

COURSE SYLLABUS

Class Times: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:30 – 11:30 AM
Class Location: ARCH 318
Credits: 5
Instructor: Glenn Acomb, FASLA
Office: Room 434
Hours: MWF: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM; Appointments are encouraged
Office Phone: 352.392.6098 x 315
Email: acomb@ufl.edu

Prerequisites ORH 3513 Ornamental Plant Material,
LAA 3350 Site Design Studio
Co-requisites - BOT 3143 Local Flora

Purpose

Planting design is one of the foundational skills in the profession of landscape architecture, a combination of fine art and technology, with unique spatial and temporal qualities. This studio will explore the art and technology of plants with consideration for various scales of sites and site ecosystems; designs for human use; and with consideration for sustainable design and landscape management practices.

Overview

Planting design is a blend of garden design and fine art. But, because landscape compositions are a synthesis of a site's environmental technologies (ecosystem, soil, water and microclimate), the intended human functions/uses, and a dynamic system of experiences that evoke appreciation and memory, this art form is an especially complex one to be truly successful – especially over time.

The *art* of planting design is especially rich in its connection to painting, sculpture, and dance. Each *scene* in the landscape is a composition of color, form, texture, with the addition of sensory characteristics. Different than painting, though, this art is sculptural – composed of three-dimensional forms of a wide variety of materials. It is also akin to dance – experienced from many positions as one *moves* through the site – and at both macro and micro scales. And most unique of all, the landscape and experience changes over the course of minutes, hours, days, season and ages.

This course will focus attention to the act of design, the importance of a meaningful and defensible concept, the choreography of moving throughout the design, and experiences of climate and time, and the importance of the natural systems of site, ecosystem and planted design.

Course Objectives

This course is organized to explore planting design in a variety of ways. We will seek a foundation in the art elements and their compositions. We will explore design in several scales and genres, though we will focus on smaller to moderate size sites. The goal is to expose the student to the richness of this design genre, while providing a foundation that can be continued beyond this semester and well into one's practice.

At the end of the semester, the student will have developed the following:

- An understanding of principles of art and design as they apply to planting design
- An understanding of functional and aesthetic value of plants in design
- An understanding of the relationship of planting design, ecology, hydrology and sustainability
- An understanding of the critical relationship of water in the landscape
- An understanding of landscape maintenance and its relationship to planting design
- An ability to produce accurate and professional quality planting plans

Course Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria by which student work will be measured include:

- Class Participation, especially in class discussions, presentations and juries
- Time Management (engagement in the class and ability to meet deadlines)
- Craft in establishing Precedent, meaningful Concept, and high quality Design
- Effective Communication (graphic, written documentation, oral skills/abilities)
- Execution of Assignment Objectives (understanding the instructional purpose of an assignment)
- Attention to Quality (pursuit of excellence in all areas of the course)

Grade Scale

Grades will be based on *approximately* 100 points over the course of the semester and based on the University of Florida Grade Policy:

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

For greater detail, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

In accordance with Departmental Policy, Landscape Architecture majors must receive a C or better to move forward. A course grade lower than a C (i.e., C- or lower) will require that the course be repeated.

Course grades will be based on the following *approximate* mix:

- Small assignments or exercises (25%)
- Small design projects (15%)
- Final Design project (40%)
- Class participation (20%)

The instructor may give an occasional opinion paper or quiz.

Grade Criteria

The assessment of a design and/or the grade given for an assignment will be based on a letter grade. The grade scales are defined as follows:

A – Outstanding – The student has impressively fulfilled the requirements, and surpassed the expectations for the project. The student has demonstrated a superior grasp of the subject matter coupled with a high degree of creative or logical expression, rigorous effort, and a strong ability to present and represent these ideas in an organized and analytical manner. Effort, product and participation in class are superior.

B – Very Good – The student has demonstrated a solid grasp of the material with an ability to organize and examine the material in a creative, critical, and constructive manner. The work produced and the class performance reveals a solid understanding of the issues and related theories or literature, but may not be outstanding. Solid effort, product and participation in class.

C – Acceptable – The student has shown a moderate ability to grasp concepts and theories for the class, producing work that is basically adequate, but is not exceptional or has neglected portions of the assignment requirements. The performance in class displays only a basic familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques. Effort, product and participation in class are average – not exemplary. A grade of C- (C minus) is not a passing grade in this course.

D – Unacceptable – The work demonstrates a minimal understanding of the fundamental nature of the material or the assignment. The performance does not adequately examine the course material critically or constructively. Participation in class and attendance may be a problem. This is not a passing grade.

F – Failure – The student has demonstrated a lack of understanding or familiarity with course concepts and materials. The performance is inadequate. Failure is often the result of limited effort and poor attendance.

Attendance and participation can affect the grade. The policies for attendance are addressed in the following section.

Participation, Attendance and Other Policies

Engagement, punctuality and participation in the class are vitally important. It is the responsibility of the student to attend and participate in class, as well as to arrive to class ready and rested. Since we will cover a broad range of topics and new information in nearly every class, falling behind by missing classes or neglecting to prepare in advance is a sure bet to earn a poor grade.

First, all students will be allowed 4 unexcused absences over the course of the semester. After that, the policy is:

<u>Unexcused Absences</u>	<u>Grade point deduction</u>
5-6	5%
7-8	10%
9-10	15%
11-12	20%
<i>Each additional 2 absences</i>	<i>additional 5%</i>

In certain situations, lateness or absence from class or late work is unavoidable and with evidence, excusable. These instances include verified illness, important doctor's appointments, serious family emergencies, etc. It is the *student's responsibility* to make arrangements in writing (at least one day before class) **or** to provide documentation of the reason (doctor's note or other 3rd party verification). The instructor will determine the validity of the absence or the documentation.

Other policies include:

- Students are expected to attend class prepared, ready for participation and rested.
- Arriving late (15-20 minutes after the start of class), falling asleep in class, or leaving early will be considered a ½ absence, or if egregious, 1 absence.
- An assignment's grade will be lowered 10% for each day that it is late; 5% if late on the same day.
- *Cellular phones are a serious disturbance in class and are to be **turned off** for the duration of the class period. During the class period, students are expected to work on the course assignments, not on other coursework or on social media sites.*
- *Students will not use social media during class, unless specifically authorized or a part of the course.*
- Frequently, there will be presentations by instructor, visitors or classmates. When this occurs, students will give the speaker their full attention and close their laptop or shut down their computer.
- Collaborative discussions and critiques amongst others, during and after class hours, are encouraged. However, most assignments are to be completed by the individual student without *using* the work of others as their own. For team projects, it is expected that the work will be evenly distributed and executed.
- Academic Honesty is addressed later in this syllabus and applies to proper citation of the origin of material (including *Internet resources*) when used in a written or graphic project.

Submission of Student Work

All student work may be retained and used by the Department of Landscape Architecture. Digital Copies of student work for this course must be turned in at the completion of each assignment. No grades will be computed into the final course grade until digital submissions have been turned in as requested.

In the case of models and other 3-D work, digital JPG images should be submitted.

Textbooks and other Resources

The following book will be used in the course:

- **Smith, W. Gary (2010) From Art to Landscape**

Additionally, excerpts from these books will be featured on occasion:

- Van Sweden, James (2011) The Artful Garden
- Myers, Mary Andrea Cochran: Landscapes Princeton Architectural Press
- Oudolf Piet Oudolf: Landscapes in Landscapes
- Michael Freeman and Michiko Nose' The Modern Japanese Garden, Tuttle Publishing

Plant Technology:

- Nelson, Gil (2008) Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants
- Odenwald, N. and Turner, James (2000) Identification and Use of Southern Plants for Landscape Design, 3rd edition, Claitor's Publishing
- Watkins, Florida Landscape Plants
- Gilman, Florida Plant Guide Betrock Publishing

Sustainability:

- Thompson and Sorvig, *Sustainable Landscape Construction, 2nd ed.*, Island Press
- Calkins, *The Sustainable Sites Handbook*, Wiley
- Dunnett and Kingsbury, *Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls*, Timber Press

Computers and Applicable Software

This is a list of the required software for this course:

- AutoCAD (the current release within the past 2 years)
- MS Office (Word, Excel and Powerpoint (or Office Suite))
- Adobe Acrobat or Reader
- Adobe Photoshop
- Google SketchUp
- Virus and Spyware Protection Software (regular use is required)
- LandFX may be used for Planting and Irrigation construction documents
- Pinterest will be utilized as an image library and exchange.

It is each students' responsibility to be diligent in regular back-up their computer files to a separate hard drive, flash drive or cloud-type storage. Weekly back-up is a recommended minimum frequency. Failing to do so is not considered an acceptable excuse to warrant an extension on a project deadline.

Email and Online Course Delivery

Students are expected to maintain a fully functioning email account for the entirety of the semester as this will be a critical form of communication. Daily review of email is expected in the event that a notice is needed to be delivered to the class.

A portion of this course will be delivered in E-learning, the University of Florida's online course delivery platform. It is the student's responsibility to understand, maintain and check this account regularly. Students are expected to be competent in the use of email and UF software/website tools.

Special Needs

If you require special arrangements for this class due to physical or health-related limitations, make an appointment with me as soon as possible so we can review your needs. This class will have several field trips and walk around or near campus to observe designs and plants.

Academic Honesty:

The University requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. When students enroll at UF they commit themselves to honesty and integrity. Your instructor fully expects you to adhere to the academic honesty guidelines you signed when you were admitted to UF. For more information, see <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html> and the Department of Landscape Architecture Academic Honesty Policy.

Course Schedule (subject to revision based on project requirements)

Week Planned Content/Topic(s)

- 1 **Introduction to the Course; Overview of Planting Design and Drawings**
Introduction; role in the profession; drawing/documentation; important designers; use of *Pinterest* as an image database & design resource. A plant list will be provided of natives and ornamental plants for which students will be expected to know or learn.
- 2 **Design Process: Site Analysis – Natural Systems Climate, Soils and Hydrology**
The review of site analysis and research of natural systems (climate, ecosystems, and hydrology). 1-2 field visits to local sites will be used as learning experience.
- 3 **Design Process: Site Analysis – Recording Conditions for Planned Human Use and Built Work**
The role of site analysis and research of factors of human use, regulatory issues, infrastructure, transportation, etc.). Introduce the AFNN design competition as an assignment and introduce designing with native plants.
- 4 **Design Process: Concept, Art and Experience**
The importance of the intellectual process of design utilizing art elements; styles; experience of place; movement; and the role of narrative in design. Exercises will be undertaken in 2-D and 3-D.
- 5 **Design with Plants: Natives**
Designing within ecosystems and for meadow arrangements; Conclude AFNN design competition assignment. Potential field trip.
- 6 **Design with Plants: As Design Elements; Ornamentals**
Designing with ornamental plants in arrangements in organic and rectilinear geometries.
- 7-8 **Project Scales: Small Site**
Applying design in a small site (0.5 acre).
- 9 ***Spring Break***
- 10 **Specialty Design Genres: Therapeutic Gardens, Vegetative Roofs, Edible Gardens**
Case Studies will be provide or undertaken.
- 11-16 **Project Scales: Medium Site**
Applying design to a site (0.5 – 3.0 acres). A Final Project will be issued for a site, involve a client, and be presented before a Jury.