Syllabus
Spring 2020

LA 4/507
Overlook Seminar | Experiment

HJ Andrews Log Decomposition Study
Andrews Forest Image Library

Time
Friday
10:00 am - 11:50 am

Field Trip Saturday May, 2nd
* OFS students stay overnight *

Location
Lawrence Hall, Room 231

Credits
2

Instructor
Michael Geffel
Department of Landscape Architecture
Lawrence Hall, Room 214
mgeffel@uoregon.edu

Office Hours Wednesday
10:00am - 12:00pm

Course Description

Scientists have created many experimental landscapes as they move from the controlled environment of the laboratory to the complexity of the world. We have experimental forests and ranges, farms and nurseries, even experimental waterways. Landscape architects frequently draw from this research, but it often must be translated to match our particular design applications. How does the practice of experimentation relate to the design process? What is a design experiment – and what is experimental design?

For the 2020 Overlook Field School we will collaborate with artist David Buckley Borden to interrogate these questions as they apply to landscape, which has no clearly defined laboratory boundary, and the discipline of landscape architecture, which typically relies on experience, simulation, and abductive reasoning to develop design proposition.

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Eligibility

This seminar is open to all upperclass undergraduate students (junior year and above) and all graduate students at the School of Architecture and Environment.

Prerequisites

none

Class Format

Class meeting times will be organized around presentations and discussion. Outside of class time, students are required to review readings, conduct research and complete their maintenance designs.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will:

1. Understand how scientific experiments are constructed, the role of experimentation in landscape architecture, and what it means to conduct "research by design."
2. Design an experimental landscape within the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest.
3. Build a prototype for your experimental landscape

Readings

There is no required textbook for this class. Readings will be provided digitally on Canvas and key references will be on reserve in the Design Library.

Grading

This class may be taken for a letter grade or Pass/No Pass. Please consult your departmental curricular requirements regarding classes that may be taken P/NP.

Assessment

25% Attendance + Discussion
25% Exercise 1 - Define your research
25% Exercise 2 - Design your experiment
25% Exercise 3 - Prototype
20% Final Paper (Grad Students)

Expectations

Highest professional standards will be expected and maintained throughout the term. Active in-class participation and progress is very important. Participation will include research, preparation for class activities, respecting the rights and property of others, working cooperatively with other students as needed, and completing assignments satisfactorily and on time.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class for the full time allotted. Students may miss one class during the quarter, no questions asked (out of courtesy, a prior notification is very appreciated). Absences beyond that allowed in this policy will require prior approval (only for things like medical emergencies, family bereavement, etc.); absences beyond that allowed in this policy without prior approval may result in failing the class.

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Schedule

Week 1	The role of the experiment topic overview	April 3
Week 2	Science in Action / Research by Design reading discussion	April 10
Week 3	***Exercise 1 Presentations -*** *Define Your Research*	April 17
Week 4	Guest Lecture Emily Schlickman	April 24
Week 5	Guest Lecture Professor William G. Robbins Field Trip to HJ Andrews Experimental Forest - May 2	May 1
Week 6	2020 Artists in Residence David Buckley Borden	May 8
Week 7	***Exercise 2 Presentations -*** *Design Your Experiment*	May 15
Week 8	Prototyping Workshop	May 22
Week 9	Prototyping Workshop	May 29
Week 10	Review Week - No Class	June 5
Week 11	***Final Exhibition -*** *Prototype*	June 8