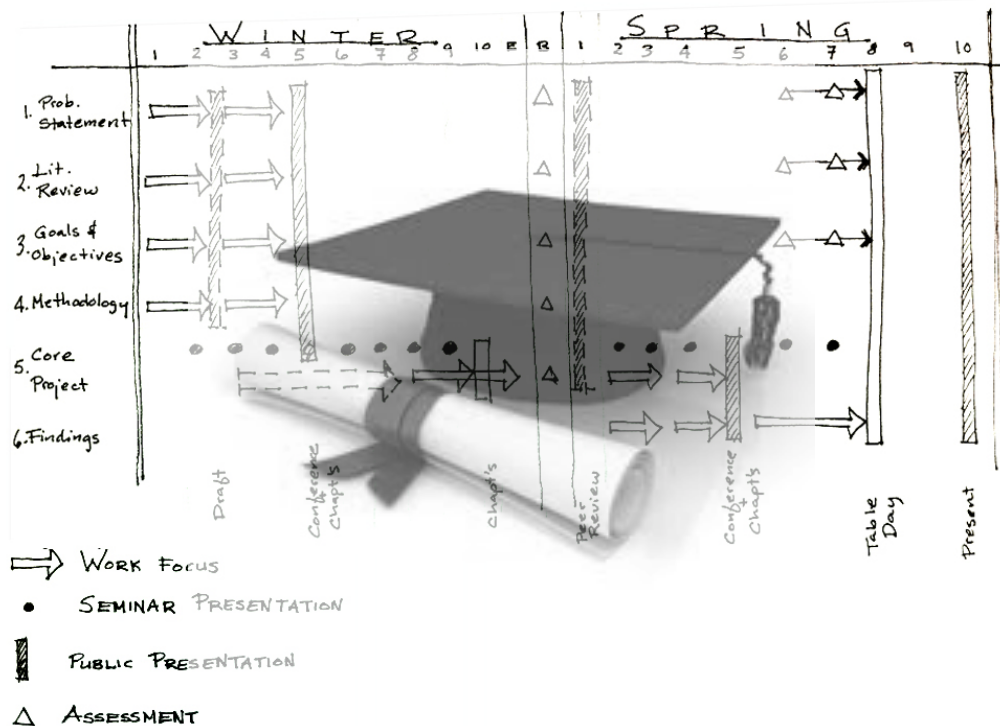


**Master's Project Clinic Winter 2015**  
**Department of Landscape Architecture**  
**LA 699**  
**2-10 credits**  
**M/W/F 1:00-3:00**

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Prerequisites: LA 620 / LA 621 / LA 695, and a signed master's project proposal



### Course Description:

The Master's Project Clinic is the two-term culmination of a five term research sequence. The Clinics provide a setting and structure to support students in completing their master's project. Over the Winter and Spring terms, the Clinics require students to complete the following components of a successful master's project, and receive Committee Chair approval of each:

- **Winter term clinic:**
  1. A **Baseline** statement that casts the project in terms of its motives and responses
  2. An **Introductory chapter** that includes a literature review, background on the state of the knowledge as it pertains to the project and clear goals and objectives for the project
  3. A **Poster** summarizing the entire project endeavor from motivating questions/purposes, to key questions, to methods, results and conclusions. This represents the students most complete effort to date to think their way through the complete project.
  4. A **draft Methods chapter**
- **Spring term clinic:**
  5. A **final Methods chapter**
  6. A **final Results chapter**
  7. A **complete Master's Project document** and **illustrated public presentation** summarizing the project and its findings.

### Clinic objectives

The clinic functions as a workplace, where landscape architects work on projects independently, but with many opportunities for feedback with other professionals. Responsibility for guiding each student through this experience is first and foremost with the student's Master's Project Committee Chair, and secondarily with the Clinic instructor.

The two-term LA699 Master's Project Clinic courses culminate the LA620, 621, 601 research sequence by providing a structured setting for students to complete their Master's Projects. Students will perform original research that contributes new knowledge to the field of landscape architecture. The process of completing a Master's Project begins with the definition of the inquiry and methods of research in the Master's Project Prospectus, setting the project's scope, schedule and products through the Master's Project Proposal, and concludes with a series of transferable lessons documented in a written/illustrated manuscript and a slide-illustrated public presentation.

To Pass the LA 699 Winter Clinic, by the end of the **winter term** of the Clinic, students will have:

RESEARCH	DESIGN AS INQUIRY
1. Completed a <b>Baseline</b> description of their Master's project - Problem 1	<i>Identified a site, project goals, and completed a thorough documentation of analysis of existing conditions, challenges and opportunities, to be approved by Committee Chair</i>
2. Completed and received Committee Chair approval of the <b>Introduction chapter</b> (containing background, significance, literature review and process diagram of their Master's Project document) – Problem 2	<i>Developed a schematic design solution or sets of alternative design solutions and document them in forms that can, through evidence to be provided by the student, be shown to meet the stated project goals approved by Committee Chair</i>
3. Completed and presented and received Committee Chair approval of a <b>Poster</b> summarizing the entire Project and it's process of completion – Problem 2	<i>Identified a specific dimension of the project— e.g. its design process, implementation, technology or evaluation -- which will be further investigated and documented during Spring term Clinic, to be approved by Committee Chair</i>
4. Substantially progressed in the execution of their Master Project research and in the write-up of a Committee Chair-approved 1 <sup>st</sup> draft <b>Methodology chapter</b> of their Master's Project document – Problem 3	<i>Successfully presented their boards to the Committee Chair on multiple occasions throughout the term. The mid-term poster will be reviewed and approved by Committee Chair</i>

**Course Format:**

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

<b>Mon</b>	<p><b>Seminar: Instructor/Students select reading; link readings to “core project” work, and facilitate discussion</b></p> <p>Monday's classes will follow a seminar format, with assigned readings and discussion, followed by independent work time for students, to be conducted in the Clinic environment except with Instructor's permission. Students are required to attend and participate in all class sessions. Any missed sessions for non-class related reasons (barring emergencies and illness) will jeopardize student's graduation in Spring.</p>
<b>Wed</b>	<p><b>Instructor/Committee Chair desk crit progress sessions</b></p> <p>Wednesdays will be devoted to progress feedback, brainstorming common issues, and/or instructor/Committee Chair reviews. Each student will typically receive such a desk crit every other week. These will, on occasion, be organized thematically/by advisor so that there can be some sharing. Students will sign up for rotating critique of drafts of their work and will be responsible for coordinating and scheduling Committee Chair attendance to at least one joint instructor/committee chair desk crits.</p>
<b>Fri</b>	<p><b>Independent research</b></p> <p>Fridays will be dedicated to independent research, or to additional feedback from the instructor or guests.</p>

**Required Texts**

Landscape Architecture Research: Inquiry, Strategy, Design, by Elen Deming and Simon Swaffield  
 The Craft of Research, 2nd ed. by Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams

**Optional Texts**

Rules for Writers, 5th or 6th ed. by Diana Hacker  
 Practical Research: Planning and Design, 7th or 8th ed. by Paul D. Leedy  
 Inquiry by Design, revised ed., by John Zeisel  
 The Shape of Reason : Argumentative Writing in College, 4th ed. by John T. Gage  
 Berg, B. Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences. Boston: Allyn and Bacon  
 Flyvbjerg, Bent. Making Social Science Matter: Why Social Inquiry Fails and How It Can Succeed Again. New York: Cambridge University Press

**Assignments, Evaluation and Grading Policy:**

Assignments are designed to help you complete, in two terms, original research that is critically situated within the field of landscape architecture, and that articulates transferable lessons for other practitioners or scholars. In-class presentations and discussion, peer feedback and critique, and individual assignments are elements along the way to a final master's project.