



# Course Syllabus

**University of Rhode Island**  
**Department of Landscape Architecture**

**LAR 201: Survey of Landscape Architecture**  
**Summer 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 four online quizzes and an online assignment.

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 quiz 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 four quizzes and one assignment. Quizzes are not cumulative. You will complete the quizzes and the assignment online. Each quiz has 30 questions and is worth a total of 30 points. Quizzes will include multiple-choice, true/false and matching questions. For each quiz, 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 quiz only once and have 60 minutes (one hour) to complete it. Each quiz 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 quiz will be posted in the "**Grades**" tool in the top navigation bar on Brightspace.

- **Quiz 1 covers Units 1 and 2 of the course.** [The quiz will be available on Brightspace from Monday, May 19 at 8:00 AM until Tuesday, May 27 at 11:30 PM.](#)
- **Quiz 2 covers Units 3 and 4 of the course.** [The quiz will be available on Brightspace from Wednesday, May 28 at 8:00 AM until Wednesday, June 4 at 11:30 PM.](#)
- **Quiz 3 covers Units 5 and 6 of the course.** [The quiz will be available on Brightspace from Thursday, June 5 at 8:00 AM until Thursday, June 12 at 11:30 PM.](#)
- **Quiz 4 covers Units 7 and 8 of the course.** [The quiz will be available on Brightspace from Friday, June 13 at 8:00 AM until Friday, June 20 at 11:30 PM.](#)

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

The assignment provides an opportunity to comment on the physical and functional characteristics of the University of Rhode Island Quad in Kingston Campus using the information learned from the online course. The Quad has played a key role in the

historical evolution of the URI Campus in Kingston, RI. Located in the core of the Campus, the Quad is the central open space of the campus and serves many different functions. Based on your past and current observations of the Quad, you are asked to respond to the following three questions:

1. List the positive physical and functional characteristics of the URI Quad [35 points].
2. List any problems associated with the Quad in regard to its physical and functional characteristics [35 points].
3. Recommend any changes to the URI Quad that would address the problems you listed earlier as well as help to improve its physical and functional characteristics in the future [30 points].

[Your response to the three questions should be typed double-spaced and be 3 to 4-page long.](#)

The description of the assignment is posted in "**Assignments**" tool on Brightspace course site. Using the "**Assignments**" tool on the top navigation bar on Brightspace, you are asked to upload your assignment as an attachment file in Microsoft Office Word or PDF format.

[The assignment is due on Friday, June 20 at 11:30 PM.](#) You may submit the assignment any time before its due date. Assignment grades will be posted in the "**Grades**" tool on Brightspace.

**COURSE GRADING:** The final grade for the course is based on: Quiz 1 [20%], Quiz 2 [20%], Quiz 3 [20%], Quiz 4 [20%] and Assignment [20%]. 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, call URI Information Technology Services

at 401-874-4357 or visit <https://its.uri.edu/>. For more information about Brightspace visit: <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 four quizzes and the assignment on time.** For software, you need to have free Adobe Reader, which you can download at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) to access the lectures in PDF format on Brightspace and Microsoft Office Word to complete your assignment and submit it online in Word or PDF format. Office 365 is provided by ITS to URI students free of charge for install. To get the Office software, which includes Word, visit <https://its.uri.edu/student-key-services/>.

**DISABILITY, ACCESS, AND INCLUSION STATEMENT:** Please send me your Disability, Access and Inclusion (DAI) accommodation letter at the beginning of the summer session so that we have adequate time to arrange your approved academic accommodations. If you have not yet established services through (DAI), please contact them to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting accommodations in the online course. DAI can be reached by calling: 401-874-7400, emailing [dai@uri.edu](mailto:dai@uri.edu), or visiting <https://web.uri.edu/disability/>.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student's name on any written work, quiz or exam shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own independent thought and study. Work should be stated in the student's own words, properly attributed to its source. Students have an obligation to know how to quote, paraphrase, summarize, cite and reference the work of others with integrity.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

### ***Unit 1 [May 19 - 22]: 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 [May 23 - 27]: 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"
- \* **Quiz 1 will be available on Brightspace from Monday, May 19 at 8:00 AM until Tuesday, May 27 at 11:30 PM. Quiz 1 covers Units 1 and 2.**

## ***Unit 3 [May 28 - 31]: 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 [June 1 - 4]: 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"

***\* Quiz 2 will be available on Brightspace from Wednesday, May 28 at 8:00 AM until Wednesday, June 4 at 11:30 PM. Quiz 2 covers Units 3 and 4.***

### ***Unit 5 [June 5 - 8]: 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"

### ***Unit 6 [June 9 - 12]: Site Structures***

- \* Steps
- \* Ramps
- \* Walls and Fences
- \* Retaining Walls
- \* Seating
- \* Read Textbook Chapter 5
- \* Brightspace: Read Lecture "Site Structures"
- \* Brightspace: View Images "Unit 6"

***\* Quiz 3 will be available on Brightspace from Thursday, June 5 at 8:00 AM until Thursday, June 12 at 11:30 PM. Quiz 2 covers Units 5 and 6.***

### ***Unit 7 [June 13 - 16]: 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 [June 17 - 20]: 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"

**\* Quiz 4 will be available on Brightspace from Friday, June 13 at 8:00 AM until Friday, June 20 at 11:30 PM [Last Day of Class]. Quiz 4 covers Units 7 and 8.**

**\* Assignment due on Friday, June 20 at 11:30 PM [Last Day of Class]**