This course is open and welcoming to graduate students and upper level undergraduates. The purpose of the course is to introduce you to the role of metrics to assess built landscapes and to inform the design of proposed landscapes. First we will examine the concept of landscape performance and tools used to measure benefits. Second we shall apply various tools and methods to inform design scenarios for the Temple University Main Campus Landscape Plan.

OUTCOMES
The goal of the course is to provide you with an understanding of the concept of and tools associated with landscape performance. By the end of the semester you will:

• understand the concept of landscape performance
• be able to apply different tools and methods useful in assessing landscape performance
• understand the value of empirical evidence to support design decisions and to assess performance of built projects

The course will help you to develop your ability to make informed judgments about design. Specifically you will:

• be able to define in writing the basic principles of landscape performance
• be able to identify resources for researching peer reviewed tools and methods for measuring landscape performance
• have employed a tool or set of tools to assess a particular performance benefit associated with the Temple University Main Campus Landscape Plan (i.e. stormwater mitigation; waste mitigation; carbon sequestration; urban heat island mitigation; energy use mitigation; social and human health improvement, etc.)
• have written a brief (2-3 page) review of the tool/method you selected including pros and cons of the tool and peer reviewed literature associated with it.
• have had work reviewed by professionals experienced with performance metrics (Landscape Architecture Foundation)
• have participated in meetings and presentations to professionals to report the results of performance assessment.
• have developed (as a group) a written report (20 +/- pages) to be delivered to the University Architect describing: the role of metrics to help guide TU Landscape Plan decisions; different design scenarios based upon projected performance benefits; and implications for future measurement and research associated with the Landscape Plan.

GRADES
Grades are based on the following criteria:
Discussion and Participation 5%
Brief Review of tool/metric used 20%
Contributions to Class Report to the University Architect 75%
POLICES AND PROCEDURES
For Temple University Policies and Procedures, such as dismissal, add/drop dates, incompletes, etc. see http://www.temple.edu under policies and procedures under quick links

READINGS AND REFERENCES


SCHEDULE
Draft Weekly Schedule
schedule subject to change at instructor’s discretion
readings may be added—check blackboard each lecture (1 – 3 credits)

All classes will occur on Wednesdays at 5 pm
Week One January 22
Introduction – “What is Landscape Performance and How is it Measured?”
Discuss performance categories and begin to think about which category you might be interested in measuring.
Investigation of precedent--- gather information on whether and how other universities or corporate campuses have applied the concept of landscape performance. How do they track performance over time to maintain or increase benefits? Which academic programs are engaged in the process? How do the findings inform the university and the discipline?

Week Two January 29
Present preliminary precedent findings to class.
Develop powerpoint presentation on precedent for TU University Architect and Consultant

Week Three February 5
Meeting with TU University Architect and/or consultant to present precedent findings and to learn the background and goals of the Temple University Main Campus Landscape Plan.

Week Four February 12
Select performance category and begin researching peer-reviewed sources supporting selected tools/methods to measure landscape performance. Consider how landscape performance is linked to ecosystem services.

Week Five February 19
Work on draft report of selected metric. The report will be brief. Its purpose is to present the findings from the literature that support use of specific tools.

Week Six February 26
2-3 page report on metric/tool due to instructor. Begin to develop scenario or group of scenarios exploring ways to maximize your particular benefit through design strategies (i.e. planting more/larger trees to maximize carbon sequestration; increasing number of permeable campus “edges” and entrances to maximize social benefit and relation with neighborhood; increasing understory herbaceous layer and shrubs to maximize biodiversity;
reducing paved areas to reduce urban heat island effect. Make sure that the scenarios are compatible with those proposed by the consultant and University Architect. Put numbers to all of the scenarios.

**Week Seven**  
**Spring Break** March 1 – 9 Have FUN!!

**Week Eight**  
March 12  
Continue to develop and measure the scenarios  
LAFoundation staff present background of landscape performance and review student work to date

**Week Nine**  
March 19  
Continue to work on and measure the scenarios

**Week Ten**  
March 26  
Present Landscape Performance Design Scenario results to University Architect, consultant and steering committee

**Week Eleven**  
April 2  
Adjust/finalize scenarios to respond to feedback from University Architect and others. Consider the implications of your findings. How can the landscape be monitored over the long term? (This relates to what was learned in the precedent investigation.)

**Week Twelve**  
April 9  
Organize template and layout for final report. Begin writing chapters.

**Week Thirteen**  
April 16  
Work on report

**Week Fourteen**  
April 23  
Draft of Final Report Due to Instructor

**Week Fifteen**  
April 30  
Revise/finalize report

**May 7**  
Present and submit report (20 +/- pages total—developed by the entire class) to University Architect, consultant and steering committee.