



Land Acknowledgement: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-teachings/territorial-land-acknowledgement>

Course Number: LAND 201

Course Name: Landscape Architecture and the Future of Cities

Classroom:

- **Lectures** (Mon/Wed @ 11:00am – 11:50am): [REDACTED]
- **Tutorials** (Fri @ 11:00 – 11:50am): [REDACTED]

Instructor: Jeff Thomson

- **Email:** jktomso@ucalgary.ca
- **Office Hours and Location:** By appointment (Zoom)
- **Instructor Email Policy:** Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via students' @ucalgary emails within 48 hours excluding weekends and statutory holidays or unless otherwise noted. Please be sure to Cc the assigned TA for LAND 201 on all correspondence to ensure a timely response.

Teaching Assistant(s):

- **T1:** Sarah Wilkins – Sarah.wilkins@ucalgary.ca

Class Dates:

- Mandatory in-person classes (lectures): Mondays and Wednesdays, Sep. 3rd – Dec. 3rd, 11:00am – 11:50am (except holidays and term break)
- Mandatory in-person tutorials (led by TA): Fridays, Sep. 5th – Dec. 5th, 11:00am – 11:50am (except holidays and term break)
- See *Topic Schedules and Detailed Class Schedule* below for more information.

Course Description:

- This course is an introduction to landscape architecture as a creative and technical discipline; it examines landscape architecture as an artistic and scientific endeavour.
- Students will develop an understanding of the profession and examine the performative role that landscapes play in climate change mitigation, habitat restoration, water management, disaster resilience, public health, as well as urban vitality and well-being.
- Students will learn the role of landscape architects and gain an understanding of how the profession can shape the future of our cities and natural environments and how landscape architects can affect positive future changes at a variety of scales.

- A range of guest lecturers and different types of assignments will expose students to a wide variety of perspectives, specialties, and practices, as well as offer an opportunity to explore site analysis exercises and basic design ideas.
- Academic Calendar description: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/courses/1652641>
- Course Hours: 3 units; (2-1T)

Requisites:

- See [Section 3.3.5](#) of the Academic Calendar for more information regarding School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape courses.
- Prerequisite(s): none
- Corequisite(s): none

Course Delivery:

- In-person delivery
- Students will be required to utilize Desire2Learn (D2L) for this course.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Upon completion of this course, students will know and be able to:
 1. Define what landscape architecture is and understand the role of a landscape architect in a complex and changing world.
 2. Summarize and discuss how landscape architecture and design can affect positive future change.
 3. Examine spaces in a new lens and be able to analyze them at a variety of scales and from multiple perspectives, visually with graphics, verbally and in written format.
 4. Gain a basic understanding in a area of specialty within the landscape architectural discipline.

Learning Resources:

- Although no learning materials are required for this course, the below textbooks are excellent resources and may complement material from the lectures and equip students well for some of the assignments associated with the course. *Thinking about Landscape Architecture* provides a comprehensive overview of landscape architecture, covering its evolution from garden design to urban planning, habitat restoration and sustainable design. The book is ideal for newcomers to the field, offering foundational knowledge for the future study and practice. *Representing Landscapes: Hybrid* and *Landscape Graphics* are guides to all the basic graphics techniques used in landscape design and landscape architecture:
 - Sharky, B. (2016). *Thinking about Landscape Architecture: Principles of a Design Profession for the 21st Century*. Routledge.
 - Nassauer, J.I., & Opdam, P. (2016). *Representing Landscapes: Hybrid*. Routledge.
 - Reid, G. W. (2002). *Landscape Graphics: Plan, Section, and Perspective Drawing of Landscape Spaces*. First Printing.
- Other readings (available online - free) may be assigned through the semester with enough notice to complete them before the corresponding lecture.

Technology Requirements:

- None, assignments are structured to minimize the need for specialized computer programs although students can use programs of their liking to complete assignments if they wish (unless otherwise noted in the project briefs).

Special Budgetary Requirements:

- Please note that students will incur the cost of materials necessary to complete assignments. Assignments are structured to minimize these costs; however, they are contingent upon the student's creative work and cannot therefore be precisely anticipated. Additionally, the following drafting supplies may be helpful to execute A3: Assessing a Public Space, Spatial Analysis (*Team of 2*) and participate in its associated workshop:
 - Drawing pencils: 3H, 2H, HB, 4B, 6B
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Rendering markers and/or Pencil crayons
 - A roll of tracing paper
 - Circle and elliptical templates
 - Drawing straight edges (drafting set squares/triangles, ruler, etc.)

Additional Classroom Conduct and Related Information:

- **Code of Conduct:** The SAPL Studio spaces and other SAPL/University-provided facilities and equipment are governed by the [University's Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#). Professional and courteous behavior is expected at all times. For more information, please refer to [Appendix 1: Prohibited Conduct](#), including the following categories: 1. Protection of Individuals; 2. Protection of Property; 3. Protection of University Functions, Activities and Services; 4. False Information and Identification; 5. Possession or Use of Dangerous Objects, Drugs or Alcohol; 6. Aiding in the Commission of an Offence; 7. Contravention of Other Laws and University Policies; and 8. Failure to Comply with a Sanction.
- **Communication with Instructor(s) Outside of Class Time:** To communicate with the Instructor(s) outside of class time, please use your UCalgary email account (unless otherwise noted) and that both TA's assigned to the course are Cc'd on the message. Email is a widely used professional communication tool. Please specify the course name and section number in the subject line of all emails (e.g., LAND 201, T01). Please ensure you check spelling, grammar, salutations, and other professional etiquette requirements for email communications. Instructors will not respond to emails that do not contain this information. Please provide at least 2 business days for the Instructor(s) to reply. While email is most commonly used by students to communicate with their Instructors, it can sometimes limit the effectiveness of communication and may not be the best way to answer all student questions. When replying, if the Instructor determines that communicating via email is not optimal, they may request a phone call or a virtual/in-person meeting.

Assessment Components:

- The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the Academic Calendar. In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
Participation	Attendance and contribution at tutorial sessions throughout the duration of the course.	10%	1,2,3,4
A1: Lecture Response Journal	Brief personal reflections on each lecture topic. Split into two parts (first half of the semester and second).	10%	1,2,4
A2: Networking Activity with an Industry Professional	Reach out to someone working in the field of landscape architecture to learn about what they do and gain an understanding of their career path to get to where they are now.	25%	1,4
A3: Assessing a Public Space, Spatial Analysis (<i>Team of 2</i>)	Analyze a local public space and present your analysis work graphically. Propose design interventions that your team feels will make the space more successful.	25%	1,3
A4: summative Research Project (<i>Team of 4</i>)	Explore a specific field of specialty in landscape architecture and determine how it can affect positive future change. This work will then be presented to your peers.	30%	1,2,4

- Final Examinations:
 - There will be no exam.
- Expectations for Writing:
 - <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/2c2d1ce47b8c4d008aec9cc3da49876e>
 - For written assignments, the quality of the writing will be one of the factors addressed in the grading rubric. Should students feel the need for extra support in this regard, the services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students.
 - Please see the “Copyright Legislation” Section of the University of Calgary Policies and Supports for information on the use of AI in this course.
- Assessment and Evaluation Information:
 - If a student misses (or is late for) a required component of the course for a valid excuse or absence, they must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss applicable options to submit and/or make-up for that component.
 - Alternate arrangements for missed in-person assessments with a valid excuse will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Instructor and upon review of the student’s class participation and attendance record.
 - For example, students who have missed an in-person assessment (e.g., oral presentation) as a result of an excused absence may be asked—if applicable to the assessment—to submit a self-recorded video (via Zoom’s auto-record feature) in lieu of an in-person engagement.
 - For assessments submitted online (e.g., D2L), late assignments with a valid excuse may be considered for grading without penalty at the discretion of the Instructor and upon review of the student’s class participation and attendance record. Otherwise, the course’s standard grade penalties (indicated below) will apply.

- For assessments submitted online (e.g., D2L), all late assignments *without a valid excuse* will lose a letter grade (e.g., A- to B-) every 24 hours after the submission date/time. Late assignments submitted more than four days late constitute an automatic zero (0).
- Missed in-person assessments (e.g., oral presentation, exam, etc.) as a result of an *unexcused* absence will receive an automatic zero (0).

Attendance and Participation Expectations:

- Students are expected to attend and come prepared to meaningfully engage in all class sessions. This includes producing or preparing content necessary for discussion and contributing to individual and class-wide discussions and/or conversations/assessments with the Course Instructor.
- Attendance will be taken at all tutorials and an assessment will be given using the weighting outlined in the assessment chart under *Participation* (above) for each student.
- **Excused Absences:** In the event of an exceptional circumstance (e.g., illness, bereavement, etc.) or an exceptional opportunity (e.g., varsity athletic competition, national conference or awards ceremony, pow wow, etc.) up to two excused absences are allowable per semester before jeopardizing one's own course grade and ability to pass the course. However, any such arrangements must be approved by the Instructor with advance notice by the student.
- **Unexcused Absences:** Attendance at all class Tutorial sessions and participation in all assessments is mandatory. Unexcused absences in excess of one per semester are grounds for failure in the course.
- **Total Number of Absences:** For Tutorial sessions, the combined total number of excused AND unexcused absences per semester cannot exceed two. Any number in excess are grounds for failure in the course.

Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:

- All assignments (e.g., projects, papers, presentations, etc.) must be turned in on time.
- Please submit all assignments electronically through Dropbox in D2L. Assignments may be submitted in PDF format (unless otherwise stated). Assignments should have a file name as follows: "Coursenumber_semester_Lastname-Firstname_assignment-title" (e.g., LAND201_F25_Thomson-Jeff_summative-research-paper). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that all submitted digital files are in the correct format, complete, and accessible. Submissions that are corrupt, empty, incorrect (e.g., wrong file type), or inaccessible may receive a grade of zero. It is not the Instructor's responsibility to verify or notify students of submission errors. Students are encouraged to double-check their uploads and retain confirmation of successful submission.
- **Late Assignments:** Late assignments will lose a letter grade every 24 hours after the submission date/time. Late assignments submitted more than four days late constitute automatic failure.

Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade):

- As per [Section 3.5.1](#) of the Academic Calendar, the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School, with the exception of the following courses:
 - Architecture 201
 - Landscape Architecture 201
 - Planning 201

Grading Scale:

Based on [Section F.1.1](#) of the Academic Calendar

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Good performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	Approaching satisfactory performance. Minimum grade requirement for prerequisite courses.
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Topic Areas and Detailed Class Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Start/Due Dates
1	Sep 3, 2025	Course outline and introductions	
	Sep 5, 2025	<i>Tutorial: Course Outline Q+A's, A1 Overview</i>	A1 Start
2	Sep 8, 2025	What is Landscape Architecture? (history to present day)	
	Sep 10, 2025	The role of a Landscape Architect and state of the profession	
	Sep 12, 2025	<i>Tutorial: A2 overview + preparation for undertaking A2</i>	A2 Start
3	Sep 15, 2025	SAPL/BDCI info Session (GL: S. Ha)	
	Sep 17, 2025	The lifecycle of a project and the design process	
	Sep 19, 2025	<i>Tutorial: Graphic Design Workshop A2 working session/Q+A's</i>	
4	Sep 22, 2025	Assessing the landscape, site inventory + analysis	
	Sep 24, 2025	The 6 Principles of Design	
	Sep 26, 2025	<i>Tutorial: A3 overview + workshop (site analysis graphics)</i>	A3 Start
5	Sep 29, 2025	A3 site overviews + Touchpoint, what we have learned so far...	
	Oct 1, 2025	Getting to know some local work part 1 (GL: E. Webster)	
	Oct 3, 2025	<i>Tutorial: A3 working session and Q+A's</i>	
6	Oct 6, 2025	Getting to know some local work part 2 (GL: L. Postuma)	A2 Due
	Oct 8, 2025	Urbanization and the importance of public space	
	Oct 10, 2025	<i>Tutorial: A3 working session and Q+A's</i>	
7	Oct 13, 2025	Thanksgiving Day – University Closed	
	Oct 15, 2025	Solutions to urbanization and the 15-minute city (self-guided)	A1 (Part 1) Due
	Oct 17, 2025	<i>Tutorial: A3 working session and Q+A's</i>	
8	Oct 20, 2025	Managing stormwater in Landscape Architecture	
	Oct 22, 2025	Sponge cities + A3 working session	
	Oct 24, 2025	<i>A2 Pin-up and discussions on key learnings</i>	
9	Oct 27, 2025	Landscape Architecture and natural areas	A3 Due
	Oct 29, 2025	Disaster resilience + recovery: local examples (GL: M. Williams)	
	Oct 31, 2025	<i>Tutorial: A4 Overview</i>	A4 Start
10	Nov 3, 2025	A4 working session and partner networking	
	Nov 5, 2025	Tactical Urbanism + Parklets (GL: C. Tran)	
	Nov 7, 2025	<i>Tutorial: A4 working session and Q+A's</i>	
11	Nov 10, 2025	Term Break – No Classes	
	Nov 12, 2025	Term Break – No Classes	
	Nov 14, 2025	Term Break – No Classes	
12	Nov 17, 2025	Planning and Landscape Architecture (GL: A. Bomback)	
	Nov 19, 2025	Becoming a Landscape Architect (GL: D. Hassett, D. Kalesnikoff)	
	Nov 21, 2025	<i>Tutorial: A4 working session and Q+A's</i>	
13	Nov 24, 2025	How I got here... Perspectives from a local LA (GL: M. Magnan)	
	Nov 26, 2025	A4 working session and Q+A's with Jeff	
	Nov 28, 2025	<i>Tutorial: A4 Workshop (Presentation Skills)</i>	
14	Dec 1, 2025	A4 Presentations (Group 1) – All students attend	A4 Due
	Dec 3, 2025	A4 Presentations (Group 2) – All students attend	
	Dec 5, 2025	A4 Presentations (Group 3) – All students attend	A1 (Part 2) Due

*(GL) – Guest Lecture

- Please note that the schedule is subject to change based on guest lecturer availability. Should the lecture topics change, an updated schedule will be sent out with as much notice as possible. The schedule of assignments will remain as presented in this document unless noted otherwise in class and on D2L.

Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

- There is no mandatory scheduled out-of-class activities for this course. However, it should be noted that students are expected to perform site visit(s) to their selected public space as part of A3: *Assessing a Public Space, Spatial Analysis (Team of 2)*. Some site options are located on campus to accommodate nearby/easy-to-access.

University of Calgary Policies and Supports:

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY COVID-19 UPDATES AND PROCEDURES

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response/covidsafe-campus>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/current-students/academic-accommodations>

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

[Student Accessibility Services](#) 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/.

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 Procedures please visit:

- Student Academic Misconduct Policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

- Student Academic Misconduct Procedure: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://www.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 (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) 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/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>).

USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) APPLICATIONS AND TOOLS

The use of generative AI, including the use of work created by generative AI tools and applications in course assignments and assessments may be considered in accordance with the university's academic misconduct policy. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>. If you are in doubt as to the use of generative AI tools in this course, please discuss your situation with the course instructor. AI tools can be used for learning course material but not for completing assignments. The use of AI tools for assignments may be considered an academic offense. Students must not copy or paraphrase from AI applications for assignments.

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.

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

The University of Calgary (University) respects your privacy and is committed to ensuring the privacy of all students, staff, and community members. UCalgary's collection, use, and disclosure of your personal information is authorized under section 4(c) of the Alberta [Protection of Privacy Act](#) (POPA). It will be collected, used and disclosed as permitted under POPA and in accordance with the University's [Privacy Policy](#) and [Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Student Personal Information](#). All student assignments and personal information provided to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. It will not be disclosed to anyone else without your permission unless permitted under POPA.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED 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 and Gender-Based Violence Policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual and/or gender-based violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual/gender-based violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual/gender-based 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/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>.

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://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/university-regulations/reappraisal-term-work>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised.

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