HORT 432 INTENSIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDIO  COURSE SYLLABUS

Credits:  5
Time:   Lecture/Group Discussion/Studio 9 am to 12:50 pm
Instructor:  Zach Johnson, Assistant  Professor
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Office hours:  Tuesdays 1pm

Catalog Description
Site planning and design for landscape projects of a limited scale-problems of increasing complexity.

Course Synopsis and Objectives
The main objective of this class is to ease the transition from the classroom to a career in professional landscape design and contracting. The emphasis will be on projects which have realistic parameters. Thus you will work with real clients for two of your projects. This is considered a “capstone” class. You are expected to integrate information and concepts learned in all related courses such as graphics, grading, irrigation, plant identification, planting design, structures and estimating.
New information to be studied will fill gaps left by other courses, take familiar topics to greater depth and address contemporary issues related to design. Some of the areas to be covered include:
- Site analysis techniques
- Client/user research and interview techniques
- Sales presentation techniques
- Fast design practice
- The aesthetics of site structures (steps, ramps and walls)
- Paving material as a design element
- Water as a design element
- Landscaping for energy conservation
- Landscape lighting
- Marketing design services
- Professional Practices
- Portfolio Design
- Sales
- International perspective on garden design

Methods
1. Studio Design Projects. Most of the learning experience will be through design projects, interaction with the instructor, guest instructors and other students during the design process. An important portion of this class deals with real projects. Typical projects include: private residences and not-for-profit projects. During the last part of the semester, you will be working on a large final project. Students are encouraged to find their own final project and have it cleared with the instructor, however at this time your instructor has a list of clients and would like to match a student with each one. A time sheet must be kept for every project and handed in at the respective due date.

2. Studio Support Activities. As time permits between board critiques and presentations of your own work, the instructor will introduce other topics relevant to project design. These sessions will take a variety of studio formats to include: role playing, model building, demonstrations, seminar discussions, professional practice issues and slide presentations.
**Evaluation**

Each studio project will have a specific deadline for final completion. Learning how to meet deadlines is an integral part of this course. Thus, if projects are late they will not be evaluated(graded). It is to your advantage to hand in partially completed work on time rather than missing a deadline all together. Extensions on projects may be granted if you have a legitimate, documented excuse.

Each studio project, test, etc., will be graded on a point system. Attendance at student presentations is a requirement whether or not you are presenting. Class participation is important and is expected. This will be another factor in determining final grades. Evaluation criteria will vary from project to project. The eight categories below are typical expectations in this class but may not be universally applicable to all projects.

1. A high level of motivation and interest as indicated by attendance, productivity, participation in discussions, ability to work in groups and timely reviews of preliminary work. Attendance at desk critiques is required.

2. A thorough investigation dealing with all key aspects of the problem. The breadth and depth of investigation shall be appropriate to the time assigned and the complexity of the issues.

3. A strong grasp of the functional constraints and potentials as expressed or implied by the client and users.

4. A thorough understanding and respect for the site and its contextual environment. A basic tenet for this program is a harmonious integration of built elements and the natural environment. Low impact, sustainable solutions which respect conservation issues and natural processes are encouraged.

5. Creativity. Solutions which show unusual or interesting ideas. Skillful application of the basic principles of design.

6. Technical proficiency in the application of principles relating to layout, grading and drainage, structures and planting design.

7. Presentation. Professional graphics appropriate to the type of program, client, and time available. Written programs and solutions which demonstrate excellence in writing style. Oral presentations which show knowledge, enthusiasm, clarity, organization, persuasion and professionalism.

8. Writing skills. Creating a successful career in any business requires writing, this industry is no different. Create proposals and related sales material.

**Recommended Reading**

There is no one text required for this course however you will be expected to research issues relevant to your particular projects. The following list of recommended reading relates to the overall emphasis of the course and the specific topic to be discussed in lecture or seminar format-

- Landscape Architect’s Portable Handbook- Dines and Brown
- Basic Elements of Landscape Architectural Design- Booth