Syllabus
Spring 2018

LA 4/507
Overlook Seminar | Maintenance

Time
Wednesday
11:00 am - 12:50 am

Location
Lawrence Hall, Room 231

Credits
2

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

Course Description
Maintenance. The word connotes manual labor, banality, mechanism... landscaping. But what do we really mean when we apply the word to landscape? We work with a dynamic and ephemeral medium: plants grow, die back, and change with the seasons; earth compacts, erodes and is deposited; water falls and washes its way down. It is the job of the landscape architect to take these materials and design a space, anticipating its future growth, entropy, and use. The principal way we mediate these processes is through maintenance, when we are confronted with the dissonance between our expectations and the material reality at hand. Defining the essence of maintenance as care, we will investigate the technology, operational logic and effects of this maligned practice to better understand its generative capacity and potential as a design instrument in landscape architecture.
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 the meaning of maintenance as it applies to landscape
2. Research the history of maintenance technology and the operational logic of a particular tool
3. Explore the scope of landscape maintenance and its potential as a design instrument in landscape architecture
4. Apply this theory and research to create a maintenance design for a prototypical 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 Pass/No Pass.

Assessment
20% Attendance
20% Readings + Discussion
20% History of Technology Research
20% Operational Logic Diagram
20% Maintenance Design

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.

**Deadlines, Extensions, Incompletes**

Assignments are due on or before the beginning of the class period of their due dates, unless otherwise noted. Late assignments are automatically penalized 10% per day, including weekends and holidays. Assignments not submitted after 10 days earn 0 points for the assignment. Exceptions to these policies are rare and must be arranged well before the deadline; email the instructor as soon as you can if anything may prevent you from meeting a deadline as scheduled.

**Retaining Copies of All Coursework**

Please retain copies of all work submitted and the original copy of all work returned to you during the term until the final course grade has been posted. In the event of any question concerning whether grades have been accurately recorded, it is your responsibility to provide these copies as documentation.

**Classroom Courtesy**

Please have your cell phone set to silent during class time. You are welcome to take notes on your laptop provided it does not become a barrier to your and your classmates’ active listening and discussion participation.

**Academic Resources**

The University’s Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) provides various programs, workshops, courses, tutors, and mentors to aid you in your coursework at the University of Oregon. One of the services that may be of particular benefit for this class is the TLC’s Writing Lab, which provides one-on-one feedback on writing assignments. You may visit the Drop-In Writing Lab at 72 Prince Lucien Campbell, M-F 9am-4pm, with or without an appointment (http://tlc.uoregon.edu/subjects/writing/).

**Academic Integrity**

The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students’ obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism,
LA 4/507
Overlook Seminar | Maintenance

is available at http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html.

Accessibility

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify the instructor if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

Diversity

The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity and freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the university community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. This course is committed to upholding these principles by encouraging the exploration, engagement, and expression of distinct perspectives and diverse identities. We will value each class member’s experiences and contributions and communicate disagreements respectfully. Please notify me if you feel aspects of the course undermine these principles in any way. You may also notify the Department of Landscape Architecture at 541.346.3634 or at landarch@uoregon.edu. For additional assistance and resources, you are also encouraged to contact the following campus services:

Office of Equity and Inclusion
1 Johnson Hall
541.346.3175
http://oied.uoregon.edu

Center on Diversity and Community
54 Susan Campbell Hall
541.346.3212
http://codac.uoregon.edu

Bias Response Team
164 Oregon Hall
541.346.1134
brt@uoregon.edu
http://bias.uoregon.edu

Sexual Violence and Survivor Support Statement
The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or
Overlook Seminar | Maintenance

experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

In the event of inclement weather, the UO home webpage (http://www.uoregon.edu/) will include a banner at the top of the page displaying information about delay, cancellation or closure decisions for the Eugene campus. Additionally the UO Alerts blog will be updated with the latest updates and bulletins. Local television and radio stations will also broadcast delay and cancellation information.

Faculty members not able to travel to campus to convene their classes have the responsibility of notifying students in a timely way if their classes will be cancelled. In the event of a class cancellation, for any reason, the instructor will contact the Department of Landscape Architecture as the first point of contact, and also send an email via Canvas to all students.

In Case of Emergency CALL 911.

In case of non-emergency assistance:
Call the UO Police Department at 541.346.2919

If we need to evacuate the building during class, two possible evacuation routes include exiting LA 222 and a) taking the building’s southeast stairs to the ground floor, and then exiting through the side (southeast) entrance of Lawrence Hall, or b) taking the building’s main (central) stairs to the ground floor, and then exiting through the front (south) entrance of Lawrence Hall.

If we need to evacuate the building during class, our designated assembly point is on the Old Quad, located west of Lawrence Hall.

Be sure your cell phone is set up to receive UO Alert text messages: 1) Login to DuckWeb, 2) Click on the “Personal Information” menu, and 3) Click on “Enter/Update Emergency Alert Phone.”

More information on emergency preparedness can be found online: emc.uoregon.edu/content/resources-students
### Schedule

**Week 1**  
**Maintenance Theory**  
- **April 6**: The definition of landscape maintenance  
  campus tour with grounds director

**Week 2**  
- **April 13**: Object-oriented landscapes and the zen of maintenance  
  reading discussion

**Week 3**  
**Maintenance Instruments**  
- **April 20**: The machine in the garden  
  reading discussion  
  *Fuller Lecture 4/26*

**Week 4**  
- **April 27**: The formal logic of tools  
  *history of technology research presentations*

**Week 5**  
**...as Novel Ecology**  
- **May 4**: Taking care of nature (restoration ecology)  
  reading discussion

**Week 6**  
- **May 11**: Editing emergence (adaptive management)  
  reading discussion

**Week 7**  
**...as Design Activism**  
- **May 18**: Maintenance in vernacular landscapes  
  *operational logic presentations*

**Week 8**  
- **May 25**: Cultivating a right to the city  
  reading discussion

**Week 9**  
**...as Infrastructural Service**  
- **June 1**: Urban metabolism  
  eugene public works tour

**Week 10**  
- **June 8**: New territories  
  reading discussion

**Week 11**  
- **June 11**: *Presentation of Maintenance Designs*
Readings

Week 2  


Week 3  


Week 4  

Week 5  


Week 6  

Hobbs, R. J., Higgs, Eric, and Hall, Carol M. *Novel Ecosystems : Intervening in the New Ecological World Order*. (2013). excerpts

Week 7  

LA 4/507

Overlook Seminar | Maintenance

Week 8


Week 9

