Course Description – You will learn to use living materials to create experiential environments that adhere to principles of sustainable design—creation and maintenance of human engagement, biodiversity, and restorative practices that generate health for people and place. You will learn the basic principles of planting design - aesthetic, ecological, and practical premises for selecting plant materials. You will learn the conventions and notations to communicate the specifics of a planting plan to others. In the process, you will also expand your knowledge of plants beyond the native woody plants typical of Michigan forests to ornamental plants.

Class Format – although this is dominantly a studio course, most class meetings will involve 3 learning approaches: Lecture: theory and its application from the fields of design, ecology, environmental psychology, as well as foundations of professional practice skills and character profiles of plants well-suited for horticultural use. Studio and Field Experience Group Exchange: interactive assignments, individual & group pin ups, presentations, and file sharing

Course Components
Aesthetic and ecological premises of planting design will be addressed in lectures, field walks and quick turnaround design assignments. With each successive assignment, you are expected to integrate what you've learned so far in this and in your other classes. This integration is essential for the creation of multidimensional designs that provide ecological resilience and aesthetic engagement, regardless of scale or land use

Quick Design Assignments - 4 Minis: A set of mini assignments will help you activate and expand your skill set for planting design. These short assignments will help you put aesthetic and ecological lessons into practice and learn now to how to communicate a planting design for installation. Due at the beginning of class for given due date.

Plant ID - Throughout the semester, 30 popular, readily available species will be introduced in class. You will be responsible for knowing the botanical name, common name, and key features of each species introduced in this way (2 quizzes).

Project 1: Mott Childrens Hospital Butterfly Garden This planting design will supplement an existing planted space at the new Mott Children’s Hospital with flowering plants that can attract specific pollinators. The design will also support an activities program for children staying at the hospital and offer a place of respite for their families and support hospital staff.

Project 2: Planting design for the Saline Recreation Center (Oudolf-style design) This project will be done in conjunction with your site design from this semester’s Ecological Site Design Studio (NRE 688). The aesthetic premise for your planting design will be founded in principles of plant combining as proposed by Piet Oudolf (High Line in NYC, Millennium Park in Chicago) and, depending on your individual site design, may extend to address principles of ecological habitat management.

Sketchbook to help you think spatially and explore conceptually. Throughout the semester, learn to use a sketchbook as a documentation of your creative process. Add sketches, words, collage in photos and cutouts, anything that keeps your creative process vibrant. Your sketches and words can relate what it is you enjoy aesthetically about planting designs you encounter (in person or in print), good plant combinations, and other facets of perception beyond the visual – sound, fragrance, feel. The sketchbook is also a place to consolidate examples of graphical styles (yours and others). Guaranteed, you’ll find it helpful to tag entries with date and location.
Required readings serve as a premise for design, discussion and technical know-how. While you won't be tested on content, you just won’t design as well without reading them. All materials not found in required texts will be posted on CTools. Books for the course include:
Steiner, Lynn. 2006. Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan Amazon: $17.61

**Evaluation:**
You can earn up to 100 points in this course. See distributions below.
Note that Projects 1 & 2 will receive 3 separate grades, based on
I  Quality of the design – conceptual vision and ability of the planting plan to meet project goals
II  Plant materials used – choice and justification of plant assignments in light of microhabitat requirements, ecological considerations and/or management plans
III  Communication – quality of plant specification list, ability of final product to communicate design intent, and overall visual appeal of your communication graphics.

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Grades will be assigned on this basis: A: excellent, substantially above expectations; B: very good, above expectations; C: average, acceptable, meets expectations; D: marginally acceptable; F: not acceptable

**Late Assignment Policy**
For the sake of fairness to all students in the course, deadlines will be strictly enforced. Unless you’ve made prior arrangements, lateness will impact your grade. If you have trouble completing a particular assignment, this must be discussed with me before the deadline. At the end of the semester, students with will be assigned a letter grade on the basis of the work that has been completed. “Incompletes” will be given only in extenuating circumstances under special permission.

**Academic Honesty:**
All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic career. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe; ignorance of what constitutes dishonesty is not an acceptable defense.

**Supplies List**
Sketchbook (spiral bound is usually most useful)
Trace Paper (12” or 18” roll and a 24” roll)
Drafting Tape/Dots
Erasers- your preference
Set of black ink pens at least 3 thicknesses for line hierarchy
Colored pencils -wide assortment including at least 1 set of grays
Pencil sharpener (electric is best)
Engineering Scale
Architect Scale
Calculator

Other paper and drawing supplies will be specified as projects dictate.

**Recommended**
Mechanical lead pencils (3mm, 5mm, 7mm) and leads (ideally HB)
Alvin Parallel glider (has long metal roller ~$14)
Triangles or rulers with inking edges