

UNIVERSITY *of* GUELPH

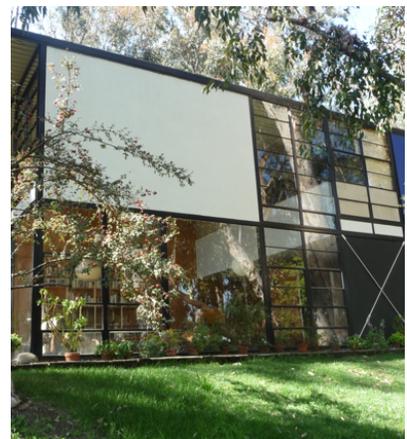
**USA Field School:
Landscape and Art/Design Influences in Los Angeles & Las Vegas**

**Summer 2024
May 6 – May 20, 2024**

Section(s): C01

School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Version 1.00 – September 15, 2023



1 Course Details

Restrictions:

Students from all disciplines are eligible and encouraged to apply through the Centre for International Programs (CIP)

1.1 Course Description

This two-week field school explores key sites within Los Angeles and Las Vegas associated with landscape architecture and land art, and introduces initiatives engaged with creative research and design throughout this region that are focused on the role of place in community development as well as cultural and environmental sustainability. Taking a close look at the theory and practice of landscape, students will be encouraged to conduct their own field-based research project as part of this summer's field school as we investigate the transformative spectacle and innovation of Las Vegas and the

modernist landscape design of Palm Springs, seminal earthworks like Robert Smithson's Spiral Jetty and Michael Heizer's Double Negative, creative desert test sites of Joshua Tree and the midcentury modern Case Study houses of Los Angeles, landmark plazas and parks of DTLA as well as iconic public art projects and landscapes throughout Los Angeles.

This course is based on experiential learning, with students immersed in the visual and built environment of key sites related to landscape art and architecture, supported by site visits, tours, as well as face-to-face encounters with researchers, artists, and cultural figures on a daily basis. Within the context of each area, students are encouraged to observe, analyze and compare, undertaking primary research in order to understand how distinct geographical circumstances and histories shaped the development of sites and, in turn, fundamentally informed landscapes – as well as creative engagement with these landscapes. Addressing the significance of art and architecture in relation to particular eras and places as well as cultural values and practices, we will consider issues of environmental sustainability, urbanism, community engagement, modernity, Indigenous sovereignty and rights, and spatial and social justice. Experiential learning will tie interdisciplinary concepts and theories drawn from history, art, art history, geography, design, urban planning and rural development, and environmental studies to real world settings.

This course is open to interdisciplinary students. The travel portion of the course will take place May 6 – 20, 2024. Those days will consist of visits to sites as well as encounters with artists, researchers, cultural leaders, museums and independent cultural organizations. Students will spend time doing site visits, observation, analysis and research on their own as well to inform their final projects. Prior to departure, during the first week of May there will be three 2-hour classes intended to familiarize students with ideas and issues related to landscape architecture, art and environment. A reading list will be provided in advance.

1.3 Timetable

This class is scheduled to meet for three 2-hour sessions in advance of the field school May 6 –20, 2024.

1.4 Final Exam

There is no final exam for this course.

2 Instructional Support

Dr. Shauna McCabe, Ph. D
Adjunct Professor
Email: shaunam@uoguelph.ca
Office: Art Gallery of Guelph
Fall 2023 Office Hours:
12 - 1 pm Tuesdays or by appointment

2.2 Email Communications

While email is the most effective and easiest access medium in communicating questions, please also use the time provided during our course meetings to ask me any questions you might have about the course or the program.

Please allow up to 48 hours for responses to email, and realize that if the question regards the entire class, a reply or an announcement on the CourseLink site addressing the topic may occur. This technique is efficient and not meant to be a critique or lessening of a particular question. Check this outline for specific questions regarding project deadlines, assignment values, and other critical information before emailing.

2.3 Grading and Feedback

Grades and comments will be posted shortly after we return from the field school.

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Readings in the form of PDFs will be provided via CourseLink. Please be sure to check to ensure that you are aware of these additional materials and the schedule for these readings

4 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Recognize and Identify cultural, historic and critical works of landscape art and architecture, including the artist/designer and significance of the work
2. Engage in thoughtful discussion regarding the development and implementation of various works of landscape art/architecture and the specific application of theory underlying those works
3. Critically reflect on the value systems deployed and explored through a wide variety of landscapes, taking into account alternative ways of understanding these historic and culturally significant works
4. Perform critical original research concerning a self-selected work of landscape art/architecture/design, or explore a conceptual issue relevant to field school readings and conceptual concerns. This research will take the form of a well crafted essay or creative project that will be included in a field school research publication

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Seminars

Seminars in advance will typically include a presentation by the instructor of relevant materials and discussion of readings.

5.2 Tentative Schedule

SCHEDULE – TENTATIVE (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Week One: Las Vegas - accommodations (TBC)

Monday May 6 – Learning from Las Vegas: Decorated Sheds to the Sphere

- Research walk of the Las Vegas Strip - private vs public space, nature vs culture
- Visit viewing deck for aerial view
- Spectacle and space

Tuesday May 7 – Redrawing the Landscape

- assemblageSTUDIO | Eric Strain
- <https://www.reviewjournal.com/rj-magazine/desert-designs-architect-eric-strains-25-year-search-for-a-true-sense-of-place-2538233/>
- Artist studios – arts district

Wednesday May 8 – Institutional Landscapes

- Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art UNLV <https://www.unlv.edu/barrickmuseum>
 - Venetian Hotel
- <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2008/apr/13/art-museums-strip-why-only-one-survives/>
- <https://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/02/23/las-vegas-art-museum-to-close/>

Thursday May 9 – Great Salt Lake field trip – bus

- Robert Smithson's Spiral Jetty and Michael Heizer's Double Negative

Friday May 10 – Return to LV – bus

- Early resort culture + pier pavilions - Black Rock Beach and Saltair Pavilion (remnants from 1800s)
- Recreational landscape development

Saturday May 11 – Preserving Las Vegas

- Vintage Las Vegas
- Neon Museum <https://www.neonmuseum.org/>

Sunday May 12 – Bus to Joshua Tree and Palm Springs

Possible Joshua Tree stops:

- High Desert Test Sites

- Planar Pavilions at A-Z West
- Noah Purifoy's Outdoor Desert Art Museum
- Krblin Jihn Cabin (Eames Demetrios)

- **Check in - Palm Springs**

Week Two: Palm Springs + Los Angeles

Monday May 13 – on own

Tuesday May 14 – Palm Springs

- Architectural tour
- Landscape architecture tour
- Palm Springs Art Museum

Wednesday May 15 – Amtrak to Los Angeles

- Check in Millennium Biltmore

Thursday May 16 – Parks and Plazas DTLA

- Walking tour - Parks and Plazas DTLA
- MoCA/Institute of Contemporary Art
- Center for Land Use Interpretation – meeting with Director <http://www.clui.org/>

Friday May 17 – Cultural Ecologies

- Geological to cultural scapes: La Brea Tar Pits / LACMA / Motion Picture Museum
- Fowler Museum UCLA – meeting regarding Indigenous LA project

Saturday May 18 – Frank Lloyd Wright

- Walking tour – FLW architecture and landscape architecture

Sunday May 19 – Santa Monica + Pacific Palisades

- Santa Monica Pier
- Case study houses
- Wrap up dinner

Monday May 20 – departure

6 Assessments

* further details of assignments will be distributed in class

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

A detailed course outline, indicating topics, reading assignments and lecture content is available on CourseLink for your reference. This course also follows the established grade categorization for all undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Guelph.

This undergraduate scheme can be located here:

<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/grades/>

The graduate scheme can be found here:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-asgradesch.shtml>

6.2 Assessment Details

Participation – Overall participation in the seminar. Students are expected to participate actively in discussions and activities. Weighting: 10% of final mark

Quiz – Based on ideas and concepts discussed in classes. Weighting: 20% of final mark

Short video – due May 19 – Between 5-10 minutes long, these short videos involve digital storytelling using video and/or photo content that you capture over the course of the two weeks. This should be based on your own observations in the form of video (or a sequence of images produced in .mov or .mp4 format using PowerPoint, for example) gathered over the course of your own movement through the cities, inspired by and reflecting ideas explored in the class. **Students will present their preliminary content and concepts to the class on May 17.** Weighting: 30% of final mark

Final creative or written research project – due June 28 – This project should address one element of the landscapes and landscape histories encountered, or one aspect of the different artistic or design trajectories of sites visited. Researching and developing your analysis conceptually, informed by readings, ideas discussed and observations made through your own encounters with the sites. This can take creative form such as a film, audio and/or visual narrative with a written introduction, or a written essay with a visual or interactive component. Clear connections between the content and different readings and approaches is expected. (Weighting: 40% of the final mark)

7 Course Statements

7.1 Statement

Submission of all assignments, projects and presentations are required to complete this course. Course assignments are considered due at the start of the class session on the day indicated on the syllabus. Failure to submit any of the specified course projects indicated on the syllabus, regardless of the assignment's overall value, may result in failing the course. Late work will not be accepted for evaluation unless previous arrangements were made 24 hours before the deadline, citing a medical or personal emergency, or if approved, academic considerations were granted before the deadline in question.

Regular lecture attendance and participation are both expected. Failure to regularly attend lectures will harm your final grade. Missing more than three scheduled lectures and/or studios may result in the reduction of the final grade by one letter, (ie. a "B" would be recorded as a "C.") Failure to attend five or more lectures or studios may result in the failure of the course.

For more information regarding the policies and procedures related to grading academic work, please refer to the Graduate Grading Procedures. Please note that these policies are binding unless academic consideration is provided to an individual student.

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-asgradeint.shtml>

7.2 Educational Technologies

This course will use a variety of technologies including;

- CourseLink (the main interface that hosts the main course content, the place for submitting graded assignments, past lectures, your grades and progress along with other resources.)

To help ensure you have the best learning experience possible, please review the list of system and software requirements.

<https://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/system-and-software-requirements>

CourseLink System Requirements

You are responsible for ensuring that your computer system meets the necessary system requirements. Use the browser check tool to ensure your browser settings are compatible and up to date. (Results will be displayed in a new browser window).

<http://spaces.uoguelph.ca/ed/system-requirements/>
<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/d2l/systemCheck>

CourseLink

This course is being offered using CourseLink (powered by D2L's Brightspace), the University of Guelph's online learning management system (LMS). By using this service, you agree to comply with the University of Guelph's Access and Privacy Guidelines. Please visit the D2L website to review the Brightspace privacy statement and Brightspace Learning Environment web accessibility standards.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/web/privacy/> <https://www.d2l.com/legal/privacy/>
<https://www.d2l.com/accessibility/standards/>

Technical Support

If you need any assistance with the software tools or the CourseLink website, contact CourseLink Support. Email: courselink@uoguelph.ca Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 56939 Toll-Free (CAN/USA): 1-866-275-1478

Support Hours (Eastern Time):

Monday thru Friday: 8:30 am–8:30 pm Saturday: 10:00 am–4:00 pm Sunday: 12:00 pm–6:00 pm

7.3 Basic Computer Literacy Expectations

Technical Skills

As part of your learning experience, you are expected to use a variety of technologies for assignments, lectures, collaboration, design juries and meetings. To be successful in this course, you will need to have the following technical skills:

- Manage files and folders on your computer (e.g., save, name, copy, backup, rename, delete, and check properties);
- Install various software, security, and virus protection;
- Use office applications (e.g., Word, PowerPoint, Excel, or similar) to create documents;
- Be comfortable uploading and downloading saved files;
- Communicate using email (e.g., create, receive, reply, print, send, download, and open attachments);
- Navigate the CourseLink learning environment and use the essential tools, such as Dropbox, Quizzes, Discussions, and Grades (the instructions for this are given in your course);
- Access, navigate, and search the Internet using a web browser (e.g., Firefox, Internet Explorer); and
- Perform online research using various search engines (e.g., Google) and library databases.

The above are considered basic computer literacy, and I would be stunned if you needed additional training. However, if that is the case, please use your favourite search engine to investigate the skills that you need to improve. I would recommend both google.com and youtube.com and their respective search commands to increase your own working knowledge of necessary computer skills.

7.4 Practice Proper Netiquette

The course link site and our Zoom meetings are considered to be extensions of the classroom. The same protections, expectations, guidelines, and regulations used in face-to-face settings apply online as they would in person. Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate online behaviour include:

- Posting inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students;
- Using offensive language;
- Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own;
- Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references;
- Buying or selling term papers or assignments;
- Posting or selling provided course materials to course notes websites;
- Having someone else complete your quiz or completing a quiz for/with another student;
- Stating false claims about lost quiz answers or other assignment submissions;
- Threatening or harassing a student or instructor;
- Discriminating against fellow students, instructors, and/or TAs;
- Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services;
- Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system;
- Sharing your username and password to your Central ID.
- Sharing confidential information regarding Zoom meeting links, and their passwords, to people outside of the course.

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

8.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-regregchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

8.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website <https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website <https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

8.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer.

Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars <https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

8.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

8.10 Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

8.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-yoursafe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.