



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

# SLUkurs

## Syllabus

**PLG0034 Landscape Theory in Landscape Architectural and Landscape Planning Practice in a Multiple-generational/cultural Society, 10.0 credits**

## Syllabus approved

2012-01-18

## Subjects

Landscape Planning

## Education cycle

Third cycle

## Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

## Language

English

## Prior knowledge

Accepted as PhD or on the way to be accepted as PhD student. 40 SUC skills training phase in Landscape Planning or alternatively, 3 years of study in the fields of Landscape Engineering /Architecture or as Physical Planner or 40 SUC in geography or equivalent. Students who were admitted to the Landscape Architect

programme prior to 1999 are required to have 40 SUC in Planning and Design within the subject area of Landscape Planning

### **Objective, including learning outcomes**

This course seeks to give the student insight into how to use critical theoretical concepts to inform and guide a landscape architectural and planning practice that is capable of wedding perspectives taken from the social and natural sciences and the humanities. The course examines this practice on three inter-linked levels, that of the region, that of the urban district and that of the local environment from a multigenerational/cultural perspective. In concentrating on the relation between working concepts and practice, the course also seeks to provide the historical and philosophical background that is necessary to grasp the use of concepts that are not fixed and finished, but living and contested tools that enable the conception of new approaches to the planning practice of landscape architects and planners from other disciplines. An important aspect of the course is the insight that society and its landscapes are not uniform, but are made of multiple cultures ranging from those of differing generations to different classes and ethnicities. A focus of the course is thus upon the landscapes of childhood and youth.

### **Content**

The course combines group discussion of central theoretical texts with field study of key up-to-date examples of landscape architectural and planning practice. The emphasis will be on fundamental working concepts that linked to the concept of landscape, such space, place, region and nature. These concepts will be treated in the context of the actual planning practice of landscape architects, and planners from other disciplines, within public and private agencies, as expressed at the level of a region, the urban district and that of the local environment (for example a courtyard or local park).

#### Course goals

The course's goal is that the participants shall have attained:

- insight into use of key theoretical concepts
- learn historical background for key concepts
- learn to wed perspectives taken from the social and natural sciences and the humanities
- learn to work at the region, the city and the local level
- develop the interface between working concepts and practice.

#### Course philosophy

This course is concerned with concepts such as place, space, nature, landscape, childhood, time, environment, region and representation that are key to rural, urban and heritage planning, as well as landscape design. Success as a student depends on the ability to be able to make key concepts speak to the particular subject or problem that the student is interested in exploring. This means learning to think about concepts not as something too be memorized but as flexible tools for thought and creative work. It is good to learn to make use of the fact that concepts don't have a single meaning, but are sites of conflict, with different interests seeking to define them in their own way.

Take a look, for example, at the definition of landscape to be found in a standard dictionary, such as the Merriam-Webster. Landscape can mean a scenic backdrop, which can be designed and used like the scenery of a play in the theater. Landscape, however, can also be an arena of activity. In this case it is less something that you look at passively, but something that you participate in actively. How you think about landscape can have a big effect on the way you plan, design and manage "landscape". Since any discussion of concepts can easily become too abstract, we will focus on a concrete example, the landscape of "Ørestaden" or the "Öresund region".

### **Requirements for examination**

Instruction takes the form of lectures, seminars, group work and group or individual papers.

The course grade is based upon active seminar, lecture and field trip participation and the final paper.

Participation in the course is obligatory. Absence can be compensated for through the writing of an extra report.

### **Additional information**

Course time: 22 March - 4 June 2017.

Latest day for application is 1 March.

Apply to: vera.vicenzotti@slu.se

### **Responsible department**

Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management