LARP 2021 Summer Institute Course Descriptions

Cost: $500 per session (excluding The Penn Experience)
Enrollment is by permit only. Permits will be issued by early summer.

For entering 3-Year MLA students

DCOH 885-001 The Penn Experience: Racism, Reconciliation and Engagement
Dates: Asynchronous
Time: 6 modules, 20 hours total. List of required modules to TBA
Instructors: Dr. Amy Hillier & Dr. Beverly Crawford
Classroom: Virtual

This virtual online course, developed through a collaborative effort between the School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2) and the School of Dental Medicine at Penn, introduces students to the connections between Penn, Philadelphia, and issues of race, racism, and other forms of oppression, as well as the cultural and institutional contexts surrounding Penn. The course features video interviews, presentations, short readings, and podcasts, and focuses on topics such as cultural differences, implicit bias, intercultural communication, gender identity, and antiracism. It is completely asynchronous, and is to be completed prior to the start of the Fall semester. The six modules take an estimated 20 hours.

LARP 789-901 Lineages of Contemporary Landscape for 3-Year Students
Dates: Mon – Fri, August 2 – 6, 2021
Time: 8am – 1pm
Instructors: Nick Pevzner & Rebecca Popowsky
TAs: Priyanjali Sinha & Isobel Morrison
Classrooms: Hybrid

This one-week course will introduce students to some of the most important strands of contemporary landscape architecture, introduce important landscape vocabulary and terminology in the landscape lexicon, analyze seminal landscape case studies, and hold group discussion on these topics. It will provide an overview of the vocabulary of landscape representation and visualization, introduce students to techniques of landscape representation, and then dive more deeply into the visualization of information, grounded in landscape theory. Students will collaborate on a historical analysis of the various threads of landscape architecture, tracing its relationship to allied fields such as architecture, urbanism, ecology, cultural geography, art, and the landscape garden tradition—and use this analysis as a basis of group discussion about what landscape architecture can accomplish in the world. Along the way, we will talk about how we use visualization as a way to synthesize ideas and as a projective device for testing new concepts and combinations. This course will offer an opportunity to practice research methods, and prepare students for digital collaboration.
LARP 790-901 Natural Systems for 3-Year Students
Dates: Mon – Fri, August 9 – 13, 2021
Time: 8am – noon (online) / 1:30 – 4:30pm (optional fieldtrips)
Instructors: Sally Willig & Marie Hart
Classroom: Hybrid

This one-week session for entering three-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 Inner Coastal Plain and Piedmont.

LARP 791-901 Landscape Operations for 3-Year Students
Dates: Mon – Fri, August 16 – 20, 2020
Time: 8am – 1pm EDT
Instructors: Nick Pevzner & Ryan Buckley
TAs: Priyanjali Sinha & Kelvin Vu
Classroom: Hybrid

This one-week course will introduce some of the concepts and techniques for the manipulation of the ground plane, one of the most fundamental skills in landscape architecture. The course will discuss some of the technologies, considerations, and constraints of operating on landform, introduce representation techniques that convey how we describe and communicate landform and topography, and walk students through some simple design exercises to make a set of interventions on a topographic site. Students will develop an appreciation for the spatial implications of landform, for landscape narrative, for the movement of water and people across the landscape, and for the operation of reshaping the ground, through the construction of a set of drawings that walk viewers through students’ set of interventions on their site. Work product from this week will serve as the starting point for the following week’s course, Introduction to Digital Media for 3-year Students.

LARP 792-901 Introduction to Digital Media for 3-Year Students
Dates: Mon – Thu, August 23 – 26, 2020
Time: 8am – 1pm
Instructors: Abdallah Tabet & Yadan Luo
Tas: TBA
Classroom: Hybrid

This four-day introductory course is intended to enable students to orient themselves to digital media facilities, programs, and workflows. The course is focused around daily projects building up to a final pinup. Each daily project illustrates a different set of work paths between digital programs, as well as teaches students how to use different software applications key to the practice of landscape architecture today. The focus of this course is to enable students to understand what each digital software application offers to the landscape process, and how to build change and iteration into digital workflows.
**For entering 2-Year MLA students**

**DCOH 885-001 The Penn Experience: Racism, Reconciliation and Engagement**

Dates: Asynchronous  
Time: 6 modules, 20 hours total. List of required modules to TBA  
Instructor: Dr. Amy Hillier & Dr. Beverly Crawford  
Classroom: Hybrid

This virtual online course, developed through a collaborative effort between the School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2) and the School of Dental Medicine at Penn, introduces students to the connections between Penn, Philadelphia, and issues of race, racism, and other forms of oppression, as well as the cultural and institutional contexts surrounding Penn. The course features video interviews, presentations, short readings, and podcasts, and focuses on topics such as cultural differences, implicit bias, intercultural communication, gender identity, and antiracism. It is completely asynchronous, and is to be completed prior to the start of the Fall semester. The six modules take an estimated 20 hours.

**LARP 794-901 Natural Systems for 2-Year Students**

Dates: Mon – Fri, August 2 – 6, 2021  
Time: 8am – noon (online) / 1:30 – 4:30pm (optional fieldtrips)  
Instructors: Sarah Willig & Marie Hart  
Classroom: Hybrid

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 793-901 Landform and Grading Workshop for 2-Year Students**

Dates: Mon – Fri, August 9 – 13, 2019  
Time: 8am – 11am  
Instructor: Anneliza Kaufer  
TA: Mrinalini Verma  
Classroom: Hybrid

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.
LARP 795-901 Intro to Computing for 2-Year Students
Dates: Mon – Fri, August 16 – 20, 2021 & Mon – Thu, August 23 - 26, 2021
Time: 8am – noon
Instructor: Tess Ruswick
TA: Jingyu Zhang & Marissa Sayers
Classroom: Hybrid/321 Meyerson

This nine-day session introduces the entering two-year MLA students to 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 Weitzman systems, network basics and computer lab procedures.