This course will introduce the design fundamentals of site to architects. Topics will include:

- Documenting, analyzing, and representing site conditions at multiple scales
- Conceptual approaches to building/site relationships
- Hydrology and its role in site design
- Soils and their impact on land use and building construction
- Use of contours to represent land form and grading
- Basic concepts of site engineering including cut and fill, grading, drainage
- Design themes for paved surfaces: roads, paths, plazas
- Design themes for planted form
- Legal issues in site design (zoning, ADA, building codes)
- Site Representation in design
- Ethics and ecological consequences of site interventions

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students will acquire a deeper understanding of how sites can inform their design process. This will be supported by practical studies of site analysis, scale, context, topography, grading terminology and formulas, drainage patterns, and accessibility issues. The course will also introduce the challenges and opportunities of urban sites in regards to soils, stormwater management, and vegetation. Students will be introduced to a range of conceptual strategies for engaging the relationship between site and building, and the designer’s ethical responsibilities to the larger ecological, social, and cultural contexts of design. Students will look at sites as natural and cultural, and explore representation techniques for analyzing and describing site characteristics.

FORMAT
The class will meet on Thursday. Lectures will engage the readings and/or exercises given out during class and touch on the relevant topics for the current module of the class. There will be one local site visit and one field trip outside of class times. The class will feature a series of in-class exercises and three projects assigned over the course of the semester. A final portfolio of these projects will be submitted at the end of the semester.
COURSE MATERIALS:
Sketchbook and soft sketching pencils  Tape
Blue layout pencil  12" roll of trace
Eraser  Black razor point pens
Prismacolor or Derwent colored pencils +  Black sign pens
Sharpener  Model Making Tools as needed
25' tape measure - 1" tape  Autocad / Creative Suite/ SketchUp/Rhino
Architect's scale  Digital Camera

Required readings will be on reserve and posted to the public folder.

Reference text:
Site Engineering for Landscape Architects, Steven Strom, Kurt Nathan, and Jake Woland

CLASS CULTURE
It is imperative that students engage outside resources as the semester progresses. Topics will need to be researched and acquired in order to complete the exercises and course project.

GRADES
Punctual attendance to all classes is mandatory. This course crams a lot of information into the semester, so attendance is critical in keeping up with the information and the work.

Readiness is expected -- alertness at lectures and work at pin-ups reviews. Each student’s final grade will be determined by the student’s progress and final product of each project. This includes the quality of interaction, research, production, craft and construction, content, and presentation of the student’s work. Students must engage in active discussions regarding the progress of their work. Students will be expected to participate in all class discussions, field trips, and reviews.

NO EXTENSIONS. NO EXCEPTIONS.
Each assignment is DUE on the DUE DATES. No incompletes will be given in this course except for debilitating circumstances. Every effort is made to orchestrate this course with studio deadlines, so if there is an unreasonable conflict arising, the instructor should be alerted. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of any issues that will affect attendance and performance.

EVALUATION
Your grade will be based upon the following activities and assignments:

Presentation on Readings:  5%
In class Exercises:  50%
Landscape Sketchbook:  10%
Final Project:  35%

Digital files of all exercises should be maintained. When requested, files should be uploaded to the designated course folder on the TSA public server.