

# LA 395: Independent Study in Landscape Architecture

## Details

Course Administrator: Chris Sass

Faculty Advisor/Mentor(s): selected by student

Meeting Location/Time: student and faculty mentor arrange regular meetings

Credit Hours: 1-6

## Course Description

Advanced topical studies in landscape architecture allowing for individual research or a work/travel experience coordinated with academic pursuits. Prereq: Approval of project and signed Learning Contract.

Goal: The preparation, execution, and/or presentation of an independent research or design project, or work/travel experience with an educational component.

## Course Format: Topic/Experience Selection

Students should strive for a topic or experience that excites and interests them. Consider topics or experience areas that will provide exposure to local, regional or national trends, socially or technically significant professional experience, or will provide an extensive educational benefit. Discuss your ideas with professors and related professionals. After selecting a potential topic or experience you should obtain advisor(s) to work with you.

Note: The elements comprising a research study, design competition, design/implementation project, or travel/study experience will differ substantially from one another; however, every project should have a written component as part of the final project/experience submission.

## Faculty Advisor/Mentor(s)

Prior to writing your proposal for the project or experience, you must obtain the cooperation of an individual to serve as your primary advisor or mentor. Your primary advisor need not be a landscape architecture professor. The primary advisor must be a recognized resource person within your proposed area of study and you must obtain approval from the Department Chair for this individual to serve as your primary advisor. If your primary advisor is not a landscape architecture professor, you should also obtain agreement from a landscape architecture professor to serve as a secondary advisor.

### Faculty Advisor/Mentor(s) will:

- Assist/mentor student in selecting and developing project/experience proposal.
- Set due dates for review of proposal outline and subsequent revisions.
- Mentor/guide student during research/study phase.
- Establish evaluation criteria for project/experience submission.
- Set due dates for first draft of project or written portion and subsequent revisions as needed.

- Obtain input from secondary advisor as needed.
- Set due date for submission of final project or written portion of experience.
- Evaluate submission and issue final grade.

## Project/Experience Proposal

You must submit an approximately 500-word project proposal detailing a) what it is you plan to do b) your objectives c) how you plan to accomplish those objectives and d) your timeline. The student should talk to their faculty advisor(s) about ideas for the direction of the project/experience before writing the final proposal. The proposal must be approved by the Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and the LA 395 Learning Contract must be signed prior to registration.

## Final Project/Experience Submission

The student should submit two typed copies of your written project or experience component to your advisor(s) at a previously agreed upon date. One copy will be kept by the Department. Your advisor(s) will then review the project and issue a grade based on the previously determined evaluation criteria. In addition, when appropriate, your advisor(s) may require you to orally present your project to faculty and students as part of your grade (this should be determined at the beginning of the project and included in the agreed upon evaluation criteria).

## Components of Project/Experience Submission

The nature, scope and goals of the project or experience should dictate the components or elements of the final submission and the criteria used to evaluate it. These elements should be discussed, outlined in detail, mutually agreed to by the student and faculty mentor(s), and included in the project proposal submission.

The elements comprising a research study, design competition, design implementation project, or travel/study experience will differ substantially from one another; however, every project should have a written component as part of the final project/experience submission.

### Example of content for written research project submission

- Cover Page/Table of Contents: project title, student name, date, course info, content list
- Introduction: Let reader know exactly what the project is about, its limits of coverage—where you plan begin and end. This may also be called the explanation: showing how the text is organized and on what principle it is based. In other words, what is your purpose in writing?
- Body/Content: The format should be discussed in detail with the advisor(s).
- Conclusions/Results/Application/Summary: What did you do or achieve and how does it relate or apply to the topic—positive, negative or inconclusive? Doubt may remain but should be complemented with indication of areas needing further research.
- Bibliography/Citations: complete and in appropriate format.
- Graphics or Supplemental Material: as needed to communicate information.

Student Information		Course Information	
Name		Semester/Year	
Student ID Number		Course #/Section	LA 395
Email		Credit Hours (1-6)	
Major	Landscape Architecture	Faculty Mentor	
Project Title		Grade Option	Letter Grade

List your learning objectives for this experience:

Describe the methods that will be employed:

Product student is to provide and due date:

Student / Faculty Mentor meeting arrangements:

**Approval**

Faculty Mentor Signature / Date

Student Signature / Date