LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (LAND ARC)

LAND ARC/AMER IND 106 – EARTH PARTNERSHIP INDIGENOUS ARTS AND SCIENCES
3 credits.

In collaboration with Tribal partners in Wisconsin, emphasize environmental science rooted in land stewardship and land management aligned with cultural values and Indigenous science processes. Experience the culture and ecology of a place while engaging in ecological restoration and stewardship, reflecting on relationships to the land and as global citizens. The intersection of Indigenous knowledge and Western science helps explain the need for a diversity of perspectives to respond to social and environmental justice in our changing world.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Articulate the importance of legitimizing diverse cultural perspectives and knowledge, and forming equitable relationships in a multicultural society
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Recognize Indigenous and other cultural groups' contributions to addressing environmental and social justice issues locally, regionally, and globally
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Comprehend how past traumas of colonization and racism impact communities today along with how inaccurate assumptions impact all peoples
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Apply an approach to restoration and stewardship that considers diverse perspectives and assets related to equity and inclusion
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Reflect and deepen one's understanding of the ancestral and contemporary lands of the Ho-Chunk Nation on whose land UW-Madison resides
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Experience firsthand the resiliency and self-determination of Indigenous communities in Wisconsin.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Apply the four guiding principles of respect, responsibility, relationship, and reciprocity with the land community (including human and non-human members) through work in restoration and stewardship.
Audience: Undergraduate

8. Demonstrate understanding of Earth Parternship's 10 steps for restoration by applying appropriate steps to community-based projects and local Mound restoration efforts.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 210 – INTRODUCTION TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DESIGN STUDIO
4 credits.

Introduction to the techniques and processes used in solving three-dimensional design problems in the urban and natural environment through studio exercises. Understand how design process and design principles create physical and sensory experiences in our everyday lives. Develop fundamental verbal and graphic communication skills used in the professional design world. Gives attention to the basics of design theory and philosophy.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify how humans perceive, utilize and value both interior and exterior spaces
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Complete design processes used by landscape architects to create effective, sustainable, resilient, and human-scaled spaces and places.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Illustrate spatial manipulations, with an emphasis on the analysis of space, two and three-dimensional ordering principles, designing in context, and basic design theories.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Apply problem-solving skills and solution-generating activities on basic site design projects.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Apply verbal, written, and graphic communication skills commonly used by landscape architects.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 211 – SHAPING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
3 credits.

Urban, suburban, and rural environments intersect with the natural environment in important yet complex ways. Cultural as well as biophysical systems influence the structure and function of these environments at both local and regional scales. Exploration of these relationships by analyzing built environments and simulating future design and planning scenarios offer a transdisciplinary foundation for subsequent coursework.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Natural Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand the diverse range of cultural, biophysical, and socio-political factors that shape the built environments of North America.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand the principles and theories of how the built environment influences human health, safety, and well-being, as well as community sustainability, resiliency, and quality of life.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate the ability to analyze, interpret, and communicate information portraying community character and sense of place across the urban, suburban, and exurban landscape.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explain the social, economic, and/or environmental dimensions of the sustainability challenge(s) of designing and planning within the built environment.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Apply sustainability principles and/or frameworks to addressing the challenge of designing and planning within the built environment.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC/ART HIST/ENVIR ST/GEOG/HISTORY 239 – MAKING THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE
3-4 credits.

Traces the history and evolution of the American cultural landscape from precolonial times to present. Explores how class, ethnic, and racial inequality have shaped the appearance of the American landscape over time, and how that landscape in turn has affected relationships between people and groups through the present day. Examines extraordinary things (civic structures (like our State Capitol), National Parks, War Memorials) and more ordinary kinds of places (mining towns, cotton plantations, sites of recreation and leisure, and suburban tract housing) to stimulate critical thinking about how these places have served people and groups unequally and disproportionately over time and across space. Considers complex meanings of American spaces and places to different people and groups, stimulating empathy and encouraging participation in a multicultural society.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement
Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe and interpret the American landscape as a richly layered historical document mediated by complex relationships between people and groups
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain how the American cultural landscape has affected present day circumstances regarding ethnicity and race as well as racial and ethnic inequalities
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Articulate ways in which historical change manifest in buildings, enclosed spaces, and other elements of the American landscape reveal racial, ethnic, class and gender dynamics between and among people and groups over time
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Enlist forms of historical evidence – maps (current and historic), photographs (aerial and otherwise), historical newspapers, census records, deeds and land records – to interpret landscapes and landscape change
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Explain the American landscape as a product of competing interests, which will demonstrate self-awareness and empathy toward the cultural perspectives and worldviews of others
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 250 – SURVEY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DESIGN
3 credits.

Principles of landscape and environmental design; incorporates elements of landscape planning and management. Provides background to the ideas and personalities shaping landscape architecture in America. Establishes design basics with a focus on the processes used by landscape architects to create meaningful site and context-sensitive designs in the built and natural environment.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain the many facets of Landscape Architecture, and the influence of landscape design on human health, safety, and welfare, and on both cultural and natural ecosystems.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify the basic building blocks of design to understand how and why designed spaces are put together and be able to demonstrate the use of a landscape design process to create more sustainable designs.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify and describe influential people, organizations, and ideas that have influenced the profession in the past and those that are contributing to it today.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Summarize the profession of landscape architecture and their professional ethics and social and environmental responsibilities.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Identify and compare the issues affecting our natural and cultural environments, such as climate change, and how landscape architecture addresses these concerns.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Evaluate and analyze landscapes around us for enjoyment and an improved understanding of spatial awareness.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Illustrate basic site design concepts and analysis data.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 260 – HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
3 credits.

A critical and historical analysis of our design of outdoor space.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Trace the evolution of landscape architectural practice in the United States.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Link design vocabulary to specific designed landscapes.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Name landscape architects/designers associated with periods in landscape architectural history and give examples of their important designed landscapes.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Discuss the values and aspirations guiding landscape architectural design in the United States.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 261 – PRINCIPLES OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DESIGN AND GRAPHICS
4 credits.

Basic principles in the design of landscapes to aid in developing individual capacities and approaches to designing. Principles of graphic communication media and development of practical graphic skills.
Requisites: Declared in Landscape Architecture BLA
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Apply design skills to advanced site planning projects at a variety of scales.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain how the design process creates forms, objects, spaces, and experiences.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Implement communication skills through computer graphics, hand graphics, verbal exercises, and written exercises.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explain how the elements of site planning work together to integrate form, function, and social experience.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Incorporate design ethics that support diversity, inclusion, and equity, while creating places that respond to environmental, climate, and social justice
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Apply research to support evidence-based design to improve the health and well-being of both human and nonhuman systems
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC/PLANTSCI 263 – WOODY LANDSCAPE PLANT IDENTIFICATION, CULTURE, AND USE
4 credits.

Field identification, landscape characteristics, uses, environmental requirements, and adaptability of woody ornamental plants; their autumn and winter characteristics. Topics include trees, shrubs, evergreens, vines and woody groundcovers.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130, ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY/BOTANY 152, or BOTANY 100)
Course Designation: Breadth - Biological Sci. Counts toward the Natural Sci req
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023
Learning Outcomes: 1. Use basic taxonomic tools needed for plant identification, including classification, vegetative and reproductive morphology, and nomenclature of cultivated plants
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Recognize many woody ornamental trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and vines, both native and exotic, by family, species (genus and specific epithet), variety, cultivar, and sometimes trademark
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss woody landscape plant identification, distribution, ornamental characteristics as well as undesirable features, culture, adaptability, and uses
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Select woody landscape plants for specific purposes and site conditions
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Identify appropriate reference material and guides for identifying woody landscape plants
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC/ANTHRO/ART HIST/DS/HISTORY 264 – DIMENSIONS OF MATERIAL CULTURE
4 credits.

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of material culture studies. It is intended for students interested in any professional endeavor related to material culture, including careers in museums, galleries, historical societies, historic preservation organizations, and academic institutions. During the semester, students have varied opportunities to engage with and contemplate the material world to which people give meaning and which, in turn, influences their lives. Sessions combine in some way the following: presentations from faculty members and professionals who lecture on a phase of material culture related to his/her own scholarship or other professional work; discussion of foundational readings in the field; visits to collections and sites on campus and around Madison; discussion of readings assigned by visiting presenters or the professors; and exams and short papers that engage material culture topics.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

LAND ARC 289 – HONORS INDEPENDENT STUDY
1-2 credits.

Independent study as arranged with a faculty member for Honors in the Major.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

LAND ARC 299 – INDEPENDENT STUDIES
1-3 credits.

Independent study as arranged with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2025

LAND ARC 311 – INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN FRAMEWORKS AND SPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES
2 credits.

Geodesign considers questions and methods necessary to solve large, complicated, and significant design problems across a range of geographic scales. Introduces methods and technologies related to geodesign problems through interactive lessons, discussions, and laboratory exercises.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify key geodesign framework questions, models, and iterations
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Locate, evaluate, and interpret representation model data
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify the contributions of the interdisciplinary geodesign team and stakeholders in the geodesign framework
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Develop a functional understanding of the geospatial technologies used within the geodesign process
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 321 – ENVIRONMENT AND BEHAVIOR STUDIO - DESIGNING HEALTH PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTS
4 credits.

Design studio with an emphasis on the application of design principles aimed at promoting people's health and wellbeing in the built environment.
Requisites: LAND ARC 261 and DS 221
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe the significant and complex role that open spaces and open space systems play in public health and quality of life.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain the impact the physical environment has on people and the role designs play in creating healthy places.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Collect and analyze relevant data to influence a design concept and approach.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Evaluate and apply tools and techniques that are appropriate for development and communication of design decisions.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Identify, evaluate, describe, and discuss health problems as they intersect with the physical environment at multiple scales.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Apply a design-thinking approach to understand the design process from concept to implementation.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Develop and apply creative and critical thinking skills.
Audience: Undergraduate

8. Promote a collaborative studio environment (reminiscent of practice) that encourages communication, time-management, and peer review.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 353 – LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY I
3 credits.

Problems dealing with the comprehension and modification of the earth's surface including landform design, preparation of grading plans, earthwork calculations.
Requisites: Declared in Landscape Architecture BLA
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

LAND ARC 354 – LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY II
3 credits.

Problems dealing with construction detailing, including roadways, drainage structures, construction materials, cost estimating, specifications and working drawings.
Requisites: Declared in Landscape Architecture BLA
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

LAND ARC 360 – EARTH PARTNERSHIP RESTORATION EDUCATION: INDIGENOUS ARTS & SCIENCES
1 credit.

Participate in a one-week community-based, intergenerational Institute focused on ecological restoration and water stewardship rooted in Indigenous knowledge while working with Native Nations in Wisconsin. An emphasis is on environmental science aligned with cultural values and indigenous science processes and address environmental, education and health issues through restoration and stewardship action. Learn culturally accurate and authentic resources about tribal sovereignty, history, and culture and contemporary issues relevant to each community. Through hands-on stewardship action, a greater sense of self and diversity of perspectives related to impacts of climate change and preserving biodiversity will be gained.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, for 3 number of completions
Last Taught: Summer 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Articulate the fundamental importance of legitimizing diverse cultural perspectives, knowledge and relationships with the environment.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate knowledge of WI Native Nations, including history, sovereignty, government structure, treaties and culture.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Communicate effectively and professionally in our multicultural society informed by place (local culture, history, ecology).
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Articulate an approach to restoration education and stewardship that considers diverse perspectives and assets related educational equity and inclusion.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Apply sustainability principles and/or frameworks to addressing the challenge for water stewardship and Indigenous cultural practices related to impacts of climate change and preserving biodiversity.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Analyze sustainability issues and/or practices using a systems-based approach including indigenous ways of knowing.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC/ENVIR ST 361 – WETLANDS ECOLOGY
3 credits.

Types, origins, settings, and structure of wetlands. Physical, biological, and cultural values, uses and assessments. Physical and biological characteristics and dynamics. Protection, management and restoration.
Requisites: (ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 101 and 102), ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY/BOTANY 152, ZOOLOGY 153, (BIOCORE 381 and 382), BIOLOGY/BOTANY 130, or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Biological Sci. Counts toward the Natural Sci req
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain what a wetland is and describe the attributes (physical and biological) currently used to classify wetlands.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Explain why which attributes are included in a definition matters with regard to wetland conservation
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Describe the global distribution of wetlands and explain how the geomorphological features of the earth, its orbit, as well as the properties of its atmosphere contribute to this distribution.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Identify and describe the physical characteristics and dynamics of water, how these influence biogeochemical cycles and how they all influence the morphology, physiology, and behavior of wetland organisms.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Describe the hydrology and soils, and the characteristic plants and animals of the major Wisconsin wetland types and their geographical locations.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Apply the contemporary theories, concepts, and understanding of wetland ecology to their own research projects, and/or to evaluating and suggesting solutions to a contemporary issue regarding the preservation, restoration, or management of wetlands.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 363 – EARTH PARTNERSHIP: RESTORATION EDUCATION FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE
3 credits.

Ecological restoration education utilizes the power of place to work towards social justice and sustainability. Work with Native Nations and community partners to apply Earth Partnership's 10 Step process. This process includes historical, cultural, ecological, and social justice components. Learn about assets-based, culturally relevant approaches to working with community partners. Interact with guest speakers and partners to experience firsthand different perspectives on environment, cultural priorities, protocols for interaction, and opportunities for relationship building. Work on community-based stewardship projects and reflect upon your epistemological relationship to land and people as global citizens.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, for 2 number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Articulate the fundamental importance of legitimizing diverse cultural perspectives, knowledge and relationships with the environment.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Communicate effectively and professionally with community partners about environmental science and restoration informed by place (local culture, history, ecology).
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Reflect upon and share knowledge about local to global community collaboration, place-based education and the importance of historical socio-cultural perspectives for restoration in the community.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Use sustainability principles for developing personal goals and professional values to reflect upon and articulate a personal land ethic or personal connection to the land and how it guides your actions.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Articulate an approach to restoration education and stewardship that considers diverse perspectives and assets related to educational equity and inclusion.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Apply sustainability principles and/or frameworks to addressing the challenge for water stewardship and Indigenous cultural practices related to impacts of climate change and preserving biodiversity.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 366 – INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
3 credits.

Introduces beginning design students to the interdisciplinary processes used in solving three-dimensional design problems for both exterior and interior spaces. Allows students to understand the integration between architectural design, site design and interior design, and how these design realms create physical and sensory experiences in our everyday lives. Helps students develop fundamental verbal and graphic communication skills used in the professional design world. Questions explored in this course include: How to humans experience their environment? How do we perceive and interact with spaces where we live, work, and play? What makes great interior and exterior spaces? How do designers think to solve creative spatial design problems?
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Summer 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop an understanding of the design professions of architecture, landscape architecture, and interior design and how they integrate to create holistic environments for living, working, socialization, and recreation.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply the design processes used by designers to create effective, sustainable, resilient, and human-scaled spaces and places.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand how humans experience both interior and exterior spaces through a variety of design encounters.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Increase awareness of spatial manipulation, with emphases on the analysis of space, two and three-dimensional ordering principles, designing in context, scale, and basic design theories.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Develop an increased awareness of problem-solving and solution-generating activities, including the establishment of basic design and graphic communication skills that will be further developed in subsequent courses (and during your career as a designer).
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC/ENVIR ST/G L E/GEOG/GEOSCI 371 – INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL REMOTE SENSING
3 credits.

Introduction to the Earth as viewed from above, focusing on use of aerial photography and satellite imagery to study the environment. Includes physical processes of electromagnetic radiation, data types and sensing capabilities, methods for interpretation, analysis and mapping, and applications.
Requisites: (Sophomore standing and MATH 113, 114, or 171), graduate/professional standing, or member of Engineering Guest Students
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate understanding of major theories, approaches, concepts, and methods in remote sensing science.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply knowledge of the nature and properties of electromagnetic radiation and how it is affected by interactions with the atmosphere and the Earth's surface.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Utilize the techniques, skills, and modern tools necessary for monitoring environmental phenomena with earth observation data.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Know and effectively apply image analysis, data extraction, and map-making using earth observation data.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Demonstrate how to analyze remote sensing data using photo-interpretation, digital image processing, and photogrammetric techniques using specialized software, within geographic information systems (GIS), and in conjunction with other data sources.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Demonstrate how to perform classification, change detection, data fusion, and radiometric and geometric correction techniques.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Identify and appropriately utilize data types from the optical, thermal, and microwave portions of the electromagnetic spectrum, and from a wide range of airborne and satellite platforms, including high (>5 m), medium (10-30 m), and coarse (250-1000 m) spatial resolution imagery.
Audience: Undergraduate

8. Demonstrate knowledge about environmental applications of remote sensing data, such as forest inventory, water resource management, agricultural assessment, land use planning, and global change science.
Audience: Undergraduate

9. Write clear and concise laboratory reports (in scientific format) describing analytical results from image classification and change detection experiments.
Audience: Undergraduate

10. Communicate effectively through discussion, small group work, hands-on lab activities, and written reports.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 373 – MINDFULNESS IN RESTORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS
3 credits.

Explore the intersection of nature-based mindfulness practices and design of restorative outdoor environments that support health and well-being in public places, including school gardens, botanical gardens, and campus natural areas, with a focus on sensory engagement and sense of belonging. Design and co-design restorative environments and features through a participatory planning process with community partners.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Apply skills with which to observe, interpret, analyze, and design restorative outdoor environments in public places.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply co-design and participatory planning methods and processes.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and comprehend how specific environmental design approaches and features can support well-being of people in outdoor places.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Recognize and apply concepts and theories of nature-based mindfulness and restorative natural environments.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Apply principles of community-based engagement and learning for developing personal goals and professional values.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Use knowledge to build empathy and appreciation for the complexities of one's own and other people's perspectives.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 375 – SPECIAL TOPICS
1-4 credits.

Exploration of special issues or problems in landscape architecture. Topic and faculty vary.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to explore ideas and synthesize information, both independently and in collaboration with interdisciplinary team members.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand, apply and evaluate the principles, theories and research findings underlying landscape architecture.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Integrate social, cultural, ecological and technological dimensions in solving design problems.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 380 – PLANTS FOR ECOLOGICAL DESIGN I
2 credits.

Plants as the basis for ecological landscape design in urban and rural settings in late summer, fall, and early winter and their role in creating beautiful, resilient, and high performing outdoor spaces that enhance human health and well-being and provide a number of global ecosystem services. Study plants in their native and designed habitats to understand the relationships between and among plants and their environment. Identify the aesthetic, structural, functional, and cultural characteristics of key Wisconsin native plants and a variety of non-invasive horticultural species as well as the composition, structure, and functions of forest, wetland, and grassland communities. Express the essence and cultural meaning of plants and plant communities through hand and digital graphics and writing.
Requisites: LAND ARC 250, (BOTANY 100, BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130, ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY/BOTANY 152, or BIOCORE 381 and 382), and sophomore standing, or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Natural Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify the aesthetic, functional, and cultural characteristics of key native plants of Wisconsin's forests, wetlands and grasslands as well as a variety of horticultural species as they appear in late summer, fall, and early winter. Use them together to create beautiful, resilient and high performing outdoor spaces that enhance human health and well-being and provide global ecosystem services
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Match the plant species used in design to the unique environmental conditions of each site so that they enhance and do not detract from beneficial ecosystem services.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Compile a personal plant portfolio consisting of a minimum of 50 woody and herbaceous plants and information on each plant's form, function and ecosystem contributions
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Select plants for a landscape design using a process that begins with and is guided by an understanding of the composition, structure, and dynamics of the natural plant communities found in the region
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Perform a literature review of current understandings of the ecosystem services provided by specific plants or propose an experiment or monitoring system to measure ecosystem services in the field.
Audience: Graduate

6. Use hand graphics, notes, and mapping and sampling techniques to illustrate the character of individual plants and the composition and structure of plant communities in the field.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

7. Apply sustainability principles and/or frameworks to address the challenges of creating sustainable cities and communities, and prevent the extinction of species
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

8. Use sustainability principles for developing personal goals and professional values
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

LAND ARC 381 – PLANTS FOR ECOLOGICAL DESIGN II
1 credit.

Plants as the basis for ecological landscape design in urban and rural settings. Study plants in their native and designed habitats to understand the relationships between and among plants and their environment in late winter and early spring. Identify the aesthetic, functional, and cultural characteristics of key Wisconsin native plants and plant communities as well as a variety of non-invasive horticultural species. Discuss how to use plants together in settings with environmental conditions to which they are adapted in order to create resilient and high-performing outdoor spaces that enhance human health and well-being and provide a number of global ecosystem services.
Requisites: LAND ARC 380 or Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Natural Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe the abilities of plant species to establish, grow and successfully meet design goals based on ultimate size and shape at various life stages, rate of growth, ecological relationships, and aesthetic characteristics of leaves, bark, flower, fruit, habit, and form in both urban and rural settings.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Select plants for a landscape design using a process that begins with and is guided by an understanding of the composition, structure, and dynamics of the natural plant communities found in the region
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Use hand graphics, notes, and mapping and sampling techniques to illustrate the character of individual plants and the composition and structure of plant communities in the field to compile a personal plant portfolio for future reference consisting of a core set of 50 or more plant species in late winter and early spring growing conditions
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Perform a literature review of current understandings of the ecosystem services provided by specific plants or propose an experiment or monitoring system to measure services in the field.
Audience: Graduate

5. Apply sustainability principles and/or frameworks to address the challenges of creating sustainable cities and communities, and prevent the extinction of species
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Use sustainability principles for developing personal goals and professional values
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

LAND ARC 397 – INTERNSHIP IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
1 credit.

Integrate knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Includes applied experience and making professional connections in the field of landscape architecture. Apply landscape architecture concepts, practice problem solving-skills, explore multidisciplinary approaches, develop team-work and interpersonal skills, access and use information resources, reflect upon or address ethical and professional issues.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and declared in Landscape Architecture BLA
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Workplace - Workplace Experience Course
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, for 3 number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand and be able to articulate the day-to-day workings of office culture, including professionalism, ethical office conduct, and proper methods of communication in landscape architecture
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Describe and apply professional relationships with clients and with other business partners (e.g., contractors, product vendors)
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Competently apply landscape architecture concepts in a professional work environment
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Demonstrate ability to apply design theories to solve practical design problems at a variety of scales
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Demonstrate ability to apply design communication skills in a professional setting
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 400 – STUDY ABROAD IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
1-6 credits.

Provides an area equivalency for courses taken on Madison Study Abroad Programs that do not equate to existing UW courses. Current enrollment in a UW-Madison study abroad program
Requisites: None
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

LAND ARC 460 – ADVANCED VISUAL COMMUNICATION IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
3 credits.

Focuses on the symbolic and representational computer graphics that are essential elements of design communication in landscape architecture. Reviews the strengths and weaknesses of hand and digital media and the use of both when appropriate. Topics and assignments include advanced hand sketching and graphics, computer graphic techniques, digital photography, advanced digital color theory and rendering, digital image processing, CAD drafting, 2D/3D modeling, image compositing, media formats, and video.
Requisites: LAND ARC 261
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Apply graphic software programs throughout each stage of the design process.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Transform design concepts into precise technical drawings and graphical representations.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze the interrelationships among various graphic software programs within digital workflows, proficiently managing the import and export of design data during transitions.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Evaluate industry best practices and innovate by creating more effective and personalized processes, either alongside or in departure from traditional drafting and graphic production tools.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Apply fundamental techniques in drafting, plotting, rendering, and documentation using digital graphic software. Apply advanced composition skills in written,visual, and oral communication to clearly and impactfully deliver design and planning concepts to a diverse audience.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Develop originality through proficient digital drafting and rendering skills, creating unique works while effectively conveying ideas through visual, written, and oral communication.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Explore fundamental visual communication principles through exercising one's graphic capabilities, practicing industry-standard visual communication protocols, and cultivating self-learning abilities.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC/URB R PL 463 – EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN PLANNING
3 credits.

The nature and cultural significance of contemporary methods for the systematic formulation of public policies for community, metropolitan, and state development through comprehensive planning. Historic roots, recent trends and new directions in American planning concepts, institutions and professional specializations.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Evaluate urban form and design using ideas from planning history and contemporary practice.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain the legal, institutional, economic, political or moral justifications for planning.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze planning as a collective enterprise in relation to individual freedom, politics, autonomy, and private property.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explain the concept of the public interest in relation to planning.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Describe the role of urban planners and the tensions planners face as professionals.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Evaluate the relevant scales for urban planning, e.g., Individual parcels? Neighborhoods? Communities? Municipalities? Counties? States? Regions? Nations? Watersheds?
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Explain suburbs and the process of suburbanization.Describe the role of race and racism in shaping cities and metropolitan regions.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC/CHICLA 475 – LATINO URBANISM: DESIGN AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE AMERICAN CITY
3 credits.

Urban design in the 21st century American city explores a new understanding of urban placemaking and development. Explores the intersections of culture, place, and design to critically address how the socioeconomic dynamics that underlie demographic shifts in the U.S. are influencing urban change in the American landscape. Focuses on the evolution and ways by which Latinos shape the built environment, both in the public realm and in the home.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement
Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze the role that design, planning, and public engagement have in addressing the needs of Latino communities in the U.S
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Evaluate through a historical lens how socio-economic conditions of Latinos influence choices in the contemporary American city
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Use real world examples to demonstrate how diversity and culture can impact regions, governments, and economies for producing a just city
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Understand the concept of justice in the city through both qualitative and quantitative measure
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Explain the social, economic, and/or environmental dimensions of the sustainability challenges as they relate to planning for Latino communities.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Analyze the causes of and solutions for the sustainability challenge of marginalized population groups.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 511 – GEODESIGN METHODS AND APPLICATIONS
3 credits.

Explore and apply methods and technologies used in the geodesign framework that emphasize collaboration among the design professions, the natural and social sciences, and community stakeholders. Exercises will focus on scenarios within the built and natural environment.
Requisites: LAND ARC 311, GEOG/CIV ENGR/ENVIR ST 377, or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Determine and articulate processes and approaches of a geodesign framework
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Assemble, analyze, and share information within each geodesign model
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Build and deploy tools for data collection and citizen engagement
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Create design iterations, evaluations, and impact analyses using geodesign tools
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Apply sustainability principles and/or frameworks to address the challenge of adaptation and landscape change within the built and natural environment
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Analyze sustainability issues and/or practices using a systems-based approach
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

7. Evaluate published literature related to geodesign principles.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 525 – SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE URBAN LANDSCAPE
3 credits.

Examines the cultural, social and political interactions that occur in urban landscapes including parks, plazas, streets and other public open spaces. An examination of past and present landscapes as sites of the struggle for social justice. The focus is on urban landscapes of the United States.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2022
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand how urban landscapes shape struggles for social justice
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Acquire and apply skills with which to analyze the social dimensions of urban landscapes
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and understand how specific design features influence social relations
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Describe how landscape design styles and ideologies are constitutive of social relations through time and how these continue to operate in contemporary urban landscapes
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Apply concepts and theories of social justice to analyze urban landscape design in terms of race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, and socioeconomic status, among others
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Apply visual methodologies to reveal the meaning of design drawings, photographs, art as well as assemblages such as landscapes, websites, news articles, videos among others
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

7. Apply discourse theory to the web of landscape representations to explain struggles for social justice
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC/ENVIR ST/GEOG/URB R PL 532 – APPLICATIONS OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN PLANNING
3 credits.

Explores planning-related Geographic Information System (GIS) data, applications, analytical tools, and implementation issues.
Requisites: GEOG/CIV ENGR/ENVIR ST 377 or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify how planning agencies use GIS.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Explain the nature, characteristics, and possible ways of analyzing spatial data in a planning context.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Communicate geospatial data and analyses effectively.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Obtain and analyze geospatial data using a range of spatial analysis tools for a number of planning practices.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Conduct site-selection and land-suitability analysis.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Identify ethical issues surrounding access to and use of geospatial data.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

7. Analyze and provide written feedback on undergraduate student presentations.
Audience: Graduate

8. Produce a memo on land-suitability analysis.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 550 – PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
3 credits.

Introduction to operational procedures used in professional offices ranging from private landscape architectural design firms to public agencies.
Requisites: Senior standing and declared in Landscape Architecture BLA
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe the many forms of professional practice in Landscape Architecture.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify the different practice types through field trips and professional office visits.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify a preferred type of practice and create a career plan.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Describe the different parts of professional practice that are included in the national licensing exam (LARE) as an introduction to preparing to take the exam.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Apply the principles of ethical professional practice to the design process.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC/CIV ENGR/ENVIR ST 556 – REMOTE SENSING DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING
3 credits.

Techniques of enhancement and quantification of remote sensing imagery. Emphasis on processing and analyzing data gathered by airborne and satellite sensors. Techniques to quantitatively analyze data from photography, electro-optical scanners, satellite systems, and radar and passive microwave systems. Applications to: agriculture and forestry, geology and soils, water quality, and urban and regional planning.
Requisites: LAND ARC/ENVIR ST/G L E/GEOG/GEOSCI 371, graduate/professional standing, or member of Engineering Guest Students
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

LAND ARC 560 – PLANTS AND ECOLOGY IN DESIGN
4 credits.

Explores the process of plant selection and placement in the landscape. The desired landscape will be ecologically appropriate to the setting, sustainable, functional in response to goals, and aesthetically pleasing. Acquire an awareness and understanding of the physical characteristics of plant materials and a sensitivity to their needs based on past and present. Emphasis on the recognition of the philosophy of planting design as a dynamic and changing spatial art and science, the relationship between environment and plants, application of design composition principles to plant selection and placement, and functional and utilitarian uses of plants; i.e., the opportunities and constraints for plants in the designed landscape.
Requisites: Declared in Landscape Architecture BLA and PLANTSCI/LAND ARC 263
Course Designation: Breadth - Natural Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Create designs that use ecological principles and plants' aesthetic and functional qualities as key constituents of form-making and placemaking.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Create designs for holistic ecological impacts beyond conventional utilitarian human centered criteria.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify and record plant species found on a design site as part of SWOT analysis.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Produce portfolio-quality visual design documentation with a variety of graphic tools, including computer and hand illustrations, well-drafted planting plans and plant schedules that are easily interpreted and conform to professional standards.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Use a personal design process to create unique design concepts that facilitate strong project approaches.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Compose and revise multiple design scenarios and iterations to continually improve a concept.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Engage in constructive design dialogue to advance your approach to design.
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 561 – HOUSING AND URBAN DESIGN
4 credits.

An application of landscape design principles and problem-solving methods to housing and urban issues with attention to physical site design, land-use controls, and the relationship between housing and associated land uses. The built environment is continuously changing through multiple land development-and redevelopment-decisions. Public policies on housing, transportation, mortgage financing, and taxation, in conjunction with changing demographics and lifestyle preferences, are just some of the factors that influence the evolving structure and function of the built environment. Landscape architects can play important roles--through design, civic engagement, and policy advocacy--in making our cities and suburbs healthier and more sustainable. Studio projects focus on the central city and/or suburbs.
Requisites: LAND ARC 321
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2023

LAND ARC 562 – URBAN DESIGN AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEMS
4 credits.

With a focus on public open spaces as shared social places, emphasizes the social dimensions and connectedness of urban design and open space systems through perspectives from allied disciplines, such as landscape architecture, architecture, urban planning, real estate development, urban ecology, civil engineering, and the visual arts. Integrates human activity requirements and experiences with physical (or built) and natural site features. Builds upon technical design skills developed in prior studio work, paying close attention to form-giving, place-making, and sustainability at the site and neighborhood scale.
Requisites: LAND ARC 321 and 560
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify how land use regulations and other public policies shape the built environment and which, in turn, influence human health, safety, and well-being
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Describe how networks of formal and informal open spaces function in a variety of urban contexts and are planned and designed by interdisciplinary teams
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Describe how individuals and social groups interact in and respond to particular open space settings and land uses
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Illustrate urban design principles and best practices that influence architectural massing and placement in relationship to transportation and open spaces systems
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Demonstrate how open space can function as sustainable social, economic, and environmental infrastructure systems that support human health and well-being
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 563 – DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT REGIONS
4 credits.

Exploration of broad scale design issues to develop synthesis and design skills. Uses spatial form and bioregional cultural, ecological and environmental concepts to solve land use and conservation problems. Regional design requires advanced techniques for inventory, analysis, and design to help in understanding complex trends, policy and design impacts, hazard mitigation, design intervention suitability, design guidelines, and systems level design. These techniques help us explore the relationships between regions and sites, especially regional implications of site design decisions and site design impacts on regional characteristics and systems.
Requisites: LAND ARC 562
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe the significance and complexity of a regional landscape and how it serves as context for a smaller study area (e.g. the relationship of place to its natural and cultural surroundings).
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Appreciate, respect, and empathize with project clients and reconcile client needs with the creative potentials of a region.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze and describe natural and cultural processes in a regional study area, especially the forces shaping and transforming the region over time.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Discover, describe, and analyze forms, patterns, and materials existing in a region; evaluate their potential for use as land use determinants or design inspiration.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Evaluate issues of scale (e.g. ecological, cultural, measurement, visual, experiential, clients, and users) and potential implications for landscape planning and regional design decisions and on selection of tools and techniques.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Evaluate and apply tools and techniques that are appropriate for development and communication of regional design decisions (e.g. research, interviews, literature review, inventory, interpretation, suitability analysis, GIS spatial analysis, preservation, conservation, restoration, visualization, representation, and presentation).
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Synthesize, evaluate, and apply sources of creativity and inspiration in the landscape planning and regional design process (e.g. precedents, innovation, collaboration, observation, interviews; rational, intuitive, design typologies, and arbitrary bases for landscape planning and design decisions)
Audience: Undergraduate

8. Communicate information clearly, concisely, and effectively throughout the planning and design process (e.g., from inventory & analysis through concepts and final recommendations).
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC/F&W ECOL/ZOOLOGY 565 – PRINCIPLES OF LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY
2 credits.

Emphasizes the importance of spatial patterns at broad scales. Concepts and applications are covered.
Requisites: (ZOOLOGY/BOTANY/F&W ECOL 460 or F&W ECOL 550) and (STAT 301, 371, or F&W ECOL/STAT 571), or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Biological Sci. Counts toward the Natural Sci req
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2019

LAND ARC/ENVIR ST 581 – PRESCRIBED FIRE: ECOLOGY AND IMPLEMENTATION
3 credits.

Covers the use of live fire in land management and provides a background in fire ecology, fire behavior, fire effects, and the prediction of fire behavior for wetland, prairie and savanna fuels. Instruction includes field training with live fire exercises and the use of fire management equipment. Participate in prescribed burns outside of scheduled class times. Confers certificates of completion that qualify an individual to participate on prescribed fire crews with public and private sector organizations.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand fire ecology, the role that fires play in shaping fire-adapted ecosystems, and the use of prescribed fire for land management.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Qualify for working on any prescribed burn or fire suppression crew located anywhere in the U.S., and become familiar with organizations providing experiences using prescribed fire.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Become familiar with the restoration history, including the role of fire, for the UW Arboretum.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Demonstrate safe and appropriate use of Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) for fire.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Demonstrate proficient knowledge of national standards for participating in prescribed burn or fire suppression crews anywhere in the U.S.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Explain the social, economic, and/or environmental dimensions of the sustainability challenge(s) of fire for land management.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

7. Apply sustainability principles and/or frameworks to addressing the challenge and fundamental concepts related to fire ecology in the Upper Midwest.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

8. Gain enhanced knowledge and skills for fire management leadership.
Audience: Graduate

9. Demonstrate applied knowledge of fire ecology and the effects of fire on plant, fungi or animal communities.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 590 – SPECIAL TOPICS
1-4 credits.

Exploration of special issues or problems in landscape architecture.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Summer 2022
Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to explore ideas and synthesize information, both independently and in collaboration with interdisciplinary team members to identify and solve complicated landscape and planning problems.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Understand, analyze, and apply design and planning theories and principles to urban and rural landscapes to benefit human living conditions.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Integrate humanistic, scientific, legal, political, economic, social, ecological, and technological dimensions in solving novel design and planning problems concerning the betterment of rural and urban natural and cultural landscapes.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Demonstrate advanced critical thinking and the ability to explore ideas in depth and synthesize information with a high degree of competence.
Audience: Graduate

5. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of landscape spaces, functions, and dynamics, as well as interactions between people and the built and natural environment.
Audience: Graduate

6. Engage critically with the scholarship and theory of landscape architecture.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 610 – LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CAPSTONE I
3 credits.

Develop a comprehensive design and planning proposal that defines a real-world client's needs, program, goals, and objectives from a regional to site scale. Covers project research, site visits, literature review, precedent studies, inventory and analysis mapping, and programmatic development studies.
Requisites: LAND ARC 562
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Acquire base materials and data, and prepare a GIS database
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Manage project relationships with clients and other stakeholder groups
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Conduct design and planning critiques of peer projects
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Inventory and analyze relevant aspects of the region, community, and site (historic to present)
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Analyze client goals and develop a list of preliminary program for a framework plan
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Define the project goals, scope, and evaluation criteria
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Produce a critical review of the literature relevant to your research topic
Audience: Undergraduate

8. Produce a critical review of precedent projects relevant to your type of project and program
Audience: Undergraduate

9. Produce an initial community framework plan with programmatic spatial recommendations
Audience: Undergraduate

10. Produce final base materials for community and site scale design and planning
Audience: Undergraduate

11. Present and defend capstone project proposal
Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 611 – LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CAPSTONE II
4 credits.

Problems in landscape design, planning, and management of projects from a regional to site scale. Provides an opportunity for synthesis of the knowledge, skills, and approaches learned in previous course work.
Requisites: LAND ARC 610
Course Designation: Gen Ed - Communication Part B
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate competence and critical judgement in applying intellectual and technical skills necessary for site and landscape-scale design, in particular skills of problem-solving using site inventory/analysis; spatial/temporal analysis; programming; synthesis; oral, written, and visual communication; construction implementation; and post-occupancy evaluation.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to explore ideas and synthesize information, both independently and in collaboration with interdisciplinary team members to identify and solve complicated landscape design and planning problems.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand, apply, and evaluate the principles, theories, and recent research findings in the discipline of landscape architecture.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Integrate humanistic, scientific, legal, political, economic, social, ecological, and technological dimensions in solving novel design and planning problems concerning the betterment of rural and urban natural and cultural landscapes.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Understand, analyze, and apply design and planning theories and principles to urban and rural landscapes to benefit human living conditions.

Audience: Undergraduate

LAND ARC 621 – DESIGNING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SEMINAR
3 credits.

Sustainable community planning and design principles aimed at promoting human health and wellbeing as it relates to the quality of the physical environment. Special topics include access to settings that promote physical activity, social interaction and mental restoration; walk- and bikeability; access healthy food, complete streets, place-making, and biophilic design, active living assessment tools, and architectural sustainability certification systems focusing on the health benefits of good community design.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2021
Learning Outcomes: 1. Think critically about the impact the physical environment has on people and the role environmental designers play in creating healthy places.
Audience: Graduate

2. Identify and summarize relevant literature by noted authors in the field and encourage them to seek further knowledge by exploring research, precedents and best-case scenarios.
Audience: Graduate

3. Demonstrate knowledge about health problems that intersect with the physical environment.
Audience: Graduate

4. Integrate environment-health performance standards and metrics and their functional value in design programming.
Audience: Graduate

5. Explain the social, economic, and/or environmental dimensions of the sustainability challenge(s) of active living in the built environment.
Audience: Graduate

6. Apply sustainability principles and/or frameworks to addressing the challenge of health promotion through planning and design of public open space.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC/DS 639 – CULTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT
3 credits.

Explores cultural values embedded in buildings through understanding physical configurations, social organizations, practiced/symbolic/representational aspects of buildings. Covers a wide range of cultures and the built environments they produce including examples from the Americas, the Middle East, as well as those of the many ethnic minorities in the U.S.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024

LAND ARC 668 – RESTORATION ECOLOGY
3 credits.

Restoration is an approach to the conservation of native species, plant communities, and ecosystems. It is an interdisciplinary global enterprise practiced by private and public sector professionals and dedicated volunteers of all ages. Covers both the theory and practice of restoration ecology and examine the current opportunities, challenges, and controversies that underlie the field. The goal may be to preserve nature, but restoration is a fundamentally human enterprise-it is accomplished for and by people. Therefore we cover information from ecology, sociology, and the humanities.
Requisites: BIOCORE 381, ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY/BOTANY 152, ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 102, BIOLOGY/BOTANY 130, or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Biological Sci. Counts toward the Natural Sci req
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify the scope, opportunities and limitations of contemporary restoration ecology, describe its interdisciplinary roots in theory and practice, and discuss its relationship to other conservation practices.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Explain what we know and don't know about restoration ecology, describe the several modes of inquiry that contribute to our knowledge, and gain hands-on experience with several of the procedures involved.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Explain the reasoning behind the collaborative, interdisciplinary, iterative and adaptive restoration problem-solving process.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Explain the importance of working with people and identify when during a restoration project collaboration occurs.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Work with a team to create key components of a restoration project for an actual site, and present them in a formal written document using text, graphics, and photographs.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Present the study findings to an audience of peers, faculty, and stakeholders, and apply feedback
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

7. Apply current principles, theories, concepts, and practices of restoration ecology to their own research projects, and/or to evaluate and suggest solutions to contemporary issues regarding the preservation, restoration, or management of native plant communities.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 677 – CULTURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION AND LANDSCAPE HISTORY
3 credits.

Provides an introduction to cultural landscape studies as a corollary to cultural conservation in public folklore, environmental planning, natural and cultural resource management, landscape architecture, and the history of landscape architecture. Includes varied concepts of cultural landscape, key historical and cultural landscape research methodologies, and a range of preservation and conservation types involving cultural landscapes, traditional cultural properties, and intangible and tangible cultural heritage. Observe, research, and write about cultural landscapes, gain an understanding of cultural, historical, and natural dynamics of the (built) environment, and become acquainted with aspects of cultural conservation and landscape preservation nationally and internationally.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2023
Learning Outcomes: 1. Know, critique, and apply the National Park Service's cultural landscape terms, definitions, and descriptive tools for cultural landscape evaluation and preservation.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Identify key national cultural resource preservation programs, policies, regulatory instruments, and sites.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Describe common techniques of national cultural landscape documentation, preservation, and interpretation, including those advocated in the National Register's Traditional Cultural Properties Bulletin 38, NPS Preservation Brief 36, and the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS).
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Engage in debates about how cultural landscape preservation has served some interests at the expense of others.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Explain emerging landscape preservation practices focused on equity and inclusion.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Apply cultural landscape theories, concepts, and research to their own research projects
Audience: Graduate

7. Critique cultural landscape preservation and conservation nomination requirements, reporting formats, and submission and review processes across varied local, state, federal, and international preservation programs
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 681 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS
2-4 credits.

Individual mentored study for seniors completing theses for Honors in the Major as arranged with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2021

LAND ARC 682 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS
2-4 credits.

Individual mentored study for seniors completing theses for Honors in the Major as arranged with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2022

LAND ARC 691 – SENIOR THESIS
4 credits.

Individual mentored study for seniors completing theses, as arranged with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2001

LAND ARC 692 – SENIOR THESIS
4 credits.

Individual mentored study for seniors completing theses, as arranged with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 1996

LAND ARC/ENVIR ST/SOIL SCI 695 – APPLICATIONS OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN NATURAL RESOURCES
3 credits.

Modern GIS desktop and web-based workflows, analyses, and visualizations related to natural resource and environmental planning issues and communication. Guest lectures from agency and industry professionals.
Requisites: LAND ARC 311, ENVIR ST/CIV ENGR/GEOG 377, or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop and apply appropriate geospatial analysis workflows related to the study and conservation of natural resources.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Identify and evaluate sources of primary and secondary geospatial data.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Develop methods for collecting primary geospatial data
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Communicate analytical results in visual and graphical forms.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Evaluate literature related to geospatial technologies in environmental science and natural resource issues.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 699 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS-LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
1-5 credits.

Independent study as arranged with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026

LAND ARC 710 – THEORIES OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE
2 credits.

Theories of landscape change in the arts and sciences. Contributions of the scientific method and humanistic frameworks to major issues in landscape architecture.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023
Learning Outcomes: 1. Define and use theory as a way of knowing, and differentiate it from other forms of knowledge.
Audience: Graduate

2. Compare and contrast explanatory and normative theory, and discuss the kinds of issues in which each is applied.
Audience: Graduate

3. Describe the contributions of the scientific framework and humanist approaches to major issues in landscape studies.
Audience: Graduate

4. Compare different theories of landscape change with regard to their positions on ontology, epistemology, methodology, and universality.
Audience: Graduate

5. Discuss various perspectives and explanations as to how landscapes change.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 720 – CRITICAL INQUIRY INTO LANDSCAPE DESIGN EXPRESSION
2 credits.

Normative design theory as it relates to historical and contemporary aesthetic expression in landscape design. Review of critical theory and meaning associated with a broad landscape architecture typology.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain and evaluate how groups of people (academics, intellectuals, critics, designers, etc.) create, define, and defend normative positions.
Audience: Graduate

2. Explain how normative theories in landscape architecture have changed through time.
Audience: Graduate

3. Explain how values are expressed in physical form in the landscape.
Audience: Graduate

4. Defend a normative position with regard to a landscape project.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 740 – RESEARCH IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
3 credits.

Overview of research: Logic and language of the process, substantive issues, criticism of research literature, developments of detailed proposals.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2022

LAND ARC/ANTHRO/ART HIST/DS/HISTORY 764 – DIMENSIONS OF MATERIAL CULTURE
4 credits.

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of material culture studies. It is intended for students interested in any professional endeavor related to material culture, including careers in museums, galleries, historical societies, historic preservation organizations, and academic institutions. During the semester, students have varied opportunities to engage with and contemplate the material world to which people give meaning and which, in turn, influences their lives. Sessions combine in some way the following: presentations from faculty members and professionals who lecture on a phase of material culture related to his/her own scholarship or other professional work; discussion of foundational readings in the field; visits to collections and sites on campus and around Madison; discussion of readings assigned by visiting presenters or the professors; and exams and short papers that engage material culture topics.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

LAND ARC 866 – SEMINAR IN NATURAL PLANT COMMUNITY RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT
1 credit.

Presentations on topics related to plant community management and restoration.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2022
Learning Outcomes: 1. Critically evaluate current ideas, questions, issues, research methodologies, and underlying philosophies within the theory and practice of restoration ecology.
Audience: Graduate

2. Explain topics relating to the past, present, and future of restoration in the Midwest.
Audience: Graduate

3. Synthesize and analyze major course themes.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 940 – GRADUATE SEMINAR
1-2 credits.

Individual research, group discussion and workshop covering selected problems relating to the environment and landscape architecture.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Engage in/lead discussions about scholarship and gain insights about new ideas within the fields of landscape design, planning, conservation, and restoration.
Audience: Graduate

2. Present research/design projects to engage in discussions that are appropriate to the project's stage of development.
Audience: Graduate

3. Review the presentations of others and offer constructive comments to the presenter.
Audience: Graduate

4. Locate, summarize, critique, and contextualize scholarly journal articles, and present their findings to an audience of their peers.
Audience: Graduate

LAND ARC 990 – RESEARCH
1-12 credits.

Individual mentored research and study for completing theses, as arranged with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

LAND ARC 999 – INDEPENDENT STUDIES
1-3 credits.

Opportunity to explore concepts or issues of interest.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026