

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LAND7131 MLA Design Studio I (12 credits)

The foundation studio course introduces candidates to the principles of design in Landscape Architecture. It grounds candidates in the language of the discipline and introduces them to the contemporary landscape theories and discourses. Teaching is conducted in the studio and includes exercises, design problems, and individual and group projects. Coursework is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions. Required field trips allow candidates to experience and analyse landscape design designs first hand. Studio exercises explore the conventions of landscape architectural representation. Candidates learn the use of measured analytical drawings, physical modelling, and diagrams as design tools in the creative process. Design problems investigate the spatial, material, experiential and temporal aspects of landscape and introduce candidates to techniques in the manipulation of space, landscape form and tectonics. They develop candidate's ability to conceive and express design propositions with reason, imagination and sensitivity, under time constraints. Projects focus on the exploration of landscape through its design, and are closely related to concurrent course work.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

LAND7132 MLA Design Studio II (12 credits)

The second studio course continues the exploration of landscape design through a broad range of learning activities including studio exercises, design problems, and individual and group projects. The studio helps candidates improve their use of landscape design language, to develop design rationales, and broaden their understanding of the discipline and its discourses. Teaching is conducted in both group and individual formats, and coursework is regularly presented and critically reviewed. Regular field trips are required, including a ten day (self-funded) research-based overseas study tour.

Studio exercises explore more advanced forms of landscape architectural representation. They allow candidates to practice their use of analytical drawing, physical and computer modelling, and diagramming, and help to develop research and analytical skills. Design problems continue to develop candidate's landscape design skills through a variety of increasingly complex and challenging landscape architectural design assignments and develop candidate's ability to create and articulate landscape design solutions, increasingly under time constraints. Projects introduce a variety of inquiry methods at a scale that require candidates to consider the specificity of users, programme and context as the basis for design propositions. The scale of projects increases with a focus on site planning with the integration of multiple factors which shape our physical landscapes including society, urban context, and architectural parameters.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

(Pre-requisite: LAND7131 MLA Design Studio I)

LAND7152 Landscape Plants and Ecology I (6 credits)

One of the core skills of the Landscape Architect is an understanding of horticulture, and its influence on the design process. This course gives candidates a comprehensive understanding of plant species and plant communities commonly found in Hong Kong & Southern China, together with a knowledge of their characteristics for use in landscape planting and the underlying fundamentals of botany, plant physiology, and taxonomy.

The course also introduces the basic principles and vocabulary of planting design. It examines the influence on plant physiology and tolerances, plant form, succession and ecological habitat on plant selection. Candidates are introduced to basic spatial forms and arrangements of plants, and how these impact on environmental experience. Field study trips provide the opportunity to investigate real examples planting designs and analyse their success/shortcomings.

Assessment: 75-100% continuous coursework assessment and up to 25% examination

LAND7151 Landscape Technology I (6 credits)

This course covers the basic theory and practice of site engineering for landscape architects including earthworks, grading, drainage, basic surveying and road alignment. Earth materials, soil mechanics, and site investigation are reviewed as a basis to site engineering operations. Coursework may include regular assignments, site visits, and site study reports.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

LAND7255 Landscape Plants and Ecology II (6 credits)

This course introduces candidates to the advanced ecological concepts and practices available for landscape architects and emphasizes issues such as environmental remediation, construction mitigation, habitat construction and other impacts of land use and development on natural processes. This knowledge gained in this course will help set a foundation for sustainable practice in the field of landscape architecture.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

LAND7141 Landscape History and Theory I (6 credits)

Illustrated lectures are given on the historical development of landscape design in its various cultural contexts. Basic theory of design as related to landscape architecture is dealt with as a basis for the studio course in landscape planning and design. Coursework may include studies on selected topics and a sketchbook assignment.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

LAND7142 Landscape History and Theory II(6 credits)

As a continuation of History and Theory of Landscape Architecture I, this course continues to examine the historical development of landscape design in its various geographic and cultural contexts, including recent and contemporary designs. The theory and practice of contemporary landscape architecture are dealt with. Coursework may include studies on selected topics and a sketchbook assignment.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

LAND7176 Landscape Media (6 credits)

Methods of Fabrication. By manipulating and controlling information available in the public domain, a model will be constructed to form a landscape out of the pre-existing, mapped urban environment. Developing the information further, a three-dimensional computer model will be constructed to produce objects with a high degree of precision. By manufacturing the model from a series of computer controlled fabrication devices, including the CNC milling machine, the large-format laser cutter, and a three-dimensional resin printer, a highly precise physical model will be the final output.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

LAND7233 MLA Design Studio III (12 credits)

The third studio course further develops the candidate's ability to research, analyse, conceptualise and create meaningful landscape designs and to articulate rigorous, ordered and critical design positions. Teaching is conducted in both group and individual formats, and coursework is regularly presented and critically reviewed. Field trips or site visits may be required.

Candidates will practice the use of analytical and representational techniques, and will study contemporary research practices in landscape design and adjacent disciplines. Projects introduce a variety of design inquiry methods that require candidates to critically consider the specificity of users, programme and context as the basis for their propositions. The increasingly complex and challenging projects focus on the interrelationships of landscape systems and human development and call for integration of multiple factors which shape our physical landscapes including ecology, community, and social parameters.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

(Pre-requisite: LAND7132 MLA Design Studio II)

LAND7291 Thesis Prep (Capstone Experience) (6 credits)

This course incorporates supervised studies on special approved topics in landscape architecture by individuals or small groups. Oral presentations and special study reports/paper are required.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

LAND7156 Landscape Technology II (6 credits)

This seminar course explores how modern technology changes the ways people interact, how they experience space, and ultimately their perception and understanding of the built and natural environment. These are very critical developments in contemporary societies that would affect the practice of landscape architecture. Candidates enrolled in this course will engage in the critical analyses of such phenomena.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

LAND7281 Landscape Architecture Practice (6 credits)

Introduction to the basic principles and approaches to the practice of landscape architecture, including an understanding of professionalism, codes of professional conduct, the nature and scope of services, consultancy appointments, project team members and their roles, the forms and management of consulting practices, tender documents and types of contract for the implementation of landscape works. Additionally, the course covers the above in relationship to key areas of the Laws of Tort; Contract; Land; and Environment. The course investigates the role of the landscape architect on site, focusing on the procedures and activities required to manage the construction of a landscape contract and ensure successful realization of the designer's vision on site.

The course is conducted as a series of focused lectures on specific topics interspersed with panel discussions with leading landscape professionals to explore the application of landscape practice theory in the contexts of local private practice, public offices and working in China.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment
