



Spring 2017 | T 2:00-3:50 pm (Eng & Phil 107) | Credits: 2

Department of Landscape Architecture

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Texas Tech University

Instructor: Sohyun Park, Ph.D.

Office: Plant & Soil Sciences 162

Email: sohyun.park@ttu.edu

806-834-1710 (office) / 806-781-2304 (cell)

Office hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers the opportunity for students to prepare for their thesis project content, select the thesis committee, and develop the outline of thesis chapters.

REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites include successful completion of LARC 6301 - Research Methods

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The general goal of this two-credit course is to provide an opportunity for each student to develop and present a proposal for their project/research thesis. Each student is expected to develop a clear and comprehensive proposal that describes the primary goals of his/her thesis, the needed background information, the selected methodology and the anticipated outcomes. Students are also encouraged to discuss the scope and content of the proposal with the course instructor, his/her committee chair and other graduate faculty. The specific objectives are:

1. To finalize an area of research interest.
2. To determine significant issues that are related to one's research topic.
3. To propose a structured and organized design research endeavor.
4. To define and communicate one's design research intentions, purposes, expectations and aspirations to others.
5. To attend to administrative aspects of initiating the thesis, including selecting a committee chair and two committee members and finalizing one's program of study.

By the end of this course, it is expected that each graduate student will be able to:

1. Define an area of specialization.
2. Select a thesis topic within the specialization.
3. Determine a suitable research approach.
4. Prepare and present successful research proposal.



COURSE FORMAT

- Discussion about thesis development progress
- Demonstration and practice of reference management software
- Discussion of selected readings, literature review, organization of the thesis
- Presentations of proposal writing assignments

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

- To develop an understanding of the key issues affecting the design research activities within the field of landscape architecture.
- To develop the project process as an intellectual and universal problem solving activity.
- To be able to list precedents and research found within the field of landscape architecture.
- To formulate the model of inquiry and critical thinking.

REFERENCES

No single book adequately covers all units addressed in this course. However, there are excellent references dealing with research methods and thesis preparation that complement the readings. Your primary sources should be Tech's main library.

A. Books:

1. Booth, W. C. Colomb, G. G. & Williams, J. W. 2008. *The Craft of Research* (3rd Edition). University Of Chicago Press
2. Groat, L. N. & Want, D. 2013. *Architectural Research Methods* (2nd Edition) Wiley.
3. Leedy, P. D. & Ormrod, H. E. 2012. *Practical Research: Planning and Design* (10th Edition). Macmillan Publishing Company.
4. Modern Language Association. 2009. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th Edition). Modern Language Association: New York.
5. Strunk, W. Jr. & White, E. B. 1999. *The Elements of Style* (4th Edition). Longman.
6. Turabian, K. L. 2013. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertation*, Chicago (8th Edition): University of Chicago Press
7. Zeisel, J. 2006. *Inquiry by Design*. W. W. Norton

B. Journals

1. Landscape and Urban Planning (Elsevier)
2. Environment and Behavior (Sage)
3. Landscape Research (Taylor & Francis)
4. Landscape Journal (University of Wisconsin Press)
5. Journal of Planning Education and Research (Sage)
6. Urban Design International (Springer)
7. Urban Ecosystems (Springer)
8. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Springer)



COURSE PRODUCTS

- Selecting a thesis topic
- Determining and meeting with an advisor and committee members
- Identifying all sources of data and information
- Determining a research method and/or design approach
- Anticipating thesis outcomes
- Organizing and writing a draft proposal
- Publishing and presenting preliminary findings

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

- Project/Research thesis topic
- Project site
- Relevance and depth of literature review/case studies
- Final presentation of a draft thesis proposal (effective delivery of thesis content)
- Written report of a draft thesis proposal (composition and quantity)

Breakdown of Grades

<i>Attendance & Participation</i>	10%
<i>Assignments 1&7</i>	10% (5% each)
<i>Assignments 2~6</i>	30% (6% each)
<i>Presentation</i>	20%
<i>Draft Thesis Proposal Report</i>	30%
<i>TOTAL</i>	100%

Attendance and Late Work Policy

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/op34.04.pdf>

Would you go to a client meeting without a product? Or, not show up for a client meeting? Regular, punctual, prepared attendance is required. Three undocumented, unexcused absences will result in removal from the course. Late work will be accepted for 3 days following a deadline or unexcused absence with a one letter grade per day reduction. Submittals will not be accepted after the 3rd day.

Accommodation Statement

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP34.22.pdf>

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note: instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact Student Disability Services in 335 West Hall or call 806.742.2405.



Religious Holy Days

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP34.19.pdf>

Texas law requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel.

An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. While no prior notification of the instructor is required, OP 34.19 indicates that a student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known to the instructor prior to the absence. The student should make up any missed work.

Academic and Professional Integrity

http://www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/catalog/ethical_principles.php

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/dos/handbook/community.php#integrity>

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one's own class and/or course work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic integrity is a personal choice to abide by the standards of intellectual honesty and responsibility. Because education is a shared effort to achieve learning through the exchange of ideas, students, faculty, and staff have the collective responsibility to build mutual trust and respect. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement, which then must be measured. Academic achievement includes scholarship, teaching, and learning, all of which are shared endeavors. Grades are a device used to quantify the successful accumulation of knowledge through learning. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity ensures grades are earned honestly. Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers. In addition, Landscape Architecture is a professional licensed discipline obligated to protect the public health, safety and welfare. To guide our profession, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) has established a Code of Professional Ethics which we will uphold in our department. We will also approach our work with a stewardship and ecological ethic defined in the ASLA Declaration on the Environment and Development.

Citation

All works must be properly cited to avoid questions of plagiarism and theft of creative work. Citations in this course should follow the APA reference style unless otherwise indicated. Work not properly cited will be considered violations of academic integrity and reported as such per the policies stated above.

Cell Phones and Technology

As a matter of professionalism and courtesy, please turn off cell phones and other communication and entertainment devices prior to the beginning of class. Notify instructor in advance if you are monitoring an emergency, for which cell phone ringers should be switched to vibrate. As we are a professional program, treat studio time just as you would daily work time on a client's budget in regard to temptations such as Facebook or movies.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

The Office of the Ombudsman is available to assist students with any conflict or problem that has to do with being a student at Texas Tech University. You may visit the Ombudsman in 237 Student Union Building or call 742-4791.



Course Schedule

Weeks	Dates	Topics	Supplies	DUE
Week 1	1/ 24	Course Introduction/ Researcher's Hunch		
Week 2	1/31	Ideation Creation & Incubation (Brainwriting & Mind-mapping)	White paper 11*17	
Week 3	2/07	Thesis Framework/ Site Search/ Data Location		Assignment 1: Idea Map
Week 4	2/14	Design Research Approaches	Laptop	
Week 5	2/21	Reference Management Tools EndNote Demo/Exercise	Laptop	
Week 6	2/28	Literature Review		Assignment 2: Literature Annotation
Week 7	3/07	Graduate School Process (thesis, defense, graduation) <i>WreckShop</i>		
Week 8	3/14	SPRING BREAK		
Week 9	3/21	Project thesis development (I)		Assignment 3: Problem/Design Goal Statements
Week 10	3/28	Project thesis development (II)		Assignment 4: Case Studies, Literature Review
Week 11	4/4	Project thesis development (III) <i>AAG Boston Conference</i>		Assignment 5: Site Context- Inventory/Analysis
Week 12	4/11	Project thesis development (IV)		Assignment 6: Design Concepts
Week 13	4/18	Thesis Organization: Timetable, Committee, Admin Prep	Calendar	Assignment 7 Informal Meeting w/ Thesis Committee
Week 14	4/25	Professional Writing/presentation Tactics <i>Texas ASLA Conference</i>		
Week 15	5/02	Mock Thesis Defense		Presentation
Week 16	5/09	Wrap-up		Draft Thesis Proposal