

Drawing the Landscape

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LA 410/510

MW 10-11:50 am

Lawrence 222

and out in the landscape



Greg Betza, 2010

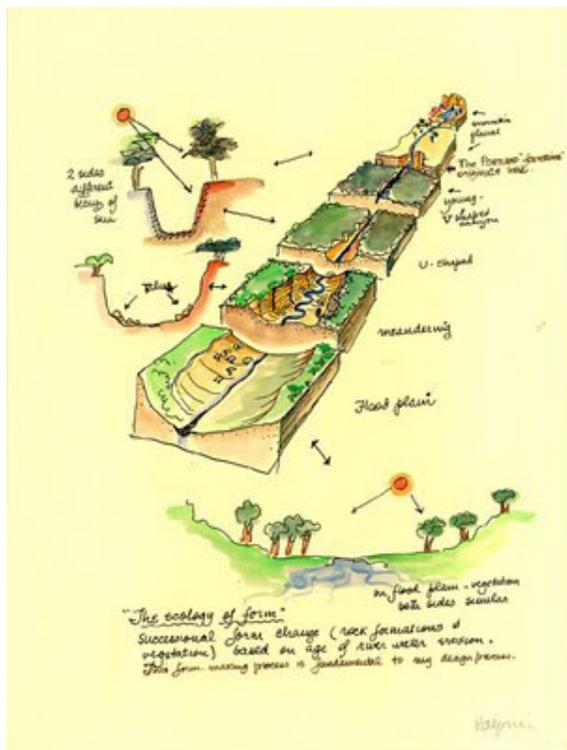
Description:

This course explores the diverse ways we use drawing to represent the landscape. Our local landscapes will serve as the classroom for drawing and creative looking. These landscapes will include natural, preserved, urban, and human influenced. Our subject matter will range from dynamic native habitats, to contemporary and historic urban spaces, to human events in place.

Each drawing topic will be joined by a larger discussion about the natural and social systems that produce the functionality and appearance of the places we will visit. These topics will range from native plant species and stream systems to urban patterns and socioeconomic impacts on place making.

Techniques presented include field drawing, reportage, visual note taking, transects, mapping, automatic drawing and non-representational imaginative drawing. An ongoing outside of class assignment will allow each student to focus on a unique topic of interest within this larger subject matter.

This course is appropriate for many skill levels: students new to drawing who enjoy exploring real places are welcome; students with drawing experience will be given new challenges in working "in the field" (instead of in a static and controlled studio environment).



Lawrence Halprin

This course is suitable for students in Art, the sciences, ecology, planning, landscape architecture, architecture and basically anyone who is up for the unique challenge of learning outdoors in dynamic places.

Class structure:

Most classes will meet in the field at one of the many diverse natural and/or urban systems in the Eugene/Springfield area. Class time will consist of a tour and lecture about that day's site, drawing lessons and one-on-one discussion and critique with the instructor. All levels of drawing ability are welcome in

the course.

Logistics in regards to the field trips will be coordinated during the first week of the course.

Drawing from a diverse set of methodology from the arts, ecology and landscape architecture, lectures and discussions will allow students to experiment and learn how to document landscape places. Techniques in observational drawing will be combined with the use of diagramming, plan drawing, section drawing, note taking and measurement, giving students a set of drawing types that will allow them to more completely tell the story about a landscape place and its history.

Logistics and Requirements

Out in the field:

Most class days the course will meet out in the field.

The location and schedule for visits will be determined by how far we can go based on students' schedules. Most locations are easily accessible by bike, foot or bus.

Students will fill out a form on the first day of class stating their Monday Wednesday class and work schedule. I will determine where we can go based on that information and hand out a location schedule on Wednesday.

Students will also fill out an activity waver form.

Trips:

There will be one trip outside of class time. This will be determined after students fill out the schedule.

Tools:

Students are welcome to use various drawing tools throughout the term. You are welcome to experiment with different media.

I will provide a basic list of tools. For some classes ask you to bring very specific tools to class because of the lessons for that day.

Sketch books should be easily carried in the field and should accept wet media. I do **not** recommend a sketchbook larger than 8.5x11.

Assignments and lessons:

There will be four guided assignments throughout the class. Three application of methodology assignments and one term long assignment determined by each student. Sketchbooks will be collected three times during the term and graded.

Daily lessons will be given in class. Lessons not completed during class time need to be completed outside of class.

Grading:

50% Sketchbooks, daily lessons, attendance, preparedness

25% Assignments 1, 2, 3

25% Term long ongoing student determined assignment

Grades will be determined based on completeness of work, effort and engagement in the process.

Books:

Required:

These are all available in the bookstore:

One Drawing A Day: A 6-Week Course Exploring Creativity with Illustration and Mixed Media, by Veronica Lawlor

The Art of Urban Sketching: Drawing On Location Around The World
by Gabriel Campanario

Keeping a Nature Journal: Discover a Whole New Way of Seeing the World Around You by Clare Walker Leslie

Calendar:

Drawing is an organic, often non-linear learning experience. With that in mind I reserve the right to change the schedule as needed to accommodate any shifts or opportunities that occur during the term. This is for the benefit of making the most out of the time we have together.

Accommodation for Differently Abled persons:

Please let me know if you need special accommodation for a documented physical or learning "disability". I think of it not as a "dis" but a different and will do everything I can to accommodate your needs. I can also point you towards helpful University resources.