For entering 2-Year MLA students

LARP 793-901 Week 1 Computing: Intro to PennDesign and Academic Writing Workshop
Dates: Mon – Fri, August 3 – 7, 2015
Instructor: Keith VanDerSys & William Fleming

This five-day session introduces the entering two-year MLA students to the facilities of digital media as the primary mode of design visual communication. The course provides a short, yet intensive, hands-on inquiry into the production and expression of digital media that is essential for all designers. Through a series of working labs, students learn various software applications and associated techniques to execute precise two-dimensional representations of three-dimensional concepts. Students also learn the PennDesign systems, network basics and computer lab procedures.

Students will also receive a basic introduction to research methods, research resources, academic writing, citation formats and standards expected by the School of Design.

LARP 794-901 Week 2 Natural Systems
Dates: Mon – Fri, August 10 – 14, 2015
Instructor: Sarah Willig

This five-day session for entering two-year MLA students will provide an introduction to the varied physiographic provinces and associated plant communities of the greater Philadelphia region. Through a review of available mapping and on-site study we will characterize and consider the connections between climate, geology, topography, hydrology, soils, vegetation, wildlife, and disturbance, both natural and anthropogenic. With a focus on plants students will begin to develop a familiarity with the local flora (native and non-native) including plant species identification, preferred growing conditions, and potential for use. Field trips will include visits to the Coastal Plain and Piedmont of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

LARP 795-901 Week 3 Landform and Grading Workshop
Dates: Mon – Fri, August 17 - 21, 2015
Instructor: Cora Olgyay

The reading and shaping of landform is an elemental tool in the practice of landscape architecture. The act of grading design – the shaping and sculpting of landform – is both art and science. This five-day session for entering two-year MLA students aims to provide an appreciation of landform as both an evocative component in the design vocabulary and as a critical tool in resolving difficult design problems. Basic techniques and strategies of grading design are introduced and reinforced, so that grading design becomes an integral part of the students’ design approach. This session is intended to provide a concise overview of the principles and process of landform and grading design, and is designed to prepare the entering two-year students for Workshop III.