

## LA 221 Course Syllabus

### Landscape Architectural History: Mid-19th Century to Recent Past

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Course Title: Landscape Architectural History Mid-19th Century to Recent Past

Semester: Spring 2026

Instructor: Ann Hildner

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Office Hours: Schedule in advance

Class Time: MWF 11:00-11:50

Course CRN: 26777

Location:

**Catalogue Description:** The history of landscape architecture from the mid-19th century to the recent past. Emphasizes North American human-environment relationships, and their antecedents and cultural parallels in landscape design.

Open only to LA majors and minors, or by permission of the Department Chair.

**Course Description:** This course examines the evolution of landscape architecture from the mid-19th century through the late 20th century, tracing how social reform, industrialization, urbanization, modernism, ecological science, and cultural critique reshaped landscapes and design practice. Through lectures, images, readings, and discussion, students will explore the profession's shifting roles—from pastoral idealism to infrastructural systems, from formal modernism to ecological and cultural landscapes.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify major movements, figures, and projects in landscape architectural history since 1850
2. Explain how social, political, ecological, and technological forces shaped landscapes
3. Analyze landscapes as cultural artifacts and design responses
4. Draw connections between historical precedents and contemporary practice

#### **Required Texts and Readings**

Will be identified and to be provided

## Course Policies

Attendance and participation are essential. Please notify the instructor in advance of any absence.

Late assignments will be accepted only with prior approval or documented emergency.

Academic integrity is expected of all students. Plagiarism will result in disciplinary action.

## Course Involvement

*Class participation is critical.* You will be expected to verbally engage in each class session, offering questions and critique when your colleagues and instructors make presentations. This course topic is a new one to most in the class; the topic also is complex. Course learning outcomes should be read carefully and pursued with each project, as they will comprise the framework for grading rubrics. Supplemental information will be provided through class discussions, lectures, and reading assignments as required by specific problems and student interests.

## Grading

Evaluation of student work will be based on enthusiastic participation, depth and breadth of exploration, detailed thinking, and risk-taking. Regarding the last: use the course to expand your own experience in research, design, and design communication.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, reviews, and lectures. When not participating in discussion with the instructors or in other forms of design critiques, students should be actively engaged in the developmental stages of project design throughout the studio sessions.

The evaluation of coursework will provide the primary basis for grades in the studio. However, structured measures of evaluation for other aspects such as intellectual engagement, participation, and design study strategies will be used as additional evaluative criteria.

A	=	100% - 94%	C-	=	73% - 70%
A-	=	93% - 90%	D+	=	69% - 67%
B+	=	89% - 87%	D	=	66% - 64%
B	=	86% - 84%	D-	=	63% - 60%
B-	=	83% - 80%	F	=	below 60% = fail course
C+	=	79% - 77%			
C	=	76% - 74%			

University Grade Appeal Policy. If you believe you received a final course grade that does not reflect your performance due to fairness or a procedural issue, you have the right to file an appeal within 5 school days after final grades are posted by the Office of the Registrar. Review the <https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/vice-provost/student-services/grade-appeals>

## **Academic Conduct**

Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the [Ball State Student Academic Ethics Policy](#) on academic misconduct. Academic integrity violations include giving or receiving an unfair academic advantage (cheating), presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own (plagiarism), and falsifying academic records. Unless otherwise indicated, you must work independently by yourself. Check with instructor if you are unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the faculty member (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books)
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments.
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party.
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams.
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

## **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance is required. Participation in discussion is strongly encouraged. In the event you are unable to attend or complete course requirements due to illness or family emergencies contact the instructor. It is your responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor to make up the work.

"Tardy" is defined as being up-to 15 minutes late for class, after which a student will be marked as "absent." Three tardies equal one unexcused absence. After three unexcused absences, the final semester grade will be lowered by one full letter (e.g. an "A" becomes a "B"). After the sixth unexcused absence, the semester grade will be lowered by another full letter.

## **Late work**

Projects will be graded on a point scale. Late work will be accepted subject to a deduction of 10% of the project points for each day that a project is late. (E.g. a project is worth 10 points. It is turned-in 23-hours after its due date. The highest grade that project may receive is 10-10%= 9.) Work after seven days late will not be accepted and a "0" will be recorded for the project. All projects are due at the specified deadline. Students should submit work at whatever stage of completion it has reached at the specified due time. A grade will be assigned to this work in accordance with the criteria established above. No incomplete grade will be given without a sufficient and compelling cause. *A project is not considered finished and ready to grade until it has been uploaded to the designated location.*

### **Course + Student Work Policies**

Students, as well as all members of the Ball State community, are expected to respect the health, safety, and welfare of others in our extended community by adhering to the health guidelines set forth by the University including the [2020 Cardinals Care Pledge](#) and the [Return to Campus Plan for Students](#).

<https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/emergencypreparedness/pandemicfluprep/coronavirus/plans-resources/return-to-campus-plan-for-students>

To protect the health and safety of the Ball State University community, students, faculty, staff and visitors should wear face masks over their mouths and noses **as needed**. Students needing accommodations from this requirement may contact the Office of Disability Services at [dsd@bsu.edu](mailto:dsd@bsu.edu).

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with your instructor, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the instructors as soon as possible.

### **Freedom of Expression**

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on <https://www.bsu.edu/about/freedom-of-expression/freedom-of-expression-statement> and <https://www.bsu.edu/about/beneficence>

### **Title IX**

Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit [bsu.edu/titleix](http://bsu.edu/titleix) or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285- 1545 or at [titleix@bsu.edu](mailto:titleix@bsu.edu)

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

What happens after I report? The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant **chooses** to meet with the Title IX Coordinator,

- Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward.
- If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.

## **Generative AI Statement**

### **Some Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission**

You may use generative AI applications for some work submitted in this course. You will be informed as to when, where, and how these tools are permitted to be used, along with guidance for attribution. Any use outside of this permission constitutes a violation of Ball State University's [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#).

## **The Learning Center**

The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit [myballstate.bsu.edu](http://myballstate.bsu.edu) and click on "Navigate" in the Academic Tools section, or just go directly to [bsu.navigate.eab.com](http://bsu.navigate.eab.com).

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center.

Supplemental Instruction is available in select courses. If you have an SI leader for your course, that person will provide students with information the first week of school regarding weekly study sessions. For more information about Learning Center programming, visit [bsu.edu/learningcenter](http://bsu.edu/learningcenter) or call 765-285-1006. Follow us on Instagram: [BallStateLC](#).

## **The Writing Center**

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays, Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings, or online during any of our regularly scheduled hours) to get additional feedback on your writing.

The Writing Center offers free planning, feedback, and accountability sessions (in person and online) to all students composing essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to [bsu.edu/writingcenter](http://bsu.edu/writingcenter). Online and in-person appointments are available; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly!

## **The Basic Needs Hub**

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the [Basic Needs Hub](#). The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a [Basic Needs Assistance Form](#).

## **The Counseling Center**

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found [here](#).

## **The Speaking Center**

The [Speaking Center](#) is a free resource available to all members of the BSU community wanting to improve their public speaking abilities. We offer personalized coaching designed to help you become a more confident and effective speaker. Our trained coaches provide constructive feedback and support throughout the entire speech preparation process, whether you are in the early stages of brainstorming ideas and organizing your thoughts, or you need to practice your delivery and refine your message.

The Center is in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building, room 302. To schedule an appointment, please access us through your Navigate app or use this [direct link](#) to sign up for a time. Appointments are available both in person and on Zoom. Appointments are available in person, on Zoom, and in virtual reality (VR) for those interested in practicing in an immersive speaking environment.

## **Canvas Accessibility**

Canvas provides a user experience that is easy, simple, and intuitive. Special attention has been paid to making Canvas screen-readable. The Rich Content Editor encourages users to create accessible content pages (i.e. text formatting is accomplished using styles). Canvas is designed to allow limited customization of colors and schemes to be accessible for all users. The National

Federation of the Blind granted Canvas the Gold Level Web Certification in 2010. **Find more information by visiting the [Canvas Voluntary Product Accessibility Template \(VPAT\)](#).**

### **FERPA and Privacy**

As a student, your educational records are considered confidential. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances, your records will not be released without your written and signed consent. However, some directory information may be released to third parties without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn more about student rights to privacy by reading [Ball State's FERPA and Privacy and Protection](#).

### **Video Conferencing Recording**

In this class, software may be used to record live class discussions. As a student in this class, your participation in live class discussions may be recorded. These recordings typically will be made available only to students enrolled in the class, to assist those who cannot attend the live session or to serve as a resource for those who would like to review content that was presented. Students who prefer to participate via audio only will be allowed to disable their video camera so only audio will be captured. Students who prefer to listen only must disable their audio capability and visual camera. If you have concerns, please discuss these options with me.

### **Plagiarism Detection**

The campus subscribes to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service, through Canvas. You may need to submit written assignments to Turnitin. Student work will be used for plagiarism detection and for no other purpose. The student may indicate in writing to the instructor that he/she refuses to participate in the plagiarism detection process, in which case the instructor can use other electronic means to verify the originality of their work.