

Master's Project Clinic Spring 2014
Department of Landscape Architecture
LA 699
6 credits
M/W/F 1:00-3:00

University of Oregon
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Prerequisites: LA699 Masters project clinic (winter term) incomplete grade

a) Course Description:

The Master's Project Clinic is a forum created to facilitate the timely completion of your master's project, by having you work on your research within the schedule and structure of a studio. The Spring term of the clinic concludes the two-term sequence. During Winter term you have:

- laid out the foundations for your research;
- situated your project within its theoretical, social, and intellectual context;
- collected data;
- begun to analyze and synthesize the findings.

In the case of design projects, you have:

- situated your design inquiry in its theoretical and practical (precedents) context;
- developed an understanding of your site;
- begun to synthesize your findings through design

During spring term, you will complete your work by drawing conclusions based on your findings (or a final design proposal for those with a design-oriented thesis) and communicating them to the department, and the larger landscape architecture community (how this community is defined, and who is the key audience you are addressing, should also be clear by now).

b) Spring term clinic goals/steps:

1. Situate
Final contextualizing your project, if needed
2. Study
Complete data collection, if needed
3. Analyze and synthesize
Analyze the data collected, synthesize and critique it to generate new insight into the inquiry.
Provide findings and conclusions that offer new insights that is applicable in some transferable way to a broader audience

Like the previous term, the Spring clinic will function similarly to a design office, where landscape architects often work independently on a project, but with moments where each person shares with the office his or her progress and outcomes. This format allows students to work independently, with the added benefit of a discrete timeframe. Moreover, because students are part of a larger group, they can learn from colleagues interested in similar work, working on closely related topics, or using similar methods.

c) Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide a structured setting for students to complete their Master's Projects. Students will perform rigorous original research, contributing to the body of knowledge in the field of landscape architecture. To that end, students will manage the process of completing a research project, defining the inquiry and method of research, setting scope, schedule and products, and

extracting transferable lessons. And as students become experts and innovators in their areas of inquiry, they will also become peer educators and critics, helping to create a community of scholars.

By the end of the spring term of the Clinic, you will have achieved the following goals ***(parenthesis indicate their equivalent in the case of design projects):***

- Completed the analysis and discussion of the findings *(developed a comprehensive understanding of a project's challenges, opportunities, constraints);*
- Completed and finalized the literature review, research question definition, methodology, and data collection *(completed case studies, precedents studies, and collected and diagrammed all information needed for their design decision)*
- Learned how to communicate findings to both the classroom audience and the larger landscape architecture community *(communicated ideas/design solutions in a graphically appropriate and compelling way);*
- Assessed your work, identified potential areas of future investigation *(assessed the objectives the design has achieved and identified potential phases for future development)*
- Clearly understood and communicated relevance of your work *(presented your boards to the department throughout the term);*
- Tested the validity (internal and external), reliability, and transferability of the knowledge you have created;

NB: To successfully complete the class, each student will be asked to present his/her work (whether research or design based) through poster sessions. Each student must also present her/his final master's project in a public forum *scheduled for review week at the end of the spring term (dates tba)*, in front of their committee chair, master's project clinic instructors, faculty and students in the department. **The text below is a reminder of the various requirements you are responsible for in order to successfully graduate.**

Excerpt from the Master's Project departmental policy summarizing steps for successful completion of the Master's Project:

"To receive a satisfactory final grade in the Master's Project Clinic, each student must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must submit a draft copy of their project/design compendium for departmental review by the 'table date' as determined by the department. This date is typically two calendar weeks prior to the presentation date (end of week 8 of the Spring Clinic). Note that a complete draft of the Master's Project document is to be placed on the table in the Department office no later than two calendar weeks prior to your presentation. This 'table date' draft must include items a, c, e, f, g and i listed below. Failure to successfully meet this deadline will jeopardize the student's ability to graduate during the term they present their project.

The final version of the document will include:

- a. Cover page: Title, author, date and statement, "Submitted in partial fulfillment for the Master of Landscape Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon."
- b. Approval page: list committee members and include a place for the chair and (optional) other committee members to sign the document.
- c. Abstract of 150-350 words that includes a statement of the problem, describes methods or procedures and summarizes results.
- d. Acknowledgements and/or Dedication (optional)
- e. Table of Contents (See *Style and Policy Manual for Theses and Dissertations*)
- f. Lists of tables, figures, etc.
- g. Text and images as required by the committee for all chapters

- h. Appendices (optional)
- i. Literature Cited or Bibliography

2. Students must present their projects to the department in a public forum during Review Week at the end of Spring Term (the day will sometimes vary slightly due to the number of presentations).

3. Following the presentation, students must complete their documents, receive final committee approval, and submit the required number of final, printed copies for faculty/departmental approval. The deadline for submission to the department is 5 pm on the Friday of Exam Week during the Spring Term. The required number of documents is one (1) per each committee member, two (2) for the department, and one digital version on CD in PDF format. Please make certain that your name and project name are on the CD. Grades can only be submitted when all of the final documents are physically present in the department.**

** The exception to this is when the student chooses to use a web-based publisher such as 'lulu.com' or 'macbooks'. In this circumstance, the student must submit a single hard copy of the final version to the department by the Friday of Exam Week (black and white is fine, but it should be bound, not clipped). In addition to the hard copy, the student must also submit the following to the Department Office Coordinator by close of business that Friday as well:

1. A copy of the receipt showing that you have sent in and paid for the required number of copies of the Project;
2. A list of who will be receiving copies;
3. A CD with a PDF version of the final document.

Students should arrange to have their documents shipped directly to the department; if you are unable to pick up your own copy(ies) at the office once they arrive, please include with the above materials a self-addressed stamped envelope large enough to handle the number of copies you are getting for yourself. If you have a committee member who is not on campus, please also make arrangements to have their copy shipped to them as well if you are unable to deliver it personally.

d) Course Format:

The Master's Clinic meets MWF from 1:00-3:00pm. The typical schedule will be structured as follows:

Mon	Seminar: Topical reading, critique of project work, student-facilitated discussion and peer review
Wed	Group crits/peer review activities/presentations
Fri	Presentations/faculty crits/ additional feedback from fellow students/independent research

Monday's class follows a seminar format, with assigning a reading, presenting their project to-date, and facilitating a discussion. Students and are required to attend and participate in all weekly seminar sessions.

Wednesdays are devoted to progress feedback sessions. Students will provide drafts of their work to a small group of peers and the instructor, and will receive feedback and critique on their progress. Students will be assigned a weekly time for their feedback session, and will sign up for bi-weekly submissions of draft versions of their work.

Fridays are devoted to independent research, or to additional feedback from the instructor or guests. Presentations may be scheduled on either Fridays or Wednesdays, so it is imperative that you are present for all class meetings.

e) Required Texts (additional readings will be assigned week by week)

Ellen Deming & Simon Swaffield. Landscape Architecture Research.
William Strunk & E.B. White. The Elements of Style, 4th ed.,
John Zeisel, Inquiry by design.
I also recommend Anne Lamott’s Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life

Graphic Analysis and Presentation of Data

Jason Lankow et al. Infographics: The Power of Visual Storytelling
Lee Lefever. The Art of Explanation.
Edward Tufte. The Visual Display of Quantitative Information; Envisioning Information; Visual Explanations: Images and Quantities, Evidence and Narrative, Beautiful Evidence
Dana M. Wong. The Wall Street Journal Guide to Information Graphics
Nathan Yau. Visualize This.

f) Assignments, Evaluation and Grading Policy:

The clinic sequence and the assignments you will work on during the term are designed to help you complete original research that is critically situated within the field of landscape architecture, and that extracts transferable lessons for other practitioners or scholars. In-class presentations of students’ posters, Monday seminars, peer feedback, critiques, and individual assignments are all critical steps towards the successful completion of master’s project.

In winter term, you have been assigned a grade of Incomplete or Fail, where Incomplete indicates acceptable progress towards completion. Upon completion in the spring, you will earn a letter grade for your complete master’s project, and the final grade will be assigned to both terms of Master’s Project Clinic after the entire faculty has been notified.

Grading uses the following standards:

A – Excellence: exceeds expectations: extraordinary work reflective of genuine investment, discovery, and critical thinking
B – Competence: meets expectations: success in idea, exploration, expression; good work reflective of sincere effort and basic comprehension
C – Satisfactory: meets most expectations: meets minimum requirements only; poor organization, weak technical focus, lack of critical thinking
D – Inferior: notably lacking completion: failure to engage some minimum requirements
F – Negligent: major failure to meet deadlines and basic requirements; extraordinary lack of discipline or focus; clear evidence of plagiarism, cheating

Since graduate students are expected to perform at a level of B or above, Master’s Project Clinic work deemed to be C or below will be grounds for an F in the course, and the student will be asked to complete the Master’s Project the following winter and spring.

g) Masters project committee:

During the clinic, students will work with the clinic instructor, who will serve as a second committee member. The committee chair will continue to serve as the main point of contact and will be involved in the process and at every key point, such as midterms and final presentations.

The Master’s Project committee chair has primary responsibility for tracking the progress of the student and making final a recommendation to the Department Head as to the completion of the project. Master’s Project Clinic instructors will provide verbal and written assessments of student progress to the committee chair at the end of winter and spring terms. In the event that the committee does not agree

whether the final document satisfies the criteria for a successfully completed master's project or thesis, the committee will provide a written explanation of the points of disagreement to the faculty as part of their recommendation, and the ultimate decision will rest with the Department Chair.

h) Course schedule

Week 1:

M 3/31 Course introduction and schedule

Assigned: A workflow diagram summarizing your timeline for completion of the project (due at the following W and F presentations)

Assigned: Draft table of data analysis / findings (due at the following W and F presentations)

Due: **Sign up for W or F presentation**

W 4/2 Presentation Group 1 (where am I? Workflow diagram/timeline)

F 4/4 Presentation Group 2 (where am I? Workflow diagram/timeline)

Presentations Format: Students present their projects through 6-slide presentation for a 6-minute review sessions with their peers and instructor.

Due: **Draft table of data analysis/findings**

Due: **Workflow diagram**

Due: **Sign up for weekly feedback session, poster sessions, and chapter review schedule**

Week 2:

M 4/7 Seminar session 1: Graphic presentation of data (peer data crit)

W 4/9 Group crits/peer review activities

F 4/11 Individual work, research, or faculty feedback

Due: **Draft of diagrams, charts**

Week 3-4:

M 4/14 Seminar session 2: Project status (peer poster crit)

W 4/16 Group crits/peer review activities

F 4/18 Individual work, research, or faculty feedback

Due: **Poster draft**

Due: **Group 1: Draft of the master's project up to findings/data analysis**

M 4/21 Seminar session 3: Writing (peer abstract crit)

W 4/23 Group crits/ peer review activities

F 4/25 Individual work, research, or faculty feedback

Due: **Group 2: Draft of the master's project up to findings/data analysis**

Week 5-6:

M 4/28 Seminar session 4: Graphic presentation of data (peer data crit)

W 4/30 Independent work

F 5/2 Poster sessions (**see below**)

Due: **Draft of diagrams, charts**

Due: **10-minute poster presentation of the complete design /research project (including all of the data produced so far and discussion of findings/preliminary conclusions)**

Due: **Group 1: Draft of findings, data analysis, significance**

M 5/5 Seminar session 5: Writing (abstract crit)

W 5/7 Group crits/ peer review activities

F 5/9 Individual work or faculty feedback

Due: Abstract

Due: Group 2: Draft of findings, data analysis, significance

Week 7-8:

M 5/12 Seminar session 6: Presentations 1

W 5/14 Group crits/peer review activities

F 5/16 Individual work or faculty feedback

Due: Outline Powerpoint slides

M 5/19 Table Day

Due: Final Draft of your Master's project due on table day (see page 2 of this syllabus)

W 5/21 Seminar session: Presentations 2

F 5/23 Draft presentation reviews; final poster crits

Week 9:

M 5/26 Memorial Day: No class

W 5/28 Draft presentation reviews; final poster crits

F 5/30 Draft presentation reviews; final poster crits

Week 10: Review Week

M 6/2 Master's project presentations

All posters pinned up by 8:30 am

T 6/3 Master's project presentations

F 6/13 Master's project documents (or receipt for printing of the same) due in LA office

N.B.

The deadline for submission of Masters Project Thesis to the department is 5 pm on the Friday of Exam Week during the Spring Term. The required number of documents is one (1) per each committee member, two (2) for the department, and one digital version on CD in PDF format. Please make certain that your name and project name are on the CD. Grades can only be submitted when all of the final documents are physically present in the department.**

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i) Rules of engagement

Role of the students:

Students are bound by this syllabus and by the workflow diagram they will have submitted at the beginning of the Spring term. Students should promptly consult with primary and secondary advisor (clinic instructor) in case issues emerge that may not allow them to complete their work. Students are expected to participate in all stages and moments of the clinic. No exclusions.