Fall 2024

LA 4/574

History of Landscape Architecture I

Time

Tu + Th
4:00 - 5:20pm

Location

Esslinger Room 105

Credits

4

Instructor

Laurie Matthews, FASLA (she/her/hers)
Department of Landscape Architecture
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Course Description

The first in a sequence of two classes covering the history of landscape architecture, this class explores the history and theory of the designed landscape from the beginnings of human settlement into the 19th century. The course operates from the principle that every designed landscape can be understood as a product of contemporary context(s) and/or historical traditions, situated (or not) in a particular site. Lectures, readings, exercises, and assignments will address the expression of various cultural themes and ideas in landscapes, leading to a critical and literate appreciation of the designed landscape.

Class Modality

Class taught in a hybrid-format.
Prerequisites
None

Curricular Context
This class is required for BLA and MLA Track I students, and for MLA Track II students who have not previously taken a course in landscape architectural history. The class also fulfills the Group II Renaissance (B.Arch) and Renaissance (M.Arch) Architectural History requirement for architecture students.

Grading
Landscape Architecture students (Minors, Pre-BLA, BLA, and MLA degree) are required to take the class for a letter grade. All other students may take the class for a letter grade or as Pass/No Pass.

Class Format
Class meeting times are primarily structured around lectures, with occasional exercises, group discussions, and guest presentations. Outside of class time, students are required to review the lectures, complete weekly readings, compile tradition guides, submit weekly reading responses (LA 575 only), and complete assignments. As a 4-credit class, the University expects that undergraduates will spend an average of about 12 hours/week dedicated to this class, and graduates will spend an average of about 16 hours/week dedicated to this class (including in-class time).

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, you will have:
1. Become familiar with the canonical traditions, designers, and landscapes across landscape architectural history.
2. Understood that landscape architecture is a form of cultural expression situated in time, place, and culture, and that design ideas travel across time, place, and culture.
3. Understood that historic traditions continue to be expressed in contemporary landscape architecture.
4. Demonstrated verbal and written skills for thoughtfully critical analysis and interpretation of the designed landscape.

Required Textbook
The following is the required textbook for this class:
The textbook is available used through online retailers. A copy will be available on reserve at the DSGN library. Note that this is the same textbook required for LA 475/575: History of Landscape Architecture II.