Introduction
This is the final project for the semester! It accounts for 25% of your final grade and is a cumulative effort – you are required to combine insight and skills from readings, discussions, activities, and speakers from the entire semester with research and design you complete in the next three weeks. You will individually select from one of the four options for your final studio project. This introductory session provides one studio period (Thursday, April 11) to research, contemplate, and propose your final project.

Schedule
The schedule for the final project is as follows:
Monday – Friday April 15 – 19: develop project programming criteria by section, complete research portion of project, complete on-site work at your location, experiment with modeling criteria and draft models, talk to / meet with influential voices from your project site and watershed, and compile data and references you will need. Studio will operate as structured work time with sign ups for desk reviews. The dates and times for guests from the watershed will vary between sections.
Monday – Friday April 22 – 26: develop design alternatives, select your final alternative to develop, intermittent pin-ups on Wednesday and Friday between the two sections to share ideas and get peer feedback. Your final intentions due in draft form on Friday at 3 pm – all detail must exist on drawing set, however it can be trace drawings.
Wednesday April 30: Presentations by section with faculty reviewers.
Friday May 3: Final presentations, salon-style with assigned outside + faculty reviewers.

Project Options
(1) Select a site and design a low-impact housing development (20 lots +/-) appropriate for your watershed. You are required to develop suitability criteria, model for suitability, select final site, research low impact design options for residential construction, develop a final design, and complete runoff calculations for both an as-built condition and a traditional design.

(2) Intensify the integrity of agricultural use of land in the watershed. Select a smaller section of the sub watershed to work with; it must contain at least 5000 acres and include a reach of the main stream in your area (Little Beaver or Onion), characterize the land presently used for agriculture, develop a final design that maximizes the integrity of agricultural use—contemplate the appropriateness of all areas for agriculture, alternative/emerging forms of agriculture, impact reducing changes in the present land use / cover (nutrient runoff, fragmentation, erosion, soil quality, etc). You are required, with GIS, to illustrate the characteristics of land currently in agriculture, research alternatives, develop a final design to reduce impacts and increase the integrity of agriculture in your area, and calculate runoff for both the existing and your proposed changes.

(3) Reduce the impact of land use and management activities on specific tracts of institutionally owned land (ISU, Iowa National Guard, Polk County, etc) and by design, suggest complimentary uses. Select a 100 acre +/- area that is publicly owned. You are required to conduct field work and research to identify potential and obvious impacts, research design alternatives to reduce impacts while maintaining present use, and develop alternative research activities (for ISU land) and other uses for non-utilized areas (such as large lawn areas), and conduct runoff calculations for existing and proposed conditions.

(4) Characterize landscape change in the subwatershed—This is an option that is environmental planning – oriented rather than a design exercise. Select from one of the following options: stream channel and riparian zone, housing, and natural areas (non-cropped, non-developed landscapes). Using the entire sub watershed study area from your...
section, you will present landscape change conditions for your chosen element for approximately five time intervals from pre-settlement to present day. Each student will collect historic data from archives on campus (including historic soil surveys, GLO data, aerial photos, etc) and county records to assemble your data set. Data from project 3 housing studies for your section (1965 – present) is available for your use and integration.

BY 3:00PM TODAY, EXPLORE THESE OPTIONS THROUGH QUICK RESEARCH, SELECT TWO DIFFERENT OPTIONS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN, AND WORD PROCESS A FORMAL PROPOSAL (2-3 PARAGRAPHS EACH) FOR BOTH. WE WILL DISCUSS THEM AS A SECTION GROUP BEGINNING AT 3 PM. YOU WILL KNOW YOUR FINAL PROJECT OPTION BY THE END OF STUDIO AT 4 PM TODAY.