Arch 538 Urban Plant Ecology: Cultural Perspectives

Units: 3
Fall
Day and Time
Thursdays 12:30pm to 3:20pm

Location: Harris 102

Instructor: Dr. Denise Buchanan
Office Hours Meeting Location: TBD
Office Hours: 10am - 12noon Thursdays (by appointment)

Contact Info:
Dr. Denise Buchanan
Email: sacredgardens27@gmail.com
Tel: 310-980-2770

Course Description
Gaining mastery over the use of plants and the design intent of plants in the landscape is crucial to the success of any landscape project. This Course will introduce students to design principles and cultural, technical and ornamental criteria and concepts for effective landscape planting design. Students will develop a greater understanding of the major challenges of societies towards the built environment and expanding urban populations through course materials and through working on group projects from planning to implementation.

Learning Objectives
Learning will be achieved through lectures, discussions, assignments, group projects, campus planting identification walks and field trips. Lectures will incorporate a series of weekly exercises, quizzes, videos and readings. Students will demonstrate knowledge of:

1) History of cultural form influencing landscape planting design
2) Principles and Elements of planting design
3) Identifying opportunities and constraints for effective planting design
4) Plant characteristics, ecology and placement
5) Emerging trends and influencers in landscape planting design
6) Sustainable landscape design and planting practices
Prerequisite(s): Arch 537 or permission of the instructor

Course Notes
Planting design is an essential tool in shaping the environment in which we live. The diversity of plant material, social and cultural contexts, perceptions, intentions and global forces all influence the expression of what is being created when we choose to design with plants. This course provides a deep dive into the exploration of form and planting design and develops a wholistic perspective which can be applied to design the ever-changing world of our habitable landscape.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required
Students will utilize MS Word, Excel, Adobe Photoshop, hand drawing and GIS software to research and develop planting design concepts. Some physical modelling will be included in planting design exercises.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Required Text:

Readings will be distributed from the following supplemental texts:
1) Jellicoe, Geoffrey & Susan. The Landscape of Man, Thames and Hudson, LTD., 1982

Plant Reference Material:
1) http://arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/
2) Sunset Western Landscaping: 2nd Edition
3) Sunset Western Garden Book, latest edition
4) Bornstein, Carol; Fross, David, and O’Brien, Bart. California Native Plants for the Garden, Cachuma Press
5) Perry, Bob. Landscape Plants for California Gardens. Land Design Publishing

Description and Assessment of Assignments
1) In class quizzes
2) 3 Field Trip Reports
3) Research Assignment: (Assemble plant image library)
4) Group Project: Planting Design Physical Modeling
Attendance and Grading Policy
Attendance is required for all lectures, campus plant identification walks and off-campus field trips. Absence from field trips cannot be made up as these were organized by special arrangements.

Any student not in class within the first 10 minutes is considered tardy, and any student absent (in any form including sleep, technological distraction, or by leaving mid class for a long break) for more than 1/3 of the class time can be considered fully absent. If arriving late, a student must be respectful of a class in session and do everything possible to minimize the disruption caused by a late arrival. Being absent on the day a project, quiz, paper or exam is due can lead to an “F” for that project, quiz or paper (unless the faculty concedes the reason is due to an excusable absence for personal illness/family emergency/religious observance).

More than one absence can result in the lowering of the course grade by 1/3 for each additional absence up to a maximum lowering of 1 letter grade in the course. Classroom activities missed during an absence must be completed prior to the next class. All late work must be submitted no later than one week following the posted deadline and can receive a maximum 90% value. See full attendance statement at: http://arch.usc.edu/People/SchoolGovernanceDocuments

It is required that proper professional etiquette be displayed by attending the presentations of each of your classmates. Professional conduct requires that you manage your time in such a way that is not disrespectful to others. Participation in class discussions is required and your participation will constitute part of your grade. The basis for the course grade is divided among the following activities.

Grading Breakdown
Points are assigned for all assignments, reports, quizzes, projects and exams. Grades for each assignment, project and exams for the course is based upon the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Quizzes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Field Trip Reports</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Research Assignment</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>40</td>
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TOTAL                        200      100

PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN
94-100% = A              73-75% = C
90-93% = A-              70-72% = C-
86-89% = B+              66-69% = D+
83-85% = B               63-65% = D
80-82% = B-              60-62% = D
76-79% = C+              61-62% = D-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2018</th>
<th>Topics/Daily Activities</th>
<th>Readings and Homework</th>
<th>Deliverable/ Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sept 13</td>
<td>Field Trip with Guest Lecturer: (To be confirmed) Calvin Ahbe, Principal AHBE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS 617 West Seventh Street, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90017 Guest Lecture on: Comparative elements of Historic Cultural Landscapes, Healing Gardens and Parks/Recreation/Playgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sept 27</td>
<td><strong>Field Trip: Sustainable Landscaping:</strong> Airport Avenue Demonstration Garden-3200 Airport Avenue, Santa Monica, CA and new Ishihara Park&lt;br&gt;<strong>Field Trip Instructor:</strong> Russell Ackerman (City of Santa Monica - Sustainability Analyst)</td>
<td>Robinson, Nick. “Visual Properties of Plants.” The Planting Design Handbook. New York: Routledge, 2016. pp.101-132</td>
<td>Field Trip Report 2 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 25</td>
<td>Field Trip: USC Campus Parks</td>
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<td><strong>Week 12</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nov 8</td>
<td>Lecture/Discussion: Influencing cultural themes as planting design templates</td>
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<td>Research Assignment Due</td>
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<td><strong>Week 13</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nov 15</td>
<td>Student Presentations of Research Assignments/ Discussion</td>
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<td><strong>Week 14</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nov 22</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 15</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nov 29</td>
<td>Last Class 1) Presentation of Group Projects in class</td>
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<td>Group Projects Due</td>
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USC Critical Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>August 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>September 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td>Wed-Sun</td>
<td>November 21-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes End</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>November 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Days</td>
<td>Sat-Tue</td>
<td>December 1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>Wed-Wed</td>
<td>December 5-12</td>
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Date: For the date and time of the final for this class, consult the USC Schedule of Classes at www.usc.edu/soc.
Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:
Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255
Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086
Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs
 Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710
Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC
Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information
Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu