



---

## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

### PROPOSAL TITLE:

Alternative to Required Thesis in the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program in the College of Fine and Applied Arts.

### SPONSOR:

Carol Emmerling-DiNovo  
Assistant Department Head, Landscape Architecture  
217-244-0994  
cemmer@illinois.edu

### COLLEGE CONTACT:

Marian Stone  
Assistant Dean, College of Fine and Applied Arts  
217-333-6061  
mastone@illinois.edu

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Currently all MLA candidates are required to undertake an 8 credit-hour thesis. They complete a three-course sequence, under the LA 599 rubric. In addition, all are required to complete LA 438 - Design Workshop, a 5-hour studio, in the spring semester of their final year of study.

The Department would like to offer MLA students two options, one with the thesis (Thesis Option), the other with a specialization (Specialization Option). All students will be required to complete LA 597 – Research Design & Methods in Landscape Architecture. The course title, description, rubric, and credit hours (from 2 to 3) for LA 599A – Thesis Research will be changed through a Course Modification request. The proposed changes do not involve a net change of the current credit-hour requirement specified in our Program of Study description.

LA 597 will be a graduate seminar focusing on research methods. It will enable students to ground and cultivate a line of theoretical inquiry and specialization. It will help students decide whether or not to pursue a master's thesis. The final product will be a pre-thesis/proposal or a plan of specialization.

**Track A: Thesis**

During the next two semesters students undertake thesis research, development, and production in LA 599B and 599C. Students undertaking the thesis option will not take a terminal spring semester LA 438- Design Workshop, a studio course currently required of all MLA candidates.

Current Requirements	Current Hours	Revised Requirements	Revised Hours
LA 599A- Thesis Proposal Seminar (spring)	2	LA 597 -Research Design & Methods	3
LA 599B- Thesis Studio (fall)	5	LA 599- Thesis (fall)	5
LA 599C- Thesis Completion Seminar (spring)	1	LA 599 -Thesis (spring)	5
LA 438- Design Workshop (spring)	5		
total	13		13

**Track B: Specialization**

Students will take LA 597- Research Design & Methods, elective coursework (5 hours), and a final spring semester LA 438- Design Workshop. The final product of LA 597 will function as an index and metric of intellectual development guiding the selection of studios and electives that enable the student to develop a specialization. Elective courses must be at the graduate level (400- and 500-level), but may be in any instructional format, for any number of credit hours (as long they total at least 5 hours), and offered by any unit on campus. The selection of elective courses will be made in consultation with the MLA Program Chair. LA 438- Design Workshop will allow students to synthesize new knowledge in keeping with specialized interests. Students in the option will submit a summary document that describes their specialization and explains the pertinence of coursework undertaken.

Current Requirements	Current Hours	Revised Requirements	Revised Hours
LA 599A- Thesis Proposal Seminar (spring)	2	LA 597- Research Design & Methods (spring)	3
LA 599B- Thesis Studio (fall)	5	Elective Courses (fall)	5
LA 599C- Thesis Completion Seminar (spring)	1	LA 438- Design Workshop (1 <sup>st</sup> spring in MLA program)	5
LA 438- Design Workshop (spring)	5	LA 438- Design Workshop (2 <sup>nd</sup> spring in MLA program)	5
total	13		18

**JUSTIFICATION:**

When the MLA was the terminal degree, a thesis was the entree to the academy, and required of all Illinois students. Although the PhD in Landscape Architecture is now the terminal degree, not all faculty positions require it. For MLA students considering teaching positions (that do not require a PhD) or those interested in research for its own sake, the thesis will continue to be available. For those planning to pursue design careers, the opportunity to develop a specialization is a meaningful and appealing alternative to the thesis.

Both options meet the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) expectation that MLA students demonstrate specialization, a characteristic that distinguishes the accredited, first professional MLA from the accredited first professional BLA. As a thesis is not required for an accredited MLA degree, it is possible to rededicate the 8 hours of LA 599 -Thesis to a combination of research methods, electives, and studio. In addition, an elective-based option is in keeping with the expanded scope of work in landscape architecture.

#### BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

a. Additional staff and dollars needed:

None. Changing the credit hours for the new shared, required course, LA 597, from 2 (current 599A) to 3, better reflects the current content and expectations. No new courses are required, nor are additional faculty members.

b. Internal reallocations

For those students in the thesis option this increase balances the shift of LA 599 from 6 to 10 hours (change of + 4 hours) and the elimination of LA 438- Design Workshop (change of - 5 hours). For those in the specialization option, the increase balances the elimination of LA 599C (change of -1 hour). Accordingly, the number of hours required for all MLA students will remain at 48. Fewer students involved in the intense thesis process will reduce faculty workloads.

c. Effect on course enrollment in other units.

None. No other units are impacted by the proposed changes.

d. Impact on the University Library

The proposed changes may result in lower demand for Library resources. MLA students in the specialization option may rely more on digital content which, in the design world, is continually updating.

e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

None.

#### DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Spring, 2016.

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Current:

Degree Requirements - Master of Landscape Architecture

Required Courses:	Required Hours
LA 470 and 501	5
Specialization area coursework	31-44
Additional undergraduate coursework will be required of students without a BLA. These prerequisites do not count toward the graduate degree.	
Thesis Hours Required- LA 599 (min/max applied toward degree):	8
Total Hours	48
Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:	24
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	18
Other Requirements:*	
Internship required	5
Minimum GPA:	3.0

Specific courses to be taken are determined in consultation with an adviser. These courses culminate in a master's thesis (LA 599) that permits the student, under the approval and supervision of a faculty committee, to pursue independently an in-depth work of particular relevance for landscape architecture.

Proposed:

Degree Requirements- Master of Landscape Architecture- Thesis Option

Required Courses:	Required Hours
LA 438, 470, 501, 597, 599	15
Coursework	23
Additional undergraduate coursework will be required of students without a BLA. These prerequisites do not count toward the graduate degree. Required internship credit does not count towards the required 48 hours of graduate-level credit.	
Thesis Hours Required- LA 599: Total Hours	10
Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:	48
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	24
Other Requirements:*	
Internship required	18
Minimum GPA:	5
	3.0

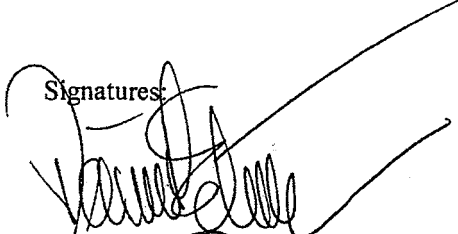
Specific courses to be taken are determined in consultation with an adviser. These courses culminate in a master's thesis (LA 599) that permits the student, under the approval and supervision of a faculty committee, to pursue independently an in-depth work of particular relevance for landscape architecture.

**Degree Requirements - Master of Landscape Architecture- Specialization Option**

<b>Required Courses:</b>	<b>Required Hours</b>
LA 438 (taken twice), 470, 501, 597	18
Coursework, including specialization electives	30
Additional undergraduate coursework will be required of students without a BLA. These prerequisites do not count toward the graduate degree. Required internship credit does not count towards the required 48 hours of graduate-level credit.	
<b>Total Hours</b>	48
<b>Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:</b>	24
<b>Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:</b>	18
<b>Other Requirements:*</b>	
Internship required	5
<b>Minimum GPA:</b>	3.0

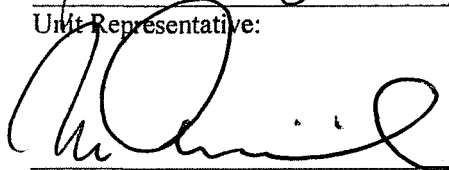
Specific courses to be taken are determined in consultation with an adviser. Students develop a specialization through elective coursework and design studios. In their final semester, they prepare a document that describes their specialization.

CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

Signatures: 

Unit Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 10/17/13



College Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 11.13.2013

\_\_\_\_\_  
Graduate College Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council on Teacher Education Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## NEW COURSE OUTLINE

Departments/units should complete this form, obtain all necessary approvals and submit to their College Office to establish a new course. The outline will be reviewed by the College and forwarded to appropriate campus offices for additional approval.

All gray boxes on this form, except gray check boxes, are expandable text fields. Place your cursor in the box and start typing.

Instructions and guidance to complete certain numbered items in this form are contained in *Proposing New Courses* (<http://provost.illinois.edu/programs/cps/proposingcourses.html>) and *Procedures for Presenting New or Revised Graduate Courses* (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/courses-procedures>).

Proposed Effective Term:  Fall  Spring  Summer – 2016

Department/Unit Name: Landscape Architecture

Department/Unit ORG Code: 1593

1. Course Subject and Number: LA 597
2. Course Title (limit to 30 characters): Research Design & Methods
3. Course description (Include subject matter, and any special course requirements such as field trips, special equipment, etc. Exclude other course information of any numbered items below; the Office of the Registrar will include it in the *Course Catalog* entry. It should read like a publication abstract and ideally be limited to about 75 words.):

This graduate-level course provides instruction on, and application of, research and scholarly methods for landscape architecture and related fields. Students are introduced to the basic steps of inquiry and development for research inquiry. Course content includes: problem identification; choosing and articulating a research topic; synthesis of topical/theoretical background from literature; choice of research strategy; design of a plan for investigation; selection of data sources, methods and analysis; proof of concept; feasibility planning; and other necessary components of a successful research proposal.

4. Course prerequisites (prerequisite statements are not enforced through the Banner system):  
none
5. Is there a restricted audience for this course? (Audience restrictions may only be placed in the Class Schedule. Do not include in prerequisite statement.)

Yes  No      If yes, please specify the restrictions (e.g., “for majors only” or “junior standing required”): First year for students in the post-professional degree, second year for students in the first professional degree program. Graduate students in other units may enroll with permission of instructor

## COURSE JUSTIFICATION

6. **Please attach the course syllabus.** The syllabus should include basic and recommended texts (author, title, year of publication) as well as a list of the principal topics covered in this course, number of examinations, contact hours, work required of students, and basis for determining grade.
7. Justify the course in terms of new subject matter and how the addition of this course relates to the overall pattern of courses in your unit: This course is required for all Masters students in landscape architecture. As part of a suite of other changes to the MLA program converting the thesis from a requirement to an option, this course replaces the required 2-credit pre-thesis course LA 599A (graded DFR). At the conclusion of this course, all MLA students will choose either Track A—Thesis Option or Track B—Specialization Option for their final year in the MLA curriculum. In order to continue in either Track A or B, LA 597 must be passed. The new 3-credit course adds additional content specifically on methods and data analysis. Course content may be useful for graduate students in related fields such as architecture, planning, and the arts, and is recommended for PhD students in landscape architecture.
8. Explain the nature and degree of duplication or overlap with existing courses on campus: The proposed course emphasizes research and scholarship specific to landscape architecture. There is some overlap with ARCH/LA 563 Social/Behavioral Research for Designed Environments, however, that course focuses on "generating data useful in programming, designing, and examining physical environments," uses a different set of references, a different pedagogy, and does not focus on development of a proposal.  
**Note:** If the proposed course has significant overlap with an existing course outside your unit, please obtain a letter of comment from that unit's executive officer.

### COURSE DETAIL

9. Frequency with which this course will be offered (mark all that apply):  
 Every fall    Every spring    Every summer    Other (describe, e.g. "Spring terms, odd years"):  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Duration of course:  Full term    Less than full term (describe) : \_\_\_\_\_
11. Anticipated enrollment: varies; 12-20 average
12. Expected distribution of student registration:  
Freshman: \_\_\_\_%                                      Sophomore: \_\_\_\_%  
Junior: \_\_\_\_%    Senior: \_\_\_\_%  
Graduate: 100%     Professional: \_\_\_\_%
13. Course credit (The number of class contact hours in organized instruction is one factor affecting the amount of credit earned. It is customary for courses to meet 14 to 20 hours per semester for each hour of credit earned. See *Student Code* Article 3, Part 7, § 3-704 (b) {[http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article3\\_part7\\_3-704.html](http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article3_part7_3-704.html)} for an explanation of the relationship between course credit and contact hours.):  
  
**A. Undergraduate credit only**  
100- to 300-level: \_\_\_\_\_\* undergraduate hours  
400-level: \_\_\_\_\_\* undergraduate hours (no graduate credit available)



**B. Both Undergraduate and Graduate credit**

400-level: \_\_\_\_\_\* undergraduate hours **and** 400-level: \_\_\_\_\_\* graduate hours

Note: Courses offered for both undergraduate and graduate credit require completion of Item 14.

**C. Graduate credit only**

500-level: 3\* graduate hours

Note: Courses offered for graduate credit require completion of Item 14.

**D. Professional credit only**

600- and 700-level: \_\_\_\_\_\* professional hours

**E. Both Graduate and Professional credit**

\_\_\_\_\_ \* graduate hours **and** \_\_\_\_\_ \* professional hours

Note: Courses offered for both graduate and professional credit require completion of Item 14.

\* For A-E, if a course is offered for varying amounts of credit please select one of the two options:

- Variable credit: this course is available for a range of credit hours (e.g., 1 to 3 hours)
- Differential credit: this course is only available for two distinct credit-hour options (e.g., 1 or 3 hours)

In addition, complete Item 15.

14. For any course awarding graduate credit, please justify why it should, in terms of level of content, previous knowledge required, relevance to current research, methodology, etc. (See *Graduate College Policy for Proposed New and Revised Courses that Carry Graduate Credit* for criteria to judge graduate courses.): The MLA is a graduate professional degree that accepts both pre-professional [3-year program] and post-professional students [2-year program]. One major objective of the MLA program is to prepare students to contribute to the body of knowledge and/or skills of the field of landscape architecture and specifically to advance understanding and impact of the field. This course instructs all graduate students in the logic and production of new knowledge and requires the ability to reason, marshal evidence, synthesize, and write at advanced levels. Qualifying students who choose the Thesis Track [A], under the supervision of a committee, will pursue an independent work of particular relevance for landscape architecture to accomplish one or more of the following goals: demonstrate an innovative application of knowledge; analyze, critically examine, and/or empirically test ideas/theories relevant to the field; or creatively synthesize, expand and/or develop ideas/theories.
15. For any course requesting variable or differential credit, please justify why the amount of credit varies and specify the work required for the additional credit: \_\_\_\_\_
16. May this course be repeated? (See *Procedures for Presenting New or Revised Graduate Courses* or Provost's *Proposing New Courses* for guidance in completing Parts A - C.)
- Yes  No      If yes, please fill out A - C below:

**A. Course Type**

Indicate the **one** type of course the proposed course matches:

- Honors     Subject mastery/skill proficiency     Individualized instruction
- Research or ongoing study     Special topics, seminars     Applied experiences

**B. Repeatable – same term**

May students register in this course more than once (duplicate registration) in the same term?

- Yes  No If yes, for how many total hours (fill all fields: NA = not applicable; U = unlimited)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ undergraduate; \_\_\_\_\_ graduate; \_\_\_\_\_ professional
- check if “if topics vary” is an added qualifier

**C. Repeatable – separate terms**

May this course be repeated in separate terms?

- Yes  No If yes, for how many total hours (fill all fields: NA = not applicable; U = unlimited)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ undergraduate; \_\_\_\_\_ graduate; \_\_\_\_\_ professional
- check if “if topics vary” is an added qualifier

17. Are there credit restrictions?

- Yes  No If yes, please specify the restrictions (e.g., for MATH 221: “Credit is not given for both MATH 221 and MATH 220.”): \_\_\_\_\_

18. Grading Type:

- Letter grade
- S/U (Any course offered for zero hours of graded credit must include S/U grade mode.)
- Both If Both is selected, which should be the default mode?  Letter grade  S/U
- DFR If DFR is selected, please justify the use of the grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**CROSS-LISTING**

19. Is this course to be cross-listed?

- Yes  No If yes, please complete A and B and take notice of C:

A. Indicate the subject and course number of the cross-listing(s) (please note, all cross-listed courses must be offered at the same numerical level): \_\_\_\_\_

B. Please give the justification for establishing the cross-listing: \_\_\_\_\_

C. **Note: Additional approvals are required to establish a cross-listing.** An authorized official of each non-controlling department must endorse the cross-listing. In addition, if the cross-listing involves a different college, a dean of that college must also approve. (Letter, e-mail, or use of the Additional Approvals signature block at the end of this form are all acceptable methods of endorsement or approval.)

**ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION**

20. Does this course replace an existing course?

- Yes  No If yes, please list the course to be discontinued and note that submission of a Course Revision Form is necessary to remove it from the Course Catalog: LA 599A

21. Does the addition of this course impact other courses (i.e., prerequisite or credit restriction statements)?

- Yes  No      If yes, please list the course(s) affected, and note that submission of Course Revision Form(s) are necessary to update the impacted course(s): \_\_\_\_\_
22. Does the addition of this course have any impact on your department's current curriculum (i.e., Programs of Study catalog, concentrations, minors, etc.)?
- Yes  No      If yes, please specify the curriculum and explain: The proposed course is part of a package of curricular changes that make the MLA thesis optional, rather than required of all MLA students (as it has been). It supports continuing professional accreditation (LAAB) of our MLA program, which mandates all students receive a thorough grounding in the logic and procedures of preparing and evaluating disciplinary research, even though an independent thesis or project is not an LAAB requirement. Proposed changes to the old course will provide all graduate professional students with an option to tailor their course of study to their professional goals, to simplify the course of study and, potentially, to remove a stumbling block for timely completion of the degree. Non-MLA graduate students interested in design-based research methods may request permission from the instructor to enroll in the course.
23. Has this course been offered as a special topics or other type of experimental course?
- Yes  No      If yes, please indicate the Banner subject, course number, section ID, term, and enrollment for each offering: \_\_\_\_\_
24. Will this course be submitted for General Education credit?
- Yes  No
25. Does this course require students to register in multiple schedule components (e.g., lecture and a lab)?
- Yes  No
26. Is a special facility needed to effectively teach this class (e.g., lab, studio, or ITS room)?
- Yes  No      If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_
27. Will this course be offered on-line?
- Yes, online only    Yes, online and traditionally    No
28. Faculty member(s) who will teach this course: Deming or alternate
29. Course proposed by: Deming/Emmerling-DiNovo    Date: Jan. 27, 2014

**NEW COURSE OUTLINE APPROVALS**    **Course Subject and Number: LA 597**  
(Signatures required)

_____	_____
Department/Unit	Date
_____	_____
School (if applicable)	Date
_____	_____
College	Date
_____	_____
Graduate College (Requests for Graduate Credit)	Date
_____	_____
Provost	Date

**ADDITIONAL APPROVAL(S)**

The space below may be used for additional approvals involving cross-listed courses. – see Section 19.C; – in lieu of letters or e-mails. Indicate department or college after signature and provide date.

Revised 8/2012



**Senate Educational Policy Committee  
Proposal Check Sheet**

PROPOSAL TITLE:

Alternative to Required Thesis in the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program in the College of Fine and Applied Arts.

PROPOSAL TYPE:

A.  Program and degree proposals

1. This proposal is for a graduate program or degree

Yes  No

2. Degree proposal (e.g. B.S., M.A. or Ph.D.)

New degree- please name the new degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing degree -please name the existing degree to be revised:  
Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)

3. Major proposal (disciplinary focus, e.g., Mathematics)

New major- please name the new major: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing major- please name the existing major to be revised: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Concentration proposal (e.g. Financial Planning)

New concentration- please name the new concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing concentration -please name the existing concentration to be revised:

5. Minor proposal (e.g. Cinema Studies)

New minor- please name the new minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing minor- please name the existing minor to be revised: \_\_\_\_\_

6. **D** Proposal for renaming an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor

**D** degree      **D** major      **D** concentration      **D** minor

Please provide the current name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the proposed new name: \_\_\_\_\_

7. **D** Proposal for terminating an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor

Please name the existing degree, major, concentration, or minor: \_\_\_\_\_

8. **D** Proposal for a multi-institutional degree between Illinois (UIUC) and a foreign institution

Please name the existing Illinois degree or program: \_\_\_\_\_

Please name the partnering institution: \_\_\_\_\_

B. **D** Proposal for renaming existing academic units (college, school, department, or program)

Please provide the unit's current name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the unit's proposed new name: \_\_\_\_\_

C. **D** Proposal for reorganizing existing units (colleges, schools, departments, or programs)

**D** Change in status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department)- please indicate current unit name including status: \_\_\_\_\_

**D** Transfer an existing unit

Please provide the current unit's name and home: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the new home for the unit: \_\_\_\_\_

**D** Merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B)

Please provide the name and college of unit one to be merged: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the name and college of unit two to be merged: \_\_\_\_\_

**D** Terminate an existing unit- please provide the current unit's name and status: \_\_\_\_\_

D. **D** Other educational policy proposals (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.)

Please indicate the nature of the proposal: \_\_\_\_\_

# Landscape Architecture

---

www.landarch.illinois.edu

Interim Head of the Department: D.F. Ruggles  
Coordinator: Carol Emmerling-DiNovo (M.L.A.), Lynne Dearborn (Ph.D.)  
101 Temple Hoyne Buell Hall  
611 East Taft Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 333-0176  
E-mail: LADept@illinois.edu

Major: Landscape Architecture  
Degrees Offered: M.L.A., Ph.D.  
Graduate Concentrations: Medieval Studies (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/medieval-studies/#concentrationtext>) (available to all degrees)

Joint Degree Program: Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Urban Planning, Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Business Administration  
Degrees offered: M.L.A. and M.U.P, M.L.A. and M.B.A.

## Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Landscape Architecture offers work leading to the Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.) degree and the Ph.D. The programs enable students to gain fresh insights and to conduct new research pertaining to land and its use by people. Courses and faculty research activities range from on-site to regional scales, and include environmental planning and design as well as community design, cultural heritage, and history. The M.L.A. is an accredited first professional degree. Students may pursue specialized areas that reflect their interests and career aspirations. This may include ecological design, community design, and cultural heritage history and design. They may complete a thesis or develop a specialization through additional coursework. Joint M.L.A./M.U.P and joint M.L.A./M.B.A programs are available. The Ph.D. program is jointly administered with the School of Architecture and emphasizes both interdisciplinary study and cross-disciplinary inquiry. Areas of concentration include history and theory; technology and environment; and behavioral and cultural factors in design. Before submitting an application, students should consult the department website for information regarding the specific areas of study and the time needed to complete the requirements.

Several faculty members in the department also participate in the doctoral program administered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. See the program description under the Department of Urban and Regional Planning for more information.

## Admission

The Graduate College admission requirements apply, except that higher Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores are required for international students. All students are required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test. Students are admitted on an individual basis according to a review of their prior accomplishments with an emphasis on academic achievement. MLA candidates from undergraduate design programs must submit portfolios with applications to the M.L.A. program. Candidates without undergraduate preparation in landscape architecture will be admitted on limited status and must complete undergraduate prerequisite courses in addition to graduate work. The doctoral program prefers candidates with master's degrees: M.L.A., M.Arch., or related fields such as art history, ecology, geography, or planning. All graduate students must begin their studies in the fall semester.

## Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program.

## Financial Aid

Students compete for fellowships, tuition and service fee waivers, and assistantships. Selection is based on the academic achievement and qualifications of the student.

## Master of Landscape Architecture

Specific courses to be taken are determined in consultation with an adviser. Students may complete a master's thesis (LA 599) that permits them to pursue independently an in-depth work of particular relevance for landscape architecture. Development of a specialization through additional coursework is an option to the thesis.

Required of all MLA students:

LA 438	Design Workshop I	5
LA 470	Social/Cultural Design Issues	3
LA 501	Landscape Arch Theory & Practice	2
LA 597	Research Design & Methods	3
Electives		<u>25</u>
Coursework		38

Additional undergraduate coursework is required of students who do not hold a B.L.A. These prerequisites do not count toward the graduate degree. This includes 5 credit hours of LA 345 – Professional Internship.

Option A – Thesis:

LA 599 – Thesis Research		10
Total Hours		48

OR

Option B – Specialization:

LA 438	Design Workshop II	5
Elective courses	at the graduate-level	5
Total Hours		48

## Other Requirements <sup>1</sup>

Other requirements may overlap.

Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:	24
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	18
Minimum GPA:	3.0

<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate (<http://www.landarch.illinois.edu>) Handbook ([http://www.landarch.illinois.edu/programs/mla/mla\\_](http://www.landarch.illinois.edu/programs/mla/mla_)) and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook>).

## Doctor of Philosophy in Landscape Architecture

Elective coursework in major field		28
ARCH 589	PhD Colloquium (twice)	2
Outside study (courses outside of Landscape Architecture and Architecture)		8
Language Requirement: Required for all students in the History/Theory option and for some Social and Cultural Factors students		
LA 599	Thesis Research (max applied toward degree)	32
Total Hours		64

## Other Requirements <sup>1</sup>

Other requirements may overlap

All students are required to enroll in the PhD colloquium during the fall of their first year of course work.

Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	24 (not including 599)
Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD?	No, but Masters level requirements must be met (32 hours min)
Qualifying Exam Required:	Yes
Preliminary Exam Required:	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required:	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required:	Yes
Minimum GPA:	3.0

<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Program Curriculum (<http://www.landarch.illinois.edu>) and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook>).

## Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Urban Planning

For the joint program, at least 40 hours must be in Urban Planning, including all core courses and capstone requirements. The two programs must total a minimum of the sum of 40 Urban Planning hours plus the required number of hours for the Master of Landscape Architecture, 48. (However, Landscape Architecture may at its discretion count up to 8 hours of Urban Planning courses as electives in meeting its degree requirements as long as students are required to take no fewer than 40 additional hours in Landscape Architecture.) The MUP capstone requirement may be waived for a thesis



completed in Landscape Architecture provided faculty from both programs participate on the thesis committee.

Urban Planning core capstone and area requirements	40
LA 470 Social/Cultural Design Issues	3
LA 501 Landscape Arch Theory & Prac	2
Specialization area coursework	27-35
Internship	

*Information listed in this catalog is current as of 04/2015*

Additional undergraduate coursework will be required of students without a BLA. These prerequisites do not count toward the graduate degree.

LA 599	Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	8
Total Hours		80-88

## Other Requirements <sup>1</sup>

Other requirements may overlap

Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit: 24

Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall: 18

Enrollment in each program at least 2 semesters

Up to 8 hours of UP coursework may be applied to the LA degree at the department's discretion.

If pursuing the thesis option, the thesis committee chair must be full-time in Landscape Architecture and one committee member must be from Urban Planning.

Minimum GPA: 3.0

For additional details and requirements contact the department.

<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's *Programs of Study* (<http://www.landarch.illinois.edu>) and the *Graduate College Handbook* (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook>).

## M.B.A. and Master of Landscape Architecture

Students in this unit may choose to earn their major degree and simultaneously complete an M.B.A., with 12 fewer required hours than when pursuing both degrees independently. Students must be enrolled in the M.B.A. program for three terms and complete all the requirements of their primary degree. Interested students should see the [joint program requirements](#) and contact the M.B.A. program and their major department office for more information.

LA 597: Research Design & Methods in Landscape Architecture  
Spring 2016—3 credits  
Meets Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30-10:50 a.m. TBH 325

## COURSE SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE

Instructor: M. Elen Deming  
Office hours: TBD

### Course Description

This graduate-level course provides instruction and application of research and scholarly methods for landscape architecture and related fields. Weekly class meetings include lectures by instructor and guest researchers, discussions of reading and writing assignments, peer review exercises, and student-led presentations on specific methods. Students are introduced to the basic steps of inquiry and development of a research proposal. Course content includes: problem identification; articulating a research topic; synthesis of topical/theoretical background from literature; choice of research strategy; design of a plan for investigation; selection of data sources, methods and analysis; proof of concept; functionality and feasibility planning; and other necessary components of a successful proposal. At the end of the course, students will either chose to write a thesis or to pursue a specialization. Those doing a specialization complete additional, elective courses reflecting the area of an interest and one additional LA 438 – Design Workshop.

**Role in Curriculum:** This course is required for all Masters students in Landscape Architecture and is also recommended for PhD students. Course content may be useful for graduate students in related fields (Architecture, Planning, Arts) and may be taken with permission of instructor. At the conclusion of this course, all MLA students in landscape architecture will choose either Track A—Thesis Option or Track B—Specialization Option for their final year in the MLA curriculum. To continue in either Track A or B, LA 597 *must be passed*.

### LA 597 Course Outcomes—Students will:

1. Identify and develop a topic that demonstrates original and independent investigation
2. Locate, read, and synthesize appropriate literature and other resources
3. Learn to design an approach for original and independent inquiry (using conceptual frameworks, strategy, methods, process, etc.)
4. Determine product (research paper, Masters thesis, article for a journal, designs, invention/patent, etc.)
5. Prepare an approved pre-proposal that identifies area of further study (either thesis topic or specialization)
  - a. Present proposal in a public seminar to the LA/FAA/UIUC community
  - b. Complete research or design specialization proposal with all component parts (typ. 15 – 25+ pages)
  - c. Secure all necessary signatures to advance Track A - Thesis

## Course Structure & Requirements

This course has two complementary parts—roughly half is structured coursework and half is independent. Both parts of your efforts should complement and strengthen each other.

Coursework shared by all enrolled students includes discussion of lectures, readings, in-class exercises, short writing assignments, individual case study on research methods. Independent work involves self-directed literature searching, intense reading, and assimilation of relevant resources, exploratory discussions with potential faculty advisors, multiple revisions of the proposal document, and final presentation of a developed research proposal.

- o Research Ethics & Institutional Review Board (IRB): <http://research.illinois.edu/ethics/>  
All students are expected to understand and comply with University policies on ethical treatment of human subjects and other basic research standards by completing an online training module (<http://www.ibr.illinois.edu/>), receiving a certificate of completion for the Human Subjects Training Module (if appropriate), and/or CITI Training Module offered through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (<http://www.citiprogram.org>). This requirement can be met at any time during the semester, but proof of completion (certificate) must be deposited in each student's submission folder on or before the scheduled final exam (TBD).
- o Research Notebook: To help stay organized, students will maintain a file management system. The best format for YOU may be digital (e.g. spreadsheet or Refworks) or analog (e.g. 3-ring binder) but should certainly include:
  - a) Questions and Strategies: record and keep ALL your early thoughts and diagrams of questions, facets, and draft topic descriptions.
  - b) Annotated Bibliography: an evolving "to read" list with article abstracts and complete citations; keep expanding, developing annotations, and synthesizing it.
  - c) Analyze subthemes and "map" your literature
  - d) Illustrations: be sure to maintain a list of image sources, captions, and all credits necessary, whether images are from books, websites, or friends.
  - e) Table of Contents with sample chapter headings.
  - f) Proposal drafts: be sure to indicate dates/versions, all edited/marked copies, and all comments.
  - g) Planning Schedule: tasks for completion; deadlines for applying for financial support, or necessary professional contacts, permissions, visas, etc.
  - h) If Track A, all official forms: e.g. Grad College requirements, deadlines, signature pages, etc.
  - i) Time & Task Accounting: journal of weekly goals/tasks and other details. Indicate all work effort and activities, e.g. library search, citations, or meetings.
- o Proposal Presentations: Toward the end of the term (mid-April), all students make a concise (typ. 8-10 mins) presentation of their draft research or specialization proposal (typ. 8-10 slide images) to LA/FAA faculty/students (schedule TBD). This provides an opportunity for the whole Department and guests to engage the breadth of your ideas. For students interested in Track A—Thesis Option, this presentation is essential for securing a thesis advisor. For students

interested in Track B—Coursework Option, this presentation should reference the area of specialization to be pursued through coursework and independent study.

- o Style and Organization of Document Drafts: All drafts should comply with the format required for a thesis proposal: i.e. all written materials should be typed, in 12-point Times Roman or equivalent font, double-spaced throughout, with a coherent system of headings and subheadings. For everyone's convenience, each page must include a standard header or footer with the student's name, date of the draft, and page number. For other formatting issues, refer to the "Style Guide for *Landscape Journal*" (in the course folder). This document is condensed from the *Chicago Manual of Style*, the editorial standard in landscape architecture (<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>).

Feedback: The instructor will provide specific observations and advice about the research process both in class and outside class by appointment. Graduate students are responsible for identifying early warning signs (confusion, indecision, language barriers, or other obstacles to success) and are expected to solve problems with help from the course instructor and/or with thesis advisors. Students are encouraged to seek feedback from other faculty mentors. Student peer review is another valuable source of feedback, as well as University resources such as the Scholarly Commons and the Campus Writing Center.

### Evaluation of Student Performance

Class Participation & Assignments: 100% attendance in all classes is mandatory and necessary. This course is graded A/F.

Basic Requirements: Students are expected to:

- o Maintain a comprehensive file management system (see Research Notebook above);
- o Complete all document drafts and assignments by deadlines and submit digital files of all assignments, drafts, and final proposal to instructor
- o Comply with University standards for intellectual honesty, integrity, and research ethics; completing an online certificate program (see Research Ethics above)
- o Participate in a rigorous and sincere peer-review process for classmates
- o Develop and present to classmates a case study report on a specific research method relevant to the research topic selected
- o Make a concise, illustrated final presentation of the draft research proposal (TBA)
- o For students pursuing Track A: obtain final approval (signature) of his/her principal adviser on the thesis proposal; submit BOTH digital and hard copy of the signed thesis proposal to Department staff (101 TBH) on or before the final exam deadline (TBD)
- o For students pursuing Track B: obtain final approval of the course instructor on the research proposal on or before the final exam deadline (TBD)

Standards for the Research Proposal: To receive a Satisfactory (S) grade in this course, the research proposal must:

1. Articulate strategies of research and scholarship in the design profession(s)
2. Identify and develop a researchable topic and actionable research questions
3. Demonstrate habits of mind/time management conducive to exploration and writing

4. Master structures and techniques of scholarly writing, especially effective use of sources, illustrations, and evidence to build an argument
5. Demonstrate how the proposed research may contribute to new disciplinary *and* technical knowledge

Course References (*additional resources may be provided in class folder*)

Deming and Swaffield. 2011. *Landscape Architecture Research: Inquiry, Strategy, Design*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons. (main textbook; recommended for purchase)

- o Booth et al. 1995. *The Craft of Research*, Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press
- o Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage. (recommended for purchase)
- o Department of Landscape Architecture, Master's Thesis Handbook [download]
- o Groat, Linda and David Wang. 2002. *Architectural Research Methods*. New York: John Wiley and Sons. (recommended for purchase)
- o Graduate College's Handbook for Graduate Students Preparing to Deposit [download]: [www.grad.uiuc.edu/thesis/thesis handbook/](http://www.grad.uiuc.edu/thesis/thesis handbook/)
- o Williams, Joseph M. (1990), 1995. *Style: Towards Clarity & Grace*. Univ. Chicago Press.
- o Zeisel, John. (1984), 2006. *Inquiry by Design: Environment/Behavior [Research]* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (recommended for purchase)

Track A: Thesis Option: The Masters thesis presents an opportunity for students to design and implement a sustained independent inquiry. The questions that structure your thesis may have prompted the choice to pursue graduate studies, or may even become the focus of your future career. Faculty members are committed to the graduate thesis as a form of transformative learning and growth experience that also benefits the larger discipline of Landscape Architecture. Students interested in pursuing the thesis option must establish an advisory committee, identifying a Chair (must have a % time appointment in Landscape Architecture department) and at least one other supporting member (one of whom may/should be from outside the Dept.) before the conclusion of the spring course (LA 597).

Policies & Procedures of the Department of Landscape Architecture currently state:

One of the major objectives of the [MLA/PhD] Program is to prepare students to make a contribution to the store of knowledge and/or skills of the field that furthers work or understanding in a particular subject matter. As a culmination of study and as a demonstration of achievement of the above objective, each student, under the supervision of a committee, is to pursue independently, and in depth, a work of particular relevance for [field of study] which will accomplish one or more of the following goals:

1. demonstrate an innovative application of knowledge within the field;
2. analyze, critically examine, and/or empirically test ideas/theories; and/or
3. creatively synthesize, expand and/or develop ideas/theories.

... The thesis provides for a complete expression of ideas through a broad range of products which may include a design solution, an experiment, a management plan, a textual analysis, a research

model, etc. The format should be an appropriate complement of written and visual materials, proportionate [to] the nature of the effort. The same effort, intellectual rigor, and quality of work is expected, regardless of the approach, product, and/or format.

From L.A. Dept. Policies (rev. 1986) Article 7. Students. 7.3 Graduate. 7.3.8 Thesis.

**Track B: Specialization Option:** In the Coursework Option, students undertake 8 hours of elective coursework over their course of study, as well as a final spring semester Design Workshop (5 hours). The coursework must demonstrate specialization in keeping with both an understanding of contemporary landscape architecture and the unique interests of each MLA candidate. LA 597 is an opportunity to define and articulate the area of specialization.

SAMPLE Schedule (subject to revision as necessary)

Date	Class Topic/Activities	Topic References:	Assignments for <i>next</i> class
Week 1 Tuesday Jan. 21  Thursday Jan. 23	Topic: Course overview  Research tracks and agendas in landscape architecture  What is a thesis (and why does it matter)?  'Passion statements:' What do you want to focus on and why?  Review ideas for thesis projects (pragmatic & academic)	Culbertson 2011_research editorial.pdf  Swaffield & Deming, 2011. "Mapping the Terrain," in <i>Journal of Landscape Architecture</i> (Spring).  CELA 2012 Conference Abstracts  Grad College Thesis Handbook: <a href="http://www.grad.illinois.edu/thesis-dissertation">http://www.grad.illinois.edu/thesis-dissertation</a>  MLAs: Masters Thesis Policy, UIUC Landscape Architecture	For Week 2: Searching the internet, prepare a list of examples/projects for class discussion  Begin (working) annotated bibliography for "Literature Synthesis"
Week 2 Tuesday Jan. 28  Thursday Jan. 30	Topic: Practical Research in the Design Professions  World view and its impact on inquiry  Choosing thesis topics; (re)framing practical problems; opportunities for "new knowledge"  Research quality: standards & logic	Landscape Architecture Foundation websites  Creswell 2009. "The Selection of a Research Design" (3-21)  Booth et al. 1995. "From Topics to Questions" (35-47) "Questions to Problems" (48-63).  Deming & Swaffield 2011. ch 1 (1-16), 2 (17-29) and 4 (48-64)	For Week 3: Develop 2-3 draft short topic statements (re. D&S p. 52): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic</li> <li>• Question</li> <li>• Strategy</li> <li>• Motive</li> </ul> Try different research strategies for your topics and questions  Develop list of <i>key</i> journals and keywords for your work
Week 3 Tuesday Feb. 4  Thursday Feb. 6	Library Workshop: TBA, Funk Library Computer Lab (Room 509)  Using search tools and keywords  Finding theses and dissertations  Research journals and peer review process  Quality of sources; journals & impact factors	JournalCatalog_2009 update  Creswell 2009. "Literature Review," in <i>Research Design</i> (23-47).  Groat and Wang 2002. "Literature Review" (45-71).	For Week 4: examine recent LA theses: <a href="http://www.library.illinois.edu/cpl/a/">http://www.library.illinois.edu/cpl/a/</a> List titles and abstracts that relate to your research interests  Identify theory & research strategy in theses: diagramming exercise  Discuss preliminary thesis ideas with selected faculty.



Week 4 Tuesday Feb. 11	Topic: Literature review & the role of theory in shaping questions	Deming & Swaffield, ch. 3 (30-47)  Hwang_2007 files (class folder)	For Week 5: develop rough OUTLINE for Proposal Intro. (template in D&S, 61-62)
Thursday Feb. 13	"The state of the question": What is known already?  Literature mapping  Impact of research strategy on research design	Groat and Wang 2002. "Theory in Relation to Method," pp. 73-98 in <i>Architectural Research Methods</i>  Creswell 2009. chaps. 7 "Research Questions & Hypotheses," 129-143, in <i>Research Design</i>	Continue to search and synthesize literature; prepare literature map for <i>your</i> work;  Identify research strategies in <i>your</i> precedent studies/projects
Week 5 Tuesday Feb. 18	Topic: Objectivist <sup>1</sup> strategies & methods: incl. description, models, correlation, and experiment	Deming & Swaffield, chaps. 5, 6, and 7 (65-125)	For Week 6: continue to search and synthesize literature
Thursday Feb. 20	Guest Researcher(s): TBA/ TBA/		Using the "Style Guide" for <i>Landscape Journal</i> , develop rough DRAFT for your Proposal Introduction (follow template in D&S, 61-62)  Discuss research project ideas with faculty.
Week 6 Tuesday Feb. 25	Topic: Constructivist <sup>2</sup> strategies & methods: classification, interpretation, and evaluation	Deming & Swaffield, chaps. 8, 9, and 10 (126-191)	For Week 7: continue to search and synthesize literature
Thursday Feb. 27	Guest Researcher(s): TBA/ TBA/		Develop rough OUTLINE for your Research Design  Continue to discuss preliminary thesis ideas with faculty
Week 7 Tuesday Mar. 4	Topic: Subjectivist <sup>3</sup> strategies & methods: engaged action/pedagogy; design; logical argumentation	Deming & Swaffield, chaps. 11, 12 and 13, (192-236).  Nijhuis and Bobbink 2012. Design-Related Research in Landscape Architecture, in <i>Journal of Design Research</i> v. 10: 4 (239-257).	For Week 8: continue to search and synthesize literature
Thursday Mar. 6	Guest Researcher(s): TBA/ TBA/		Develop rough DRAFT for your Research Design, incl. strategy, questions & methods  Continue to discuss thesis ideas with faculty

<sup>1</sup> Objectivist researchers see Zeisel, chaps 5, 8, 9, and 11, in *Inquiry by Design*, for specifics on observation; AND Groat and Wang, chaps 8, 9, and 12, pp. 203-273, and 341-373, in *Architectural Research Methods*

<sup>2</sup> Constructivist researchers see Zeisel, chaps 10, 12 and 13 in *Inquiry by Design*, for specifics on interpretation; AND Groat and Wang, chaps 6 and 7, pp.135--202 in *Architectural Research Methods*

<sup>3</sup> Subjectivist researchers see Groat and Wang, chaps. 5, 10 and 11, pp. 99-131, and 275-340, in *Architectural Research Methods*

Week 8 Tuesday March 11	Ethics Workshop: practice vs. research; work with human subjects	CITI and IRB websites on the Belmont Report; ethics training modules: <a href="http://research.illinois.edu/ethics/">http://research.illinois.edu/ethics/</a>	For Week 9: 1) IF Track A, tentative 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> choices for thesis advisor 2) Submit COMPLETE first draft of proposal with working title; 3) Attach complete update of annotated bibliography; 4) Provide digital copies of draft proposal for peers (TBD) 5) Sign-up for methods presentation time slot (in class)
Thursday March 13	CITI training module  Guest: TBA on copyright and intellectual property  Scholarly Commons and Writers' Workshop	Creswell 2009. ch 4, "Writing & Ethical Considerations" (73-94).	

9 am, Tuesday Mar. 18	Midterm "exam": submittals (1, 2, 3, and 4 above) DUE; Submit .pdf or .docx files to Class Folder Provide files/draft copies of proposal Tuesday for peer readers in class		
-----------------------------	--	--	--

Week 9 Tuesday March 18	Topic: Standards of research quality; gate-keeping and peer review	Deming & Swaffield, chaps. 1 (1-16), 2 (17-29), and 14 (237-247)  <i>Landscape Journal</i> peer review format	For Week 10: After Spring Break, return completed peer reviews to authors; submit .pdf of peer reviews to class folder 5 pm Mon., March 31 <sup>st</sup> (or before)  Continue to discuss your thesis ideas with faculty  Begin work on methods case study presentation;  select 5-8 KEY images/points
Thursday March 20	Peer review process: fair evaluations and giving constructive feedback  Role of proposal; work habits for success; selecting faculty advisers, and other topics	Review the Grad College Thesis Handbook: <a href="http://www.grad.illinois.edu//thesis-dissertation">http://www.grad.illinois.edu//thesis-dissertation</a>  Independent reading on your topic	

Week of March 23-29	Spring Break © Continue your own independent reading/writing over break: NOW is a GREAT time to complete your online ethics training through CITI or IRB: <a href="http://research.illinois.edu/ethics/">http://research.illinois.edu/ethics/</a>		
---------------------------	---	--	--

Week 10 Tuesday April 1	Discussion: what can we learn from peer review process?	Continue independent reading on your topic	For Week 11: From peer & advisor feedback, continue to revise/improve and complete your proposal  Continue work on methods case study presentation;  Include 5-8 KEY images
Thursday April 3	1 <sup>st</sup> Group: Students present methods case studies  2 <sup>nd</sup> Group: Students present methods case studies		

Week 11 Tuesday April 8	3 <sup>rd</sup> Group: Students present methods case studies	Continue independent reading on your topic	For Week 12: Continue to develop concise presentation of your draft proposal. Limit to 5-8 images.  Revise or develop proposal as needed to secure approvals from advisor
Thursday April 10	Review full proposal presentation schedule & structure/techniques		
Week 12 Tuesday April 15	"Reality check" with guest 3 <sup>rd</sup> year MLA thesis students (TBA);	Williams 1995. "Causes," "Clarity," and "Cohesion" (1-65) in <i>Style: Towards Clarity and Grace</i> .	For Week 13: finalize proposal presentations; due at NOON on Monday April 22  Revise or develop proposal as needed to secure approvals from advisor
Thursday April 17	Research and scholarly writing tips  Research trends in the profession;  Video chat with LAF staff; CSI and Landscape Performance series	Continue independent reading on your topic	
9 am, Tuesday Apr. 22	Completed FINAL .PPTX or .PDF presentation of proposal is due to instructor and advisors; Submit .pdf or .pptx files to Assignments—Submissions folder, in LA 599A Class folder  Completed FINAL DRAFT of thesis proposal is due to instructor and advisors; Submit .pdf or .docx files to Assignments—Submissions folder, in LA 599A Class folder		

Week 13 Tuesday April 22	1 <sup>st</sup> Group: Proposal presentations to faculty (9:30 – 10:45)		For Week 14: complete final draft of Thesis Proposal—due at NOON on Monday April 22; submit file to class folder <u>and to advisor</u>  Comply with the Style Guide for <i>Landscape Journal</i> (as needed)
Thursday April 24	2 <sup>nd</sup> Group: Proposal presentations to faculty (9:30 – 10:45)		
Week 14 Tuesday April 29	3 <sup>rd</sup> Group: Proposal presentations to faculty (9:30 – 10:45)		100% complete, SIGNED Thesis Proposals are due at the time of the final exam (Fri. 9 <sup>th</sup> May)
Thursday May 1	Certificates of Completion for IRB/CITI research ethics training modules		Consider entering Sasaki Day competition!  Get started on summer plans for thesis reading, field work, and travel

<p>Week 15 Tuesday May 6</p>	<p>Topic: What's ahead? Discussion with faculty members/advisors</p> <p>Q&amp;A: Track A--Using summer to prepare for Fall thesis studio; status of thesis committee; completion strategy, etc. Track B—how to stay current with professional research</p> <p>Course evaluations</p>		<p>Attend Sasaki Day thesis exhibit in TBH Gallery, Wed. May 7 from 9am to noon</p> <p>Student Competition and Lecture held at I-Hotel in pm</p>
--------------------------------------	--	--	--

<p>11:00 am, Friday May 9</p>	<p>Completed SIGNED, APPROVED thesis proposal is due to instructor (and advisors if applicable); <i>also</i> Certificates of Completion for IRB/CITI research ethics training modules are due; Submit both as .pdf or .docx files to Assignments—Submissions folder in LA 597</p>		
---------------------------------------	---	--	--



**Senate Educational Policy Committee  
Proposal Check Sheet**

PROPOSAL TITLE:

Alternative to Required Thesis in the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program in the College of Fine and Applied Arts.

PROPOSAL TYPE:

A.  Program and degree proposals

1. This proposal is for a graduate program or degree

Yes  No

2. Degree proposal (e.g. B.S., M.A. or Ph.D.)

New degree- please name the new degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing degree -please name the existing degree to be revised:  
Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)

3. Major proposal (disciplinary focus, e.g., Mathematics)

New major- please name the new major: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing major- please name the existing major to be revised: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Concentration proposal (e.g. Financial Planning)

New concentration- please name the new concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing concentration -please name the existing concentration to be revised:

5. Minor proposal (e.g. Cinema Studies)

New minor- please name the new minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing minor- please name the existing minor to be revised: \_\_\_\_\_

6. **D** Proposal for renaming an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor

**D** degree      **D** major      **D** concentration      **D** minor

Please provide the current name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the proposed new name: \_\_\_\_\_

7. **D** Proposal for terminating an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor

Please name the existing degree, major, concentration, or minor: \_\_\_\_\_

8. **D** Proposal for a multi-institutional degree between Illinois (UIUC) and a foreign institution

Please name the existing Illinois degree or program: \_\_\_\_\_

Please name the partnering institution: \_\_\_\_\_

B. **D** **Proposal for renaming existing academic units** (college, school, department, or program)

Please provide the unit's current name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the unit's proposed new name: \_\_\_\_\_

C. **D** **Proposal for reorganizing existing units** (colleges, schools, departments, or programs)

**D** Change in status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department)- please indicate current unit name including status: \_\_\_\_\_

**D** Transfer an existing unit

Please provide the current unit's name and home: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the new home for the unit: \_\_\_\_\_

**D** Merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B)

Please provide the name and college of unit one to be merged: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the name and college of unit two to be merged: \_\_\_\_\_

**D** Terminate an existing unit- please provide the current unit's name and status: \_\_\_\_\_

D. **D** **Other educational policy proposals** (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.)

Please indicate the nature of the proposal: \_\_\_\_\_