



Course Syllabus

University of Rhode Island
Department of Landscape Architecture

LAR 201: Survey of Landscape Architecture
Winter J-Term 2025

Instructor: Professor Farhad Atash
Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment – Remotely on Google/Gmail Meet
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The course is an introduction to the profession of landscape architecture as well as landscape design theory and composition as an applied art form. The course requires three exams.

The course is divided into eight units. The first unit is an introduction to the landscape architecture profession. The next six units of the course cover the elements of landscape architectural design. These elements are: Landform, Plant Materials, Buildings, Pavement, Site Structures, and Water. The last unit of the course covers the topic of the "Design Process" and the steps landscape architects follow to prepare a landscape architectural design plan for a client.

It is highly recommended that you read the class readings from the textbook as well as the PDF lectures posted on Brightspace and then take each exam online.

Course Objectives: After completing the course, you will be able to:

1. Identify the elements of landscape architectural design and their major components.
2. Demonstrate the basic understanding of the landscape architectural design process.

3. Apply the aforementioned information to comment on the quality of landscape architectural design projects.

Course Textbook: Norman K. Booth, ***Basic Elements of Landscape Architectural Design***, Waveland Press, 1990, ISBN 978-0-88133-478-4. The textbook is available at URI Bookstore. The textbook provides an in-depth analysis of each element of landscape architectural design as well as the design process using a variety of visuals (e.g. maps, drawings, sketches).

Course Requirements: The course requires three exams. Exams are not cumulative. You will complete the exams online. Each exam has 30 questions and is worth a total of 30 points. Exams will include multiple-choice and true/false questions. For each exam, you will have a few days to complete and submit it online. Using "**Quizzes**" tool in the top navigation bar on Brightspace course site, you may access each exam only once and have 60 minutes (one hour) to complete it. Each exam is based on the PDF lectures on Brightspace course site and the readings from the textbook. PDF Lectures are posted on Brightspace homepage under "**Lectures**" widget. Your grade for each exam will be posted in the "**Grades**" tool in the top navigation bar on Brightspace.

- **Exam 1 covers Units 1 and 2 of the course.** [The exam will be available on Brightspace from Thursday, January 2 at 8:00 AM until Monday, January 6 at 11:30 PM.](#)
- **Exam 2 covers Units 3, 4 and 5 of the course.** [The exam will be available on Brightspace from Tuesday, January 7 at 8:00 AM until Sunday, January 12 at 11:30 PM.](#)
- **Exam 3 covers Units 6, 7 and 8 of the course.** [The exam will be available on Brightspace from Monday, January 13 at 8:00 AM until Friday, January 17 at 11:30 PM \[Last Day of Class\].](#)

No late exams are accepted. There are no make-up exams given in this course except in the case of a verifiable emergency or a confirmed illness in which case a make-up exam will be given.

Course Grading: The final grade for the course is based on: Exam 1 [30%], Exam 2 [35%] and Exam 3 [35%]. Assignments for extra credit will not be given in this

course.

The final grade for the course is based on the following scale:

A= 94+, **A-=** 93.9-90, **B+=**89.9-87, **B=** 86.9-83, **B-=** 82.9-80, **C+=** 79.9-77, **C=** 76.9-73, **C-=** 72.9-70, **D+=**69.9-67, **D=**66.9-60, **F=** Below 60

Brightspace Help and Online Learning: Brightspace is our online course platform. If you need help with Brightspace, contact the URI Information Technology Services (ITS) at 401-874-4357 or visit <https://its.uri.edu/> Also, helpful information and training for Brightspace are available at <https://its.uri.edu/services/94530c3f5458461a0009654227972125b3e8f9abd6/>.

Computer, Software and the Internet: You will need a reliable desktop or laptop computer and a reliable internet connection to take this online course. You need to develop a back-up plan for maintaining access to the internet in case of a computer and/or internet problem. **Please keep in mind that computer and internet problems are not considered in this course as legitimate excuses for your lack of participation and/or not completing the three exams on time.** For software, you need to have free Adobe Reader, which you can download at www.adobe.com to access the lectures in PDF format on Brightspace.

Disability, Access, and Inclusion Services for Students: Your access in this online course is important. Please send me your Disability, Access, and Inclusion (DAI) accommodation letter at the beginning of the J-Term so that appropriate accommodations may be made for the exams. DAI can be reached by calling 401-874-2098, visiting <https://web.uri.edu/disability>, or emailing: dai@uri.edu.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student's name on any exam shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own independent thought and study.

Course Schedule:

Unit 1 [January 2 - 6]: Introduction to the Landscape Architecture Profession

- * Definitions of Landscape Architecture Profession
- * Landscape Architecture Profession: Application of Art, Sciences and Technology
- * Types of Landscapes: Urban, Suburban and Rural
- * Types of Landscape Architecture Projects
- * Organization and Types of Practices or Jobs
- * Related Professions: Architecture, Planning, Engineering, Plant Sciences, Natural Resources Science and Art

- * Brightspace: Read Lecture "Introduction"
- * Brightspace: View Images "Units 1 and 2"

Unit 2 [January 2 - 6]: Landform

- * Significance
- * Expression of Landform: Alternative Graphic and Mathematical Methods
- * Landform Types
- * Functional Uses of Landform
- * Landform Modifications

- * Read Textbook Chapter 1
- * Brightspace: Read Lecture "Landform"
- * Brightspace: View Images "Units 1 and 2"

- * **Exam 1 will be available on Brightspace from Thursday, January 2 at 8:00 AM until Monday, January 6 at 11:30 PM. Exam 1 covers Units 1 and 2.**

Unit 3 [January 7 - 12]: Plant Materials

- * Functional Uses of Plant Materials
- * Architectural Uses of Plant Materials
- * Visual Characteristics of Plant Materials
- * Planting Design Process and Principles

- * Read Textbook Chapter 2
- * Brightspace: Read Lecture "Plant Materials"
- * Brightspace: View Images "Unit 3"

Unit 4 [January 7 - 12]: Buildings

- * Building Clusters and Spatial Definition
- * Building Clusters and Types of Outdoor Spaces
- * Design Guidelines for Building Clusters
- * Siting Individual Buildings
- * Relating Buildings to a Site
- * Green Roofs and their Benefits
- * Read Textbook Chapter 3
- * Brightspace: Read Lecture "Buildings"
- * Brightspace: View Images "Unit 4"

Unit 5 [January 7 - 12]: Pavement

- * Characteristics of Pavement
- * Functional and Compositional Uses of Pavement
- * Design Guidelines for Pavement
- * Basic Pavement Materials

Loose Pavement (Gravel)

Unit Pavers (Brick, Stone and Tile)

Adhesive Pavement (Concrete and Asphalt)

- * Read Textbook Chapter 4
- * Brightspace: Read Lecture "Pavement"
- * Brightspace: View Images "Unit 5"

*** Exam 2 will be available on Brightspace from Tuesday, January 7 at 8:00 AM until Sunday, January 12 at 11:30 PM. Exam 2 covers Units 3, 4 and 5.**

Unit 6 [January 13 - 17]: Site Structures

- * Steps
- * Ramps
- * Walls and Fences

- * Retaining Walls
- * Seating

- * Read Textbook Chapter 5
- * Brightspace: Read Lecture "Site Structures"
- * Brightspace: View Images "Unit 6"

Unit 7 [January 13 - 17]: Water

- * General Characteristics of Water: Form, Motion, Sound and Reflectivity
- * General Uses of Water: Consumption, Irrigation, Climate & Sound Control and Recreation
- * Visual Uses of Water: Static Water, Flowing Water, Falling Water and Fountain Jets

- * Read Textbook Chapter 6
- * Brightspace: Read Lecture "Water"
- * Brightspace: View Images "Unit 7"

Unit 8 [January 13 - 17]: The Design Process

- * Project Acceptance
- * Research and Analysis [including Site Analysis]
- * Design

Functional Diagrams

Site Related Functional Diagrams

Concept Plan

Preliminary Master Plan

Final Master Plan

- * Government Approval
- * Construction Drawings
- * Implementation/Construction
- * Post-Construction Evaluation
- * Maintenance

- * Read Textbook Chapter 7
- * Brightspace: Read Lecture "The Design Process"
- * Brightspace: View Images "Unit 8"

*** Exam 3 will be available on Brightspace from Monday, January 13 at 8:00 AM until Friday, January 17 at 11:30 PM [Last Day of Class]. Exam 3 covers Units 6, 7 and 8.**