

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

Syllabus: **Advanced Applied Project/Thesis Studio**

Course(s): This syllabus serves several courses. This advanced design studio course is intended as a culminating studio for master of landscape architecture and master of urban design students. The course sections for enrollment in the course include: **LDE 593 Topic: Advanced Landscape Architecture Studio IV**, and **MUD 690 Topic: Advanced Urban Design Studio IV**. The spring 2015 class schedule line numbers for the courses are:
LDE 593 Class #23807
MUD 690 Class #24235

Description: This is the regular thesis studio that most MLA students will take. The ASU Graduate College recognizes this course as a “*non-thesis, culminating experience*” or project. By being a “project,” the Graduate College’s rules for format, process, and content are somewhat relaxed. The final product doesn’t have to follow the format of a traditional scholarly thesis – it can be formatted in a manner appropriate to the professional discipline, including the use of drawings, reports, models or other similar professional documentation. The expectations of the landscape architecture faculty is that exploration and presentation protocols may be more flexible but a researchable issue is systematically and rigorously examined, evaluated and specific conclusions and recommendations are made. Design, as a process for exploring or comparing ideas may be an acceptable part of the project, but it is probably not the object of the project intent (“doing a design project” is not the goal of the thesis studio).

The themed topic and focus of the course will be **Design Performance**. Students will develop a complex design project that addresses a significant professional issue. The project will explore and demonstrate how advanced design resolves that issue in a performative manner using evidence-based practices and performance-based metrics.

This course is intended to give professional design students (especially MLA and MUD students) an opportunity to engage in complex design that applies a research-based approach. The

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

course serves as a culminating experience for the MLA or MUD degree. The focus will be on both process and outcome related to a research topic of significance to the discipline, of professional interest to the student and supportable by the resources of The Design School (including available faculty expertise).

Instructor: Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks (serving as studio supervising instructor in consultation and collaboration with other landscape architecture and urban design faculty)
Office location: DN 72 (lower level, NW corner)
Phone (with voice mail): 480-965-2533
Email: Kenneth.Brooks@asu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00-11:00, Thursdays 2:00-4:00 and by appointment; drop-ins are invited on a time-available basis (if you come by and I'm not available, please leave a message so that I can get back to you). The best way to consult with me is to request an appointment during class or by email.

Grading: Traditional grades will be assigned with LA faculty consultation.

Requirements: Each student will propose a researchable topic or issue. The proposal will include a description of the issue, the methodology to be used in investigating it, the lead landscape architecture faculty, the anticipated outcomes and deliverables. Each student will propose at least two faculty members as lead reviewers (including the designated thesis studio supervisor). Students may invite other faculty and other professionals serve as critics, advisors, and/or reviewers. The proposals, periodic reviews and final project presentations/defense will be conducted and adjudicated by a committee of the landscape architecture and/or urban design faculty and invited guests. Students taking the formal thesis track (LDE 599) will follow a similar process, with the addition of review and acceptance by the officially-approved supervisory committee.

Course Meetings: The thesis studio is scheduled to meet regularly on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1:30 - 5:55pm. Because of the independent nature of the projects, students will have flexibility in the use and management of much of this time for project work. Students will schedule weekly critique review sessions with the studio supervisor (Brooks) and with other faculty.

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

Monthly progress presentations and reviews will be made by each student to a committee of faculty reviewers during the term.

Final Products: All students will prepare both a formal oral final presentation and documents that can be digitally archived. The final documents will include:

- an illustrated image file to be presented with your final oral presentation. The images can be created with text and images from your work and composited with any presentation software. The file will be submitted in a .pdf format. The final formal presentation will be 30 minutes in length with the student presenting their work in 15 minutes to jury of invited professional experts and faculty and the jury having 15 minutes for question and answer, comments and suggestions.
- a poster, in .pdf format, with a hardcopy printed out for hanging and reference at the final jury presentations and at the open house presentation during The Design School final review week. Each student is required to have at least one 2' x 6' poster, though at the student's option, they may have multiple boards. The boards will be a collage of images, text and other information that provides a summary of the design proposal. Students opting for more than one board must have a first board that can summarize the work by itself if the project is chosen to be included in The Design School summer show in the Design Gallery.
- a professional report in an 8 1/2" x 11" format, submitted as .pdf document. The report will contain a written summary of your research exploration, background, investigations, design concepts, and design evaluation and assessment. An appendix with further information for the Professional Report is attached to this syllabus.

All students are also encouraged to present their work in a venue for professional peer-review (such as an article, a conference presentation or a competition submission) in a format appropriate to the venue.

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

Review Dates: (review location will be announced.)
1st Mid-Review Fri, Jan 30 – 15 minutes/student
Project Issues, Goals, Scope, Program, Expectations
2nd Mid-Review Fri, Feb 27 – 30 minutes/student
Research, Ideation, Concepts, Implementation Strategies
3rd Mid-Review Fri, Fri Mar 20 – 30 minutes/student
Design Implementation and Development
4th Mid-Review Thu, Apr 30 Final Rev. – 30 minutes/student
Design Completion, Design Performance Assessment
The Design School Public Design Reviews Open House
Friday, May 8 Showcase Poster Show

Related Course: The thesis studio, focusing on Design Performance, will be complimented by seminar on Design Performance. The seminar will explore the nature of design performance and examine strategies, systems and tools for applying and communicating issues of performance. The Seminar will be scheduled as a “course within a course”, meeting Fridays for one hour of discussion and presentation in the studio conference room.

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

Recommendations and Guidelines for Developing the Thesis Project Professional Report

Professional Report Presentation

A professional report is a document that makes a comprehensive presentation of the inputs and outputs of your thesis / culminating project. It defines the scope of the work, shares the background and framework for the project, demonstrates the investigations and processes and research findings and presents results, conclusions and recommendations. Like an academic thesis or dissertation, it is intended to be a document of advanced scholarship with rigorous and systematic presentation of the contents, but as a professional report the presentation format is much more flexible. The guidelines and suggestions within this document are intended to help you organize and present a document that comprehensively summarizes your thesis / culminating project.

The report should be prepared as a stand-alone document – that is, you could give a copy of it to someone and they could read it and fully understand what you did, what you learned, and what you consider the outcomes and recommendations to be. It should be formatted as a document in an 8½" x 11" format containing text, images, tables, charts, and illustrations in an organized and logical order. The document may be submitted in a digital .pdf format. Printing and submitting a hardcopy is optional.

The rest of these comments describe the suggested form, format, order and content of the report:

Cover

According to an old saying, "First impressions are lasting impressions." The cover of the report will be a direct and indirect statement about the nature, scope and content of the report. It will also make a statement about the professionalism, capabilities and interests of the author of the report. There is a great deal of freedom and flexibility in the design of the cover. It should quickly and directly communicate the scope and content of the thesis project. On an implicit level, it should justify itself as a contribution to the body of knowledge of landscape architecture and/or urban design. In descending priority, it should minimally show the title of the project, the author, The Design School at Arizona State University and the date. Some people prefer to make the title page and the cover essentially the same (with the only difference being that the cover is made out of a coverstock paper). A cover that looks like the top sheet of a term-paper does more damage than good to the credibility of a designer/researcher. The cover may also incorporate imagery in the form of an iconic illustration or photograph that helps to brand the project.

Title

The title of the project should clearly and succinctly represent the intent and scope of the research. Titles may change several times during the research, development and rewriting of the thesis/dissertation project, therefore it isn't necessary to be overly concerned about "final" title selection during the proposal development stage. Don't use jargon. The thesis/dissertation project may later be indexed alphabetically by title in a card catalog or database so it is important to have the first non-article word substantially related to the subject rather than start out as "A Study of..." or "An Evaluation of...". The title should appear on the cover page, at the top of the title page, the abstract and on the first page of the text of the report.

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

Title Page

The purpose of the title page is to identify the project and the individual author, the degree program, the School and University associated with the project. It is to be similar in appearance to the title page of a completed thesis/dissertation. The title page minimally should contain the project title, the author's name and degree, the name of the School (The Design School at Arizona State University), the faculty members who served as instructor, (Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA), the course number and title and the date. The inside title page often looks very similar to the cover page, but it usually has additional information, like the reference to the course, that is important to the document, but not important for the cover. The inside title page usually doesn't have bold graphics on it the way a cover might.

Keywords

Key words are a useful way to help people find your work by critical topical words or concepts. You should select a group of words (usually between 3 to 6 words) that are central to the topical focus of the project.

Abstract

An abstract is a synopsis describing, in brief, the essence of the thesis/dissertation work. The reader should be able to have a clear idea of the goals and intent of the proposed research from the abstract. A summary of the background, hypothesis, anticipated results and some discussion of their significance should be the major content of the abstract. An abstract is typically written after the other sections are written. It should not exceed one page in length. For these projects, I recommend limiting the abstract to no more than five sentences and no more than 100 words. Place the title at the top of the page, followed by the name of the researcher/author, author's degree title (Master of Landscape Architecture Candidate or Master of Urban Design Candidate), The Design School at Arizona State University and the date before beginning the text.

Outline of Report Sections

Use a brief outline of the contents of the report to help you organize the content. This outline is not a part of the final report, but a writing tool to help you organize and construct the document. The outline might include anticipated section titles, major headings and possibly minor headings. Additional contents of the report (such as title page, acknowledgments, table of contents, and appendices) should also be listed. A simple, generic chapters and/or section organization might be similar to the outline shown in the table below. Feel free to add some annotation under the sections to show the contents of those sections (for instance, the contents of appendices might be letters, survey form, data, glossary or index).

- Cover
- Title page
- Abstract
- Acknowledgments
- Table of Contents
- Table of Figures
- Section 1: Executive Summary (introduction, justification, summary of process & outcomes)
- Section 2: Background (background, context and history – includes literature review)
- Section 3: Methodology, Processes, Explorations
- Section 4: Findings, Observations and/or Design Proposals
- Section 5: Interpretations, Conclusions and Recommendations for Future Application
- Literature Cited
- Appendices (such as oversized drawings, field work, datasets)

Generic thesis/dissertation outline:

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

Editorial Format/Style

Editorial style includes such considerations as margin width, organization and layout of headings and subheadings, footnoting, handling of illustrations, pagination, insertion of quoted passages and citation of literature. The editorial style for the thesis/dissertation should be decided and described so that its rules of format can be used when the thesis/dissertation is begun rather than making style changes after the manuscript is completed. You should also consider the type faces and spacing of characters to use in the thesis/dissertation. If you will be using original artwork or photographs, describe how they will be produced, reproduced and formatted within the framework of layout rules. The Graduate School currently requires these to be in a style approved by the department. They give the student's department or committee relative freedom on almost all format rules (except margins, which must be followed for the sake of binding). The Master of Landscape Architecture Program leaves the decision of style format to the thesis/dissertation committee. The author should identify a recognized refereed journal appropriate to the research being done and adopt it as the guide for editorial style. A brief summary of style rules should be compiled for reference during later writing. It would be desirable to use this style during the development of the proposal so that the author becomes comfortable with it. The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* or *The Chicago Manual of Style* may be referred to for detailed style questions. Mock-up sheets showing style and layout will help accelerate layout and paste-up later. You should prepare a listing of the various style decision that you have made with examples of such things as citation format, heading style, margination, pagination, and use of graphics.

APA Style Standards for Planning and Design Students

The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* is one of the leading standard references for style issues for thesis, dissertations and professional reports in disciplines of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning and Urban Design. Most Graduate Schools allow departments and programs to select style guidelines for the theses produced by their students. Although some of the natural science disciplines and humanities disciplines use different style guides, the *APA Manual* has become a leading standard for environmental design and is therefore recommended as the preferred style manual for this course. It is appropriate to use the *APA Manual* because many of the thesis/dissertation research projects reflect social science and/or behavioral topics for which APA practices are the standard anyway and because the manual is comprehensive, convenient and inexpensive for use as a reference for students wrestling with issues of editorial style.

By default, it has become the standard practice environmental planning and design departments to tell the students that they should follow the *APA Manual* unless they had a good reason for using an alternative approach.

The principal intent of the *APA Manual* is to assist scholars with the preparation of manuscripts that will later be typeset by an editor into a scholarly journal article. Although we currently use an updated edition, which has significant accommodations for computing technology, including word processors and Internet-based literature, many of the conventions were established when the primary media was conventional typewriters. For instance, words or phrases that would be set in an *italic* typeface by the typesetter are supposed to be underlined instead, just as they would have been if typed on a typewriter that didn't have multiple type fonts. By contrast, *The Chicago Manual of Style* (CMS) describes style conventions more typically intended for typeset books, monographs and similar publications. Some of the style alternatives suggested here follow (CMS) recommendations.

Most of Master of Landscape Architecture, Master of Architecture, and Master of Urban Design students will be doing much more professional report writing and desk-top publishing than they will preparing manuscripts for publication for scholarly journals. For this reason, we'll encourage several style changes

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

that are more in keeping with desk-top self-publishing as might be done in professional offices and agencies. Here are several recommended modifications:

- APA Practice: When book titles are listed in text, they should be listed in roman typeface and underlined (APA 3.13). The same practice is used for book and journal titles in a references cited section (APA 3.110).

Preferred Alternative: If book titles had been typeset, they probably would have been placed in italic type (CMS 7.129) and therefore the desktop publishing convention should be to place those titles in an italic font.

- APA Practice: When listing references in a bibliography or references cited section, the authors should be in the form of surname name followed by initials. The first and middle names are always abbreviated to initials (APA 3.110 and 3.111).

Preferred Alternative: One of the traditional practices of science is to take care not to “through away data.” In the spirit of “keeping data,” include any first or middle names that the author or publisher uses in the publication (CMS 15.77, 16.5 & 16.6). As scholars and professionals develop publications with current information from current authors, it is valuable to cultivate the continued sense of a community of peers. Using the given names of authors helps to promote that sense of community.

- APA Practice: The *APA Manual* requires that book or article titles only capitalize the first letter of the first word in the title and subtitle and any proper nouns (APA 3.113-3.116).

Possible Alternative: The *Chicago Manual of Style* suggests that titles may either capitalize the first letters of all significant words in the title or may capitalize only the first letter of the first word in the title and subtitle (CMS 16.5 & 16.6). For your work, you may select either approach, as long as it approved by your major professor. Just be sure to use the selected style consistently throughout.

- APA Practice: The *APA Manual* requires the reference citations in the bibliography be typed in paragraph form -- indented at the beginning of the citation and then continuing in continuous, word-wrap paragraph form through the whole citation. The citation paragraph is presented in double-spaced format. (APA Appendix 3-A). The expectation is that the manuscript is typed in double space throughout, and the editor would typeset the reference paragraph as single spaced in hanging indent format.

Preferred Alternative: Since the ultimate typeset format would be a single spaced paragraph in hanging indent format, the author should use that common desktop publishing format. Although citation paragraphs would be single-spaced, use double spacing between the citations.

- APA Practice: The *APA Manual* requires that page numbers be placed in the top right-hand corner, one inch from the right edge of the page in the space between the top edge of the paper and the first line of text (APA 4.06)

Preferred Alternative: According to the *Chicago Manual of Style*, most type-set publications place the page number at the bottom of the page against the outside of the page -- next to the right margin for right-side pages and next to the left margin on left-hand pages (CMS 1.84). Since proposal abstracts don't have left-hand pages, all pages numbers should be placed on the right-hand side next to the margin. Since it may be difficult to know which pages will be left or right, it may be more convenient to number pages at the bottom center.

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

Editorial Style Check sheet. The following editorial style features represent the many decisions that the author may have. Make a decision and give a description and an example of each of the following:

Style manual or guide:

Margins:

Left

Right

Top

Bottom

Heading format and position:

(left/right/top/bottom positions and margins; examples)

Chapter or Section Titles:

format (font size and expression – such as bold, caps, underline)

position

spacing

example

Text

Font typeface & size

Paragraph (indentation or not)

Justification (left, right, center)

Text line spacing

Spacing between paragraphs

Spacing before new headings or sections

1st order heading:

format

position

spacing

example

2nd order heading:

format

position

spacing

example

3rd order heading:

format

position

spacing

example

citation format (example – author, date; footnote, endnote):

page numbering:

table and figure format:

Table: Editorial Style Check Sheet

Prof. Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
Spring 2015 Semester

LDE 593 / MUD 690 Advanced LA/UD Studio IV
Applied Project / Thesis in Design Performance

Literature Cited

At the end of the proposal, the author should have a section of literature cited within the proposal. This need not be a comprehensive bibliography but only a listing of those publications that were referred to in the proposal. Your literature cited section can be even more valuable if you make it annotated – that is, provide a sentence or two of comment about the content of the publication following the citation.

Illustrations, Maps, Charts, Photographs, and Graphs

Describe the graphic materials to be included in the thesis/dissertation. What will they show? What will their format be? How will they be produced and reproduced? What will the media be? Many people think of a thesis/dissertation as the expression of ideas in a written narrative form. Remember that as a member of a visual discipline that graphic images are (or should be) one of your most powerful communication tools. Don't overlook the opportunity to use a mixture of graphics and text to present your findings and ideas. Professional reports often have liberal use of images and illustrations to make their point. Remember that all illustrations, graphics, photographs and any other similar materials need to have a reference citation if they come originally from a source other than the author.