



1905 View of the Carson lands in Soap Creek Valley (Public domain image accessed from Letitia Carson Digital History Collection)

## LA 4/589 | Reimagining Letitia Carson’s Homestead for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Winter 2024

<b>Time</b>	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 pm – 4:50 pm
<b>Location</b>	Lawrence Hall 307
<b>Credits</b>	6
<b>Prerequisites</b>	LA 4/539 studio series or the equivalent [upon approval by instructor]
<b>Curricular Context</b>	Required for all MLA (first professional) and BLA students
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Elizabeth (Ellee) Stapleton</b> (she/her/hers, they/them/theirs) Visiting Assistant Professor Lawrence Hall 311 estaple2@uoregon.edu Office hours: W 11am-12 pm & Th 12-1pm (sign up using Calendly)

### Studio Description

Drawing on stakeholder input and historical research conducted in conjunction with the Letitia Carson Legacy Project, this studio will develop community-focused design proposals for the historic homestead site of Letitia Carson, one of Oregon’s first black female settlers. Building upon the work of students during Fall 2023, we will work to image and design “a 21st century version of [Letitia’s] homestead: a place for storytelling, living history, land stewardship, community building, and healing,” and to help illuminate Black and Indigenous identities and experiences on this land.

The idea of ‘relationship’ underpins this studio. Racist, sexist, and expansionist histories will be critiqued for the relationships they perpetuate between different social groups as well as between humans and the land. Community engagement processes will be guided by the goal of building authentic relationships between designers and community stakeholders. As we transition from research and analysis to design and production, we will work to maintain this emphasis on relationship, and to bring this emphasis into our design proposals.

This studio is offered as part of the Oregon Sequence, a series of 4/589 studios which focuses on a single geographic or topical theme across multiple quarters. As the second studio within the Oregon Sequence, the Winter 2024 studio will develop design proposals for the Carson homestead site based on the cultural, historical, and geographic contextualization provided by the previous Fall 2023 studio.

### **Studio Format**

This studio is all in-person and will meet during all scheduled class times. Studio meetings will include a mix of guided activities (site visits, lectures, class discussions, design critiques, etc.) and independent project work time. Students are expected to advance their work outside of studio meetings, including by completing assigned readings and activities, conducting research, developing graphic materials, engaging with stakeholders, and preparing for reviews and community events. Note that site visits and stakeholder meetings are an important part of this studio and some may extend beyond regularly scheduled studio times (with advance notice).

### **Learning Objectives**

After completing this studio, students will be better able to:

- Empathetically listen to community members, guide community discussions and solicit design feedback from stakeholders
- Translate stakeholder desires into specific site design proposals
- Incorporate historical, ecological, and cultural knowledge into site design concepts
- Explore the role of narrative, tone, and interpretation in designing culturally just sites
- Engage in site design across multiple spatial and temporal scales
- Produce site design graphics tailored to various audiences, including non-designers
- Consider design and making as a community engagement strategy