



## Sensing the Landscape

**Class Meeting Time:** TBA

### Instructors

Brad Cantrell

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office hours: MW 10:30-12:00 or by appointment

Wes Michaels

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office hours: 11:00-1:00 or by appointment

**Location:** TBA

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### OVERVIEW

Sensing the landscape focuses on the technology and theory behind designing sensed, interactive, and immersive spaces. The course will have a lecture and lab component. Students will be expected to take the information presented in class and to create theoretical proposals and to test the technologies required to make them a reality. Students will work as a group towards a single common goal.

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### COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

1. identify methods for sensing landscape phenomenology and object presence;
2. create a framework for processing data gathered from the landscape;
3. define devices used in the sensing of environmental conditions;
4. classify and explain types of sensed/immersive environments;
5. develop working devices that visualize landscape data;

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### COURSE POLICIES

It is mandatory that you keep up with assignments and attend all class sessions. Late or incomplete assignments are not acceptable.

Because of the volatility of digital media it is a must that you keep a backup of your work in a safe place at all times. It is recommended that you keep a live copy on your local hard drive as well as a backup on CD/DVD Rom. Never use a jump drive to store your data, a jump drive is a device to transfer information from one hard drive to another and should be used only in that situation. Losing your information because of a computer failure is NOT an excuse for turning in a late project.



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## GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

There will be three projects which will contribute to the final grade. ALL assignments are required, any late assignments will receive a penalty of one letter grade.

You will document your research on [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com). You will need to register an account on [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com) and keep a journal of your research efforts at <http://sensingthelandscape.wordpress.com>.

Grade Breakdown:

Projects: 75%

- project 01 (sensing) 25%
- project 02 (processing) 25%
- project 03 (visualizing) 25%

Participation, Documentation: 25%

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## PROJECT SCHEDULE

The class will be composed of three projects.

### **Project 01 Sensing - ~Jan 29th - March 2nd**

Sensing will involve researching methods for gathering data from the landscape and implementing a solution. This will require the development of precedent studies and developing a system for gathering information.

### **Project 02 Processing - ~March 2nd - March 19th**

Processing will ask you to study ways landscape data can be translated through computing or physical devices. The group will be asked to develop a strategy and build a system that translates environmental information for a specific purpose.

### **Project 03 Visualizing - ~March 19th - May 11th**

Visualizing will be the genesis of your work. The group will develop a landscape intervention that senses, processes, and visualizes information within a physical space.

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## REQUIRED TEXT

O'Sullivan and Igoe, *Physical Computing*, Thompson Press

*Suggested Texts:*

Fresh Flash, *New Design Ideas with Flash MX*

Maeda, *Creative Code*

CJ Lim, *Devices*, Architectural Press