



*Course Number* LAND 620.01

*Course Name* **Synthesis Studio in Landscape Architecture**

*Studio space* CBDLab

*Studio leads* Matt Williams, CSLA, and Chris Hardwicke, MCIP

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*Course coordinator* Enrica Dall'Ara, CSLA

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*Class Dates* Mo, Tu, Th, and Fr, Sept 6 – Dec 7, 14:00 - 18:10

*Instructor Email Policy* Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours

## Course Description

*Focuses on the synthesis and integration of current landscape technologies, landscape construction materials, plant materials and planting design, using advanced design methods and graphic techniques to address complex issues in landscape architecture. ([Calendar description](#))*

### Two Billion Trees Studio

*“We plant trees, and trees plant us, since we belong to each other, and we must coexist.” (Joseph Beuys).*

Now more than ever, trees are a vital component of healthy, sustainable, and livable communities. Trees clean water and air, lower urban temperatures, manage stormwater, and provide mental health benefits. Trees also hold spiritual significance for many, particularly within Indigenous cultures.

The federal government has made a commitment to planting 2 billion trees. This comes alongside global calls for planting significant numbers of trees to improve resilience in the face of climate change.

At the same time cities are becoming denser and more urban. Urban infill and affordable housing are priorities for cities that are investing in transit to minimize carbon emissions. Typically, dense developments

provide minimal tree canopy.

Two Billion Trees, engages with the challenge of climate change and urban greening. Two Billion Trees refers to the strategies used to incorporate trees into cities. The research starts by asking several questions: why trees? What are the challenges of urban forests? How do trees contribute? How can greening be implemented in our cities? How do cities have to change to incorporate green elements?

The Two Billion Trees studio examines the competing interests between compact urban form and urban forests that is evident in large cities. The studio will review tree planting initiatives by comparing assumptions and approaches. Students will be asked to apply an initiative of this nature to the City of Calgary, assessing the applicability and expected outcome. Subsequently, the studio will undertake a design exercise to implement significant greening initiatives in selected areas of the city. Design explorations will incorporate public realm initiatives to address climate change and illustrate public realm improvements. Students will be required to examine the technical requirements needed to implement these changes.

### Stages

- Environmental Scan (Assignment 1 – 20%)
- Strategy Development and Large Scale Analysis (Assignment 2 – 20%)
- Site Specific Demonstration Interim (Assignment 3a – 20%)
- Site Specific Demonstration Final (Assignment 3b – 40%)

**Course Hours:** 6 units; F(0-8)

## Course Learning Outcomes

1. Apply knowledge acquired throughout students' academic career, including site analysis, precedent review and research, concept design, construction documentation, and visual and oral communication.
2. Demonstrate open-mindedness and curiosity throughout exploration, engagement, and design process.
3. Cultivate an ability to listen to stakeholder input and integrate that feedback in design.
4. Develop an ability to work collaboratively, soliciting and offering constructive feedback to drive and influence design.
5. Communicate design thinking and ideas - visually, verbally, and through narrative.
6. Demonstrate a commitment to process, including consideration of alternatives, iteration, evolution in design thinking, and refinement from a big idea to detailed design.
7. Gain exposure to landscape architecture in practice.
8. Develop an evidence-based approach to decision-making in design that demonstrates the value of landscape architecture.
9. Contextualize the role of landscape architecture within the larger social political economic environmental and cultural dimensions of society.

## Grading Scale

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

## Topic Areas & Detailed Class Schedule

Studio Days	Session	Assignment
Tues	6-Sep	Introduction
Thurs	8-Sep	
Tues	13-Sep	Assignment 1 Intro
		Environmental Scan

Thurs	15-Sep		
Tues	20-Sep		
Thurs	22-Sep	Assignment 1 Due	Environmental Scan
Tues	27-Sep	Assignment #2 Intro	Strategy development & Large Scale Analysis
Thurs	29-Sep		
Tues	4-Oct	SAPL block week	
Thurs	6-Oct	SAPL block week	
Tues	11-Oct		
Thurs	13-Oct		
Tues	18-Oct	Assignment #2 Due	Strategy development & Large Scale Analysis
Thurs	20-Oct	Assignment #3a Intro	Site Selection & Precedent and Design
Tues	25-Oct		
Thurs	27-Oct		
Tues	1-Nov		
Thurs	3-Nov	Assignment #3 Due	Site Selection & Precedent and Design
Tues	8-Nov	Term Break	
Thurs	10-Nov	Term Break	
Tues	15-Nov	Assignment #3b Intro	Final Design
Thurs	17-Nov		
Tues	22-Nov		
Thurs	24-Nov		
Tues	29-Nov		
Thurs	1-Dec		
Tues	6-Dec		
Wed	7-Dec	Assignment #3b Due	Final Design
	12-17 Dec	Final Reviews TBD	

# University of Calgary Policies and Supports

## COVID-19 PROCEDURE FOR SICK STUDENTS

<https://ucalgary.ca/risk/sites/default/files/Covid-19%20Folder/COVID-19-Procedure-for-Sick-Students.pdf>

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar. For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf> Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

## COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

## INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of

extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

### **UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE**

If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised. In addition, the student should refer to the SAPL's Procedure for reappraisal of grades.

### **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk