LA 303 : Regional Landscape Design

Fall 2026

Course Basics

Regional Landscape Design
LA 303
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 PM – 4:50 PM

Course Information

Course Description
The application of principles of landscape architectural design to large-scale landscape settings. Topics include land planning, park/recreational master planning, and natural and cultural landscape resource management.

Prerequisites
LA 202 and LA 280. Open only to LA majors.

Course Objectives

1. Understand and apply the principles and emerging strategies of regional scale landscape planning and design, including theory, history, and processes.
2. Create plans and designs that demonstrate current trends in regional planning and design.
3. Identify and analyze issues related to regional scale landscape design such as watershed management, transportation and other networks, natural and cultural resource management, regional identity.
4. Use inventory and analysis methods and technologies employed in regional landscape design specifically focused on Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
5. Apply the process of large-scale landscape design, including inventory mapping, establishing goals and objectives, researching, analyzing, and presenting alternatives in the development of a regional landscape plan.
6. Produce site designs and details based upon regional scale plans.

Foundational Learning Outcomes for the Studio Sequence
The products of student coursework (i.e. outcomes) will represent consistent advancements in skill levels over the 4-year curriculum. Skill levels for each year:

2nd Year	Introduction and Application
3rd Year	Refinement
4th Year	Guided Competency
5th Year	Independent Competency and Career Readiness

Upon successful completion, students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Demonstrate the application of the Design Process regarding form-making and place-making appropriate to the studio level.
2. Create plans and designs that demonstrate responses to current theory and best practices in landscape architecture.
3. Demonstrate the ability to inventory, analyze, and communicate the physical and cultural design determinants that inform the design process as they relate to a studio's theme.
4. Demonstrate global-, cultural-, and eco-literacy in design decisions.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of human and cultural, and environmental ethics in making designs.
6. Demonstrate the application and appropriate consideration of individual and societal Health, Safety, and Welfare in design work.
7. Demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others (studio partners, groups, other disciplines, or project stakeholders) in a dynamic, collaborative problem-solving environment.
8. Apply a broad range of design communication skills clearly and effectively in order to convey design ideas, intent, and solutions orally, graphically, and in writing.

Course Modality/Structure
The class is organized in two primary sections: instruction in ArcGIS software for basic mapping and analysis, and large-scale planning and design projects.

Class will begin at 1:00 PM, attendance and working in class is mandatory, and you are responsible for obtaining information you have missed.

This class will include field study.

Course Materials

Readings and other pertinent resources will be placed on Canvas or handed out on paper throughout the semester.

Course Assignments and Assessments

Assignment details, including instructions, relevant readings, due dates, and grading criteria/rubrics will be posted and updated on Canvas. Please check Canvas regularly to stay informed and on track.

Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Range
A	100% - 94%
A-	<94% - 90%
B+	<90% - 87%
B	<87% - 84%
B-	<84% - 80%

C+	<80% - 77%
C	<77% - 74%
C-	<74% - 70%
D+	<70% - 67%
D	<67% - 64%
D-	<64% - 61%
F	<61% - 0%

University Policies and Statements

University Statement
We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse.

Disability Statement
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services Office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Attendance
We will take attendance at the beginning of each class. If you are not in studio, you will be marked as late for the day. Every three late marks will result in an unexcused absence. If you arrive to class after 2:30 pm, you will be marked as absent for that day. After three unexcused absences, your grade will be deducted by half a letter grade.

- Leaves and excuses by any reason will comply with University policies regarding student absences. Arrangement for completion of assigned work shall be made with the instructors, initiated by the student. Absences will be excused for the following: funeral and bereavement leave, jury duty, late course addition, military absences, observance of religious holidays, pregnancy leave, student-athletes participating in University- or department-approved activities, and university advisories.
- Students may encounter other circumstances (e.g. car accidents, job interviews) that result in course absences. Only faculty members can excuse these absences and adjustments are at the discretion of the instructors. With sufficient documentation, faculty supports student **educational** activities.
- Students are expected to notify **all** their instructors once they anticipate being absent for any reason (e.g., funeral) or as soon as possible after the absence begins (e.g., unexpected injury or illness). The student may need to provide documentation (with confidential information redacted when appropriate) to each instructor if requested.

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 Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

Title IX
Ball State University is committed to maintaining an educational environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. Students who experience or witness conduct that may violate University policy are encouraged to seek support and assistance. The Title IX Office can provide information about reporting options, supportive measures, and available resources. Contact the Title IX Office at 765-285-1545 or titleix@bsu.edu.

Please Note: As your instructors, we are mandatory reporters. If you disclose information to either of us about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, we are required to notify the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Office will reach out to discuss available resources, supportive measures, and reporting options. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, you may contact the Counseling Center or the Center for Survivor Support.

Pregnancy and Related Conditions
Ball State University provides reasonable modifications for students affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. Students seeking academic, housing, or other modifications are encouraged to contact the Title IX Office as early as possible to discuss available options and support. For assistance, contact the Title IX Office at 765-285-1545 or titleix@bsu.edu.

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 University Grade Appeal Policy and Process.]

Student Academic Ethics Policy
Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's academic integrity website (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University Student Academic Ethics Policy.

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 me 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 instructor (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books).
- Using a generative AI system or a person to complete academic assignments such as response papers, discussion posts, essays, or any other assignment *when such use is not explicitly permitted* by the assignment instructions or the instructor.
- Utilizing another person or a generative AI system to take a quiz, examination, or similar evaluation in place of oneself.
- Using a generative AI system for research, *creative work*, theses/dissertations, grant proposals, IRB-regulated work, or publication-bound work in violation of university AI policies, funder/publisher rules, IRB requirements, or discipline-specific standards.
- Presenting as one's own work the ideas, representations or words of another person or of a GenAI system without customary and proper *acknowledgment of sources or of the AI tool(s) used*.
- Using generative AI systems to analyze data, conduct research, or generate content that is included in an assignment (images, graphs, charts, tables, etc.) without proper documentation, citation, and attribution of this AI use.
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- 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 vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- 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 (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing)
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

Conditional AI Use (Specific or limited GenAI use permitted)
At Ball State, we use GenAI to elevate human potential, not replace it. To succeed in an AI-infused world, students must balance technical skills with durable skills, lifelong abilities such as critical thinking, ethical judgment, communication, accountability, and responsible decision-making that define a Ball State graduate. Developing these durable skills requires you as students to think carefully about:

- when AI should and should not be used;
- how to use AI responsibly;
- how to verify AI-generated information; and

- and how to remain accountable for final work.

You will be informed as to when, where, and how GenAI 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. When in doubt, please ask me before using GenAI. You, the student, are always responsible for the content you submit, publish, share, or act upon, regardless of whether GenAI tools assisted in the process. For data security reasons, please use BSU-approved GenAI tools (e.g., BSU Gemini, NotebookLM), which support single sign-on (SSO) with BSU ID and password. Commonly used public GenAI tools carry a higher risk of data being shared externally. In contrast, when using BSU-approved GenAI tools, any data you input is protected within the BSU system. Instructors do not have access to BSU IT Center logs of AI tool usage, so student data shared through BSU-approved GenAI tools remain private.

Student Support Services

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 at BSU Counseling Center.

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.**

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.

Course Expectations and Policies

Course Participation Expectations

- This course is designed with weekly activities, discussion, and other forms of regular collaboration and communication.
- It is recommended that you log into your Canvas course 3 to 4 times a week and check your official Ball State email account daily to view announcements and prepare for class.
- Complete all assignments, quizzes, tests, and any other activities by the stated due dates.

Feedback Policy

- We will try respond to email from your official Ball State email address within 48 hours.

- Contact us directly if you have questions or concerns about your performance in class.

Late Assignment Policy

- Assignments will be subject to a 10-point deduction each day they are late, with a maximum of 3 days (72 hours).
- Internet connectivity and technical issues may occur and impede you from turning in work on time. Turn in work early and often, and set up a back-up plan, such as visiting a local library or borrowing a peer's computer.
- To meet the university's grade submission deadline, except for our final project, we cannot accept assignments for grading after 11:59 pm EST/EDT on the final day of class. Because of this: Canvas will not accept assignments for grading after 11:59 pm EST/EDT on the final day of class.

Assignment Submission Policy

- All assignments should be submitted in the format requested. Failure to do so may result in grade deduction.
- Assignments, unless otherwise indicated, should be submitted using the assignment link in the appropriate Canvas module.

Grading Policy

- It is our policy that appropriate evaluation of your academic performance is an integral part of your learning experience.
- In the absence of mistakes, fraud, bad faith or incompetence, we (faculty) will be the key decision-maker on the assignment of grades.

Engagement Expectations

To support a respectful and engaging academic community that encourages the free exchange of ideas and civil discourse, we will follow these ground rules:

- **Respect different perspectives.** Share your ideas and let others share theirs.
- **Challenge ideas, not people.** Disagree respectfully. No personal attacks or put-downs. Focus on exploring ideas critically and constructively.
- **Listen to understand.** Stay curious, ask questions to understand, and give others space to speak.
- **Assume good intentions.** Approach discussions with curiosity and compassion.
- **Keep it private.** What is shared in class stays in class. Do not share others' words or work without permission.
- **Be respectful.** Avoid hurtful language, stereotypes, or content that may demean others. Keep feedback constructive.

Subject to Change Statement

This syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.