

ANALYZING LANDSCAPE SYSTEMS

Landscape Architecture 4/513 Winter 2017

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:50 in Lawrence 231 Wednesday Labs 2:00-6:00 in Lawrence M283
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This class is about understanding landscape functions to produce different ecosystem and social services. The aim is to gain knowledge and skills in assessing these functions and prescribing actions that can maintain, enhance or minimize damage to these services.

Teams of two students will produce reports for this year's U.O. Sustainable Cities client: Albany, Oregon. Graduate, architecture or CRP students will lead teams investigating how the Willamette River waterfront there can become more of a public environmental and recreational resource. Other teams will assess study areas around the edge of Albany as to whether and how they might become urban reserves to be developed in the future.

Students from all majors except landscape architecture are welcome. A basic physical geography course, or other basic natural science class is recommended prior to enrolling. You do not have to be able to draw. Labs will assist with digital graphics.

The analysis of landscapes is important in land use planning, geography, architecture, landscape architecture, real estate development, environmental advocacy, and land management. It integrates physical, biological, social, legal, cultural, aesthetic and economic considerations in sustaining the quality of and services from landscapes.

The class aims to familiarize students with basic landscape sciences and information to understanding how places came to be as they are, how they function, and how they ought best evolve. This class will introduce the collection, understanding, and evaluation of information about geology, geomorphology, soils, microclimate, ecology, hydrology, geology, aesthetics, zoning, land use, and decision synthesis.

Graded Tasks:

Each student will produce annotated maps of a study area for particular land attributes. They will make suitability recommendations for each map. Teams will produce draft maps and recommendations for presentation in labs and critique by the instructors. These will be corrected and synthesized into a final report due at the end of the term. There will be no final exam. The topics covered in class and readings will be the subject of a series of on-line quizzes though the term. Teams led by graduate, architecture or CRP students will have more challenging lab assignments and will produce professional quality reports for delivery to Albany.

Learning Objectives that will be the Basis For Grading:

- accurately read and produce maps locating natural resource information in relation to topography;
- understand and correctly interpret mapped and other data that informs land use and design decisions;
- apply geologic and hydrologic information to understanding floods, water quality and water supplies;
- apply micro-climate attributes to landscape places as they effect energy consumption and production;
- know how soil attributes effect land decisions and why different soils occur in types of land areas;
- understand how plant communities evolve and can be identified effecting habitat & biodiversity goals;
- estimate how landscape places and changes can effect the professional assessment of scenic impacts;
- analyze land use and regulations as they effect what can be legally done in different places and how;
- assess how anthropogenic landscape changes can better optimally produce watershed health.