

Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1– 4pm in 3556 Dana and 2nd Year Studio
*For the first 4 weeks of class, we will begin in 3556 Dana, then move to the studio or into the field after lecture.
Always be prepared for scheduled field activities, rain or shine.*

Instructors:

Dr. MaryCarol Hunter mchunter@umich.edu office: 3572 Dana 734-645-8007

GSI: Roberto Astudillo astudil@umich.edu 847-532-8302

Our office hours are by arrangement and in studio open office hours will be flexibly set to best meet studio needs.

Course Description You will learn the basic principles of planting design with an emphasis on integrating aesthetic and ecological goals in the creation of sustainable landscapes that a) support environmental health and human wellbeing and b) fuel a sense of stewardship by engaging in a way that creates attachment. More specifically, creative application of the following learning objectives will prepare you for high quality production and leadership as an ecological designer. You will learn to ...

- 1) use living materials to create aesthetically commanding and psychologically engaging environments that support ecosystem function & services, especially biodiversity;
- 2) combine plant species for aesthetically pleasing designs and strong seasonal presence;
- 3) apply a research process for plant selection based integrating developmental traits and environmental needs with aesthetic goals.
- 4) expand your knowledge of Great Lakes native plants and other ecologically acceptable ornamental plants;
- 5) communicate your design intentions using the conventions and notations of professionals

Class Format This course is highly interdisciplinary, organized to combine learning about the horticultural use of plants and gaining proficiency in using plants as the medium for sensory engagement. Most class meetings will include multiple learning goals. We will often open in a classroom setting (3556) then move to the studio or the field for application. Foundation lectures will deal with theory and its application from fields of design, ecology, and environmental psychology, along with horticulture and plant character profiling. Interactive learning will come with class discussion, pin ups, presentations, assignments, and file sharing.

General Course Outline

Part 1 (6 weeks) The overall context _____ The focus will be on plant profiling, small scale planting design and essential tools for communicating the design to the client and allied professionals. Integrating lectures and short studio assignments will help you put aesthetic and ecological lessons into practice. Plant Profiling will introduce an array of native species suited for horticultural use as well as popular and ecologically suitable non-native ornamentals. While there will be no quizzes, you are expected to learn these plants – their key features, how they combine ecologically and aesthetically with one another, and the correct spelling of both botanical and common names.

Part 2 (7 weeks)

You will bring all you've learned in this and previous classes to bear on a set of planting designs for a civic engagement project in Detroit. You will learn to how to design with The New Perennial Style of Piet Oudolf, (e.g., High Line, NYC and Millennium Park, Chicago) while simultaneously meeting goals of ecological resilience through attentive plant palette choices. Projects will be formally presented to professionals.

Readings:

Required readings serve as a premise for design, discussion and technical know-how. Always come to class prepared to discuss and apply the reading assignments to design. 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 Canvas.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

- 1 EAS 691 Course Pack from Dollar Bill on Church Street
- 2 Oudolf, Piet and Noel Kingsbury. 2013 . Timber Press, 280 pp. \$22
- 3 Diblik, Roy. 2014. The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden. Timber Press. Amazon \$18
- 4 Steiner, Lynn. 2006. Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan. Amazon: \$20
- 5 Wood, Tim & Alison Beck. 2003. Tree & Shrub Gardening for Michigan. Amazon (used) \$14 - \$18; less on e-Bay

Evaluation:

You can earn up to 100 points in this course. See distributions below.

Where warranted, grading criteria will be stated in the assignment.

% of total

ASSIGNMENTS

- | | |
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| 10% | #1 Impact of Light on Aesthetic Experience |
| 10% | #2 Communicating Planting Design (w/ plant species performance traits) |
| 15% | #3 Design for Seasonal Presence
Project: Planting designs for Dequindre Cut Greenway |
| 20% | Experiential site analysis + concept |
| 40% | Design: Detroit's Dequindre Cut Greenway |
| 5% | Essay: Specify how attributes of your project design support psychological wellbeing and ecological health |

In general, 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 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.

Design supplies for 691:

- Trace Paper
- Drafting Tape/Dots
- Engineering Scale and Architect Scale
- Calculator
- ** Sketchbook to journal through the design process
- Set of black ink pens at least 3 thicknesses for line hierarchy; recommended - black Micron pens
- Colored pencils or markers (a wide assortment of colors including at least one set of grays)
- For those interested in capturing ideas with watercolors, Sakura-XNCW-30N-Assorted is a good choice