Course Proposal Form
Committee on Instruction - ESF Faculty Governance
Office of Instruction & Graduate Studies

Date: January 11, 2011
Course Number: LSA 321
Course Title: Ecological Applications in Planning and Design

☑ New Course OR ☐ Changes in existing course (check all that apply):

☐ Prefix
☐ Description
☐ Shared Resources

☐ Number
☐ Pre-requisite(s)
☐ Course Format

☐ Credits
☐ Co-requisite(s)
☐ Content

☐ Title
☐ Course Format
☐ Semester Offered

This course meets the General Education standards in the following knowledge and skills area (check all that apply):

☐ American History
☐ Humanities
☐ Other World Civilizations

☐ The Arts
☐ Mathematics
☐ Social Sciences

☐ Basic Communication
☒ Natural Sciences
☐ Western Civilization

Prequisites or co-requisite requirements:

☑ Prerequisites:
☐ Co-requisites:

Institutional Impact:

Anticipated Enrollment: 45 per semester

Technology and Classroom Resource Demands: Standard classroom space, chalkboard, computer projection system and overhead projection.

Computing Resources: Students will be required to access the internet via personal computers or computers located in public libraries, Moon Library or campus computer clusters.

Library Resources: Must have computer access to SUMMIT and other library catalogs.

Transportation Requirements: None

Forest Properties or Field Practicum Facilities Required: None
Health and Safety Considerations:

Conditions or situations present in association with the course?

Yes / No

1. **Will substances with any of the following properties be used during instruction?** flammability, toxicity, corrosivity, reactivity, registered pesticide, legally controlled, or other characteristics with the potential to cause harm or injury? **No**

2. **Will any physical hazards be present during instruction?** (e.g., machines that need safety guards; razor blades or syringes; compressed gases, etc.) **No**

3. **Will any biological hazards be present during instruction?** (e.g., handling animals (rabies or hantavirus); cultures or stocks of infectious agents ( fungal spores, viruses, bacteria, etc.). **No**

4. **Will any radiation hazards be present during instruction?** (e.g., radioisotopes, X-rays, ultraviolet rays, lasers, etc.). **No**

5. **Will any electrical equipment that, due to its design, location, or method of use, pose any threat to safety during instruction?** (Give considerable thought to electrical use outdoors, or any potentially wet location.). **No**

6. **Will there be any personal safety issues related to the class?** (e.g., due to time of day or location, at the end of any organized class exercise, will students be in danger of physical assault, etc.). **No**

7. **Will any students be driving official state or research sponsored land or water vehicles during any class or instructional exercise?** **No**

8. **Will any type of personal protective equipment be necessary during class exercises?** (e.g., hard-hats, eye/face protection, hearing protection, hand/foot protection, lab coat, visibility clothing, etc.) **No**

If the answer was “Yes” to any of the **HEALTH AND SAFETY** questions, please explain:

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION** (Please provide using the precise format currently used in the ESF catalog, please do not exceed 500 characters):

Three hours of lecture per week. Introduction to concepts of ecology and landscape ecology related to sustainable land planning and design. Emphasis on using theory to guide planning and design decision making, with a goal of greater integration of ecological concepts into professional work. Fall. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing in the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture program or permission of the instructor.
DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE:
LSA 321 – Ecological Applications in Planning and Design
3 Credit Hours – Fall Semester
Prerequisite(s): None

SCOPE:
1. Level of Instruction
   a. LSA 321 is a core curricular requirement for all BLA candidates in the undergraduate program in landscape architecture.

2. Relation to curriculum or to other ESF or Syracuse University courses:
   a. LSA 321 is a course offered by the Department of Landscape Architecture and is required for BLA candidates.
   b. Shared resource requirements: This is not a shared resource course.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
LSA 321 – Ecological Applications in Planning and Design 3 Credit hours
Introduction to concepts of ecology and landscape ecology related to sustainable land planning and design. Emphasis on using theory to guide planning and design decision making, with a goal of greater integration of ecological concepts into professional work. Fall. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing in the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture program or permission of the instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Specific educational objectives to be achieved by the completion of the course include:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of foundation concepts in ecology and landscape ecology.
2. Explain the relationship between the science of ecology and the practice of landscape planning and design.
3. Identify strategies to facilitate collaboration among professionals in landscape architecture, planning and ecological sciences.
4. List specific steps that can make planning and design projects more ecologically sensitive.

MAJOR CONCEPTS OR METHODOLOGIES:
This course serves as an introduction to fundamental concepts in ecology and landscape ecology as they relate to physical land planning and landscape design. The science of ecology will be considered in a cultural context, with ecological ideas presented as an evolving body of knowledge with historical roots that parallel the development of landscape architecture. The goal of the course is to build a foundation of ecological knowledge that can inform future planning and design decision making. Concrete examples of ecologically-based projects will be explored and practical planning/design guidelines will be developed to facilitate integration of
ecological concepts into design studios and later professional work. The semester will conclude with a discussion of the role of a “land ethic” in ecological design.

**COURSE HISTORY:**
Prior to the fall 2008 semester BLA students were required to take EFB 320 – General Ecology. This new course – LSA 321 - has been developed to provide BLA students with an introduction to fundamental concepts in ecology and landscape ecology as they relate to physical land planning and landscape design. This course is currently being taught as a special topics class -LSA 496 section 07, Ecological Applications in Planning and Design. It is currently being offered in the fall semester.

Last approved:  N/A

Revised Draft: January 11, 2011