modeling Geographic Space
This course explores the nature and use of raster-based geographic information systems (GIS) for the analysis and synthesis of spatial patterns and processes through ‘cartographic modeling’. Cartographic modeling is a general but well-defined methodology that can be used to address a wide variety of analytical examples from both cities and the environment.
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CPLN 632
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 743 Geospatial Software Design
The purpose of this course is to equip students with a selected set of advanced tools and techniques for the development and customization of geospatial data-processing capabilities. It is open to any student with experience equivalent to that of an entry-level class on GIS.
Taught by: Tomlin
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: CPLN 670
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 745 Advanced Topics in GIS
This course offers students an opportunity to work closely with faculty, staff, local practitioners, and each other in conducting independent projects that involve the development and/or application of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The course is open to all students who can demonstrate sufficient experience, expertise, or initiative to pursue a successful term project.
Taught by: Tomlin
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CPLN 680
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
LARP 750 Topics in Construction, Horticulture and Planting Design
These courses explore relevant topics in construction, horticulture and planting design as they relate to contemporary landscape architecture. The aim is to supplement fundamental skills and ideas explored in the core curriculum workshops with more advanced, cutting-edge research, technology and case studies. The teaching faculty are leading practitioners and researchers in the field. These courses are open to all interested Weitzman students. Recent topics have been: Build It/Detailing in Landscape Design (spring annually since 2015), instructors: Lindsay Falck, Abdallah Tabet, Andrew Schlatter; Plant Futures (spring 2019), instructors: Kira Appelhans, Misako Murata; Urban Horticulture and Planting Design (2009-2014), instructor: David Ostrich
Taught by: Faculty
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 755 Arboretum Management I: Understanding Plants
In this course, students will learn about plants from an organismal perspective, an applied/practical perspective, an aesthetic perspective, an environmental perspective, and an evolutionary perspective. Utilizing the plant collection of the Morris Arboretum as a living laboratory and the expertise of arboretum staff, this course will bring students, novices and experts alike, to a better understanding of plants. Session topics integrate both theoretical and hands-on practical work. Course assessment will be based on weekly practical assignments and two exams. Please note that this course takes place at the Morris Arboretum in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia and students are responsible for transporting themselves to and from the arboretum on their own for class each week. For further information about the course, students may contact Cynthia Skema (cskema@upenn.edu).
Taught by: Skema
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Laboratory
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 756 Arboretum Management II: Evaluating Public Gardens
This interdisciplinary course looks at public gardens as a whole, studying these public institutions and their performance in the four major services they undertake: research, horticultural display, conservation and education/outreach. Students, of any level or discipline, begin the course by learning what arboreta and botanic gardens are, how they function, and what role they fill in our society through a series of lecture sessions at the Morris Arboretum. For the remainder of the semester, the students take that knowledge into the field to apply what they have learned and evaluate some of the many public gardens in "America's Garden Capital," the Philadelphia region, with expert instructors from the Morris Arboretum as guides. Course assessment will be based on one exam, and a series of essays pertaining to their garden evaluations. Garden evaluations and the written work can be tailored to a particular subject of interest to a student, if pertinent within the public garden realm. Please note that this course takes place at the Morris Arboretum in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia and students are responsible for transporting themselves to and from the arboretum on their own or to other Philadelphia area public gardens as required for class each week. For further information about the course, students may contact Cynthia Skema (cskema@upenn.edu).
Taught by: Skema
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Laboratory
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 760 Topics in Ecological Design
These elective courses explore relevant topics in ecological design and new technologies as they relate to contemporary landscape architecture. The courses explore topics such as ecology, sustainability, habitat restoration, hydrology, green roof and green architecture technology, soil technology, and other techniques pertinent to the construction of ecologically dynamic, functioning landscapes. The teaching faculty are leading practitioners and researchers in the field. These courses are open to all interested Weitzman students. Recent topics have been: Large-Scale Land Reclamation Projects (annually since 2005), instructor: William Young; Green Roof Systems (spring 2010-2014), instructor: Susan Weiler
Taught by: Faculty
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 761 Urban Ecology
This course introduces students to the core concepts, processes, and vocabulary of contemporary urban ecology. It aims to provide a conceptual framework and grounding in an understanding of ecological processes, in order to empower students to develop and critique the function and performance of landscape interventions. Urban ecology describes the interaction of the built and natural environment, looking at both ecology in the city, as well as ecology of the city. Lectures, case studies, critical reading and design exercises will enable students to increase their ability to analyze and interpret ecological systems and processes. By analyzing the application of ecological concepts in the design management of urban landscapes, urban ecology will be explored as a dynamic, human-influenced system. Registration is limited to MLA students in the LARP 601 studio.
Taught by: Carlisle/Pevzner
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 770 Topics in Landscape Architecture History and Theory
These advanced seminars explore central issues in the history and theory of landscape architecture from the Renaissance to the present day. The focus is upon the cultural context of built works, their relation to conceptual writings (contemporary with the designs as well as modern) and the dialogue between modern professional practice and historical example and method. These courses are open to all interested students. Recent topics include: The Culture of Cultivation (spring 2017), instructor: Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto; Weimar Landscapes (spring 2017), instructors: John Dixon Hunt, Liliane Weissberg; Seminar in American Architecture (spring 2016), instructor: Aaron Wunsch; Therapeutic Landscape (spring 2014), instructor: Aaron Wunsch
Taught by: Faculty
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
LARP 771 Remembering Epidemics
This seminar challenges students to encounter and interpret the city around them in unconventional ways. During a deadly pandemic that has profoundly disrupted all aspects of society, just as the question of public commemoration has vigorously and sometimes violently re-entered our country’s public discourse, one question has remained surprisingly neglected: How do we remember epidemics? This course confronts this question through an analysis of traumatic epidemics in Philadelphia’s history, and of the broader landscape of public memory. We devote special attention to the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, but we also consider the 1918-1919 influenza, AIDS, and COVID-19, among others. Students conduct archival, documentary, site-based, and other kinds of research in the process of analyzing the origins, course, and consequences of epidemics, as well as the nature of public commemoration.
Taught by: Barnes, Wunsch
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HSOC 443, HSPV 620
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 780 Topics in Theory and Design
These advanced seminars explore advanced ideas in contemporary landscape architectural design and theory. A special link is made between the analysis of built work and text to design practice and the making of projects. Topics include the intersections of art, nature and creativity; practices of analysis and criticism; ideas of urbanism and infrastructure; collaborative ventures and cross-disciplinarity; vision and visuality; and representational structures, both verbal and visual. These courses are open to all interested Weitzman students. Recent topics have been: Designing with Risk (spring annually), instructors: Matthijs Bouw, Ellen Neises (2015); Planting Urban Landscapes (fall 2021, spring 2020), instructor: Sonja Duempelmann; Post-Carbon Futures and the Green New Deal (fall 2019-2021), instructor: Nicholas Pevzner; Cities of Waste (spring 2021), instructor: Syantani Chatterjee; Curious Landscapes (fall 2020), instructor: Sean Burkholder; Seeds and Weeds: the Knotty Natures of Botanical Gardens (fall 2019), instructor: Karen M’Closkey; Design in the Terrain of Water (fall 2016-2018), instructor: Anuradha Mathur; Classics Considered (fall 2015, 2016), instructors: Laurie Olin, Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto; WORK: Aspects and Topics in Landscape Architecture (spring 2015-2017), instructor: Laurie Olin
Taught by: Faculty
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 781 Contemporary Urbanism
This course will expose students to a wide array of case studies in planning, urban design, and landscape architecture including notions of sustainable development, the interplay between open space and built form, the rehabilitation of existing areas as historic districts, commercial corridors, and the improvement of squatter settlements. Also, it will focus on city expansions and new towns, housing, mix-use developments, and areas of new centrality. The program will also address territorial planning, the improvement of open space systems, and site specific interventions of parks, plazas, streetscape and gardens. Cases will provide the proper ground for analysis and interpretation of issues related to the design and implementation of "good" landscape and urban form. Class discussions will be complemented with short design exercises. We will also enjoy the presence of outstanding visiting lecturers who will share with us cutting-edge information, derived from their professional practice and research. Registration is limited to MLA students in the LARP 602 studio and to students in the Urban Design Certificate program.
Taught by: Weller/Gouverneur
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CPLN 673
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 796 Independent Studio
An independent studio may be undertaken in the final semester but is not required. The independent studio is intended to provide highly motivated students who have demonstrated their ability to work independently with the opportunity to pursue topics that extend the boundaries of the profession. For permission, students must prepare a written proposal in the preceding semester and apply for approval from the faculty. Details available in Landscape Architecture department office.
Taught by: Faculty
Course offered summer, fall and spring terms
Activity: Independent Study
1.0 Course Unit

LARP 999 Independent Study
An independent study may be taken for elective credit at any point during the degree program for a letter grade. For permission, students must prepare a written proposal in the preceding semester and obtain a Landscape Architecture faculty advisor to oversee their work. Details are available in the Landscape Architecture department office.
Taught by: Faculty
Course offered summer, fall and spring terms
Activity: Independent Study
1.0 Course Unit