Introduction and Purposes
This is a journey and investigation of the roles landscape architecture/urbanism play in making cities liveable. It will include study of landscape planning methods, assessment of natural, cultural and political conditions; technological tools that enhance the execution of classic McHargian principles; methods of the public participatory process, techniques for communication and documentation; implementation strategies. It will focus on real-life design results of adopted and constructed visions – large and small.

Students will develop an enhanced understanding of where landscape architecture (design) plays an imperative role in reconciling natural, social, cultural, political and economic conflicts in cities; and where -- importantly -- it plays no role whatsoever. Certain methods (i.e., GIS) will be identified as a critical technical tool.

Course Grades:
Two essays (15% each): 30%
Participation: 10%
Written/illustrated Case Study: 30%
Oral Presentation of Case Study: 20%
One quiz: 10%

Course Readings/Class Sessions (unless other listed, read whole book):
LANDSCAPE +URBANISM
Week 1(8/31): Introduction to course, syllabus, class structure, readings, expectations and assignments. Lecture: Theory and Practice, What is Landscape Urbanism?

Required reading from The Landscape Urbanism Reader: 1) Thinking Through Landscape Urbanism; 2) Theory to Resistance: LU in Europe; 3) Landscape of Infrastructure; Urban Highways and the Reluctant Public Realm; 4) Drosscape.

ASSIGNMENT. Essay 1: 500 word essay on a landscape (large or small) identifying its features that influenced you the most. Relate your observations to assigned reading above. Photos, illustrations welcome but not mandatory. Essay is DUE September 7 at the beginning of class.
LANDSCAPE

Week 2 (9/7): Introduction to the role of the landscape architect in city planning, merging physical design with proposals for new development. A review of the history and accomplishments of the Urban Design Studio in changing the dialogue about the design of public space through project development.

Invited Guests: Stephanie Reich, AIA, Co-Chair AIA Urban Design Committee
Simon Pastucha, Director, Urban Design Studio, LA City Planning

Week 3 (9/14): Survey on human influence on the land, ancient to new; and emerging trends in the practice of landscape architecture in the city. Historic land planning; evolution of trends – defensive town planning, the market place, plazas, parks and focus on the public nature and purpose of these methods of landscape urbanism.

Reading: Image of the City, Chapters 1-5

ASSIGNMENT: Select a Citywide or Area Planning Commission, Design Review Board or Cultural Heritage Commission Hearing to attend. Go to: cityplanning.lacity.org -- Meetings&Hearings.

Weeks 4 (9/21): McHarg, his principles, and their application in the evolution of landscape planning; moving McHarg forward through the methods of GIS.

Invited Guest: Professor Travis Longcore, Center for Sustainable Studies

Assigned reading: Design with Nature, Introduction, City and Countryside (pp.1-5), Nature in the Metropolis (pp.55-65), On Values (pp. 67-77), The City: Process and Form (pp.175-185); GIS for Landscape Architects, Introduction, Chapters (Case Studies) 2, 5, 7, 8, 11 and Conclusion.

Week 5 (9/28) Landscape planning in the urban context. Introduction to social, cultural and political factors. Lecture: Vision to Re-Knit the Landscape: Freeway Cap Parks

Invited Guests: Doug Failing, Deputy Director Highway Programs, LA Metro
Gaurav Srivastava, Deputy Director of Urban Design, AECOM

Assigned Reading: Corridor Ecology: Part I, Chapter 1; Part II, Chapters 4&6; Part III, Chapters 7, 8&9 and Conclusion.

URBANISM

Week 6 (10/5):
QUIZ: Short-answer quiz on the first module of the course

Lecture: Urban Heat Island Effect – new research on the complexities and interactions of hardscape and shade on air quality, energy usage and quality of life.

Invited Guest: Ken Lewis, FAIA, LEED, President, A.C. Martin Architects
Week 7 (10/12): Review of structure for second essay. Lecture: Survey of public participation practices: public meetings, public hearings, charrettes, engaging communities in dialogue for change and the implementation of change. Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) projects in Los Angeles

**Guest: Veronica Hahni, Executive Director, Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative**

Week 8 (10/19): New Urbanism: Real Estate Exploitation or Authentic City Building? Introduction to the Case Study method. (Handout will be Case Study Outline for Project).

New urbanism practice in existing city context; the work of the Urban Design Studio; emerging trends in urban design (Highline and Broadway in NYC); Green Streets, Green Alleys.

Assigned reading: *New Urbanism: Best Practices Guide*, Chapters 1, 4, 8 (to p. 156), 9 and 26; and *City Comforts*, Chapters 1 -3, Chapter 11. Optional: Chapter 4.

Week 9 (10/26): New urbanism practice, corridor design, the LA River Revitalization Project and Orange County Great Park (Invited Guest: Mia Lehrer, FASLA &Associates)

**Field Trip: Green Street/Green Campus, Lake St., Burbank Water&Power, Ron Davis General Manager**

Week 10 (11/2): Introduction to case studies. Focus on cases evocative of the tension between development (no matter how well intended) and conservation: 1) new urbanist town inserted into agricultural land; 2) new urbanist town inserted into wetland (Playa Vista); 3) new town planning on abandoned rail yards v. land banking for future transportation; 4) High Line in NYC; 5) Exploration of the conversation of single family neighborhoods for ecological corridors; 6) Freeway Cap Parks.

**Field Trip: New Urbanism Project - Mission Meridian**

Assignment: Team selection and format preparation for case study.

**LANDSCAPE+URBANISM**

Week 11 (11/9): Profiles of local case studies: Mission Meridian in South Pasadena (see 10/28); Los Angeles Downtown Street Standards Project/Urban Design Guidelines.

**Invited Guests: Simon Pastucha /Patricia Smith, ASLA, AICP**

Week 12 (11/15): Presentation and critique of initial Case Study findings (Teams)

**Assignment DUE** Essay 2: 1,500 word essay on the nature, content of a public hearing, the process, the issues, the role physical design played in reaching a resolution. Photos, illustrations welcome but not mandatory.
Week 13 (11/22): Case studies analysis and critique (Team/individual work).

NO CLASS 11/30 (Thanksgiving Recess)

Week 14 (12/7): Final presentations and Case Study Reports  
Week 15 (12/14): Submit Final Case Study Projects in pdf format

Required Reading
City Comforts, How to Build an Urban Village by David Sucher, City Comforts, Inc., Seattle, 2003
GIS for Landscape Architects by Karen C. Hanna, ESRI Press, 1999
Image of the City by Kevin Lynch, MIT Press, 1960
Everyday Urbanism, John Chase

Recommended Reading:
Drosscape, Wasting Land in Urban America by Alan Berger, Princeton Architectural Press, 2006
Finding Lost Space, Theories of Urban Design by Roger Trancik, John Wiley & Sons, 1986
Grid/Street/Place by Nathan Cherry, et al., American Planning Association Press, 2009

Statement for Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board, ASLA
The Master of Landscape Architecture degree program includes three curricula. Curriculum +3 for students with no prior design education and Curriculum +2 for students admitted with advanced standing are accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board. Curriculum +1.5 for students with advanced placement is a post-professional study and is not subject to accreditation. Information about landscape architecture education and accreditation in the United States is found on-line at http://www.asla.org/Education.aspx.

Statement for Students with Disabilities
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Statement on Academic Integrity
It is recommended that you make a statement about academic integrity, such as:
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/