

COURSE SYLLABUS
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING

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Course Content/Description

For Students who move on to a career in landscape field horticulture this is a critical and highly practical course. One needs only look around at the 'typical landscape' to realize the disconnect that exists between homeowners and the world outside their abode. There is to say the least an incoherent vision based upon icons and artifacts that have little relevance to a sustainable landscape in the 21st century. We will explore sensible ways to maintain plants in the environment with the least amount of input. We will also develop our critical thinking processes to understand when a plant should simply be removed and one should start over again.

Student Learning Outcomes: Landscape maintenance is the science, craft and art of keeping an exterior often clearly delineated environment under control. That control at times is subjective, contrived and often capricious. Modifying ones landscape has been an active part of what constitutes being human for several millennia. From the purely functional to purely aesthetic to replicating an ecosystem and everything in between there is a diverse vision that is certainly influenced by context. While I always encourage students to look at the bigger picture we will cover a substantial amount of relevant and practical kinesthetic processes. This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn how to:

- Generate an understanding of basic landscape maintenance procedures appropriate for the PNW and other parts of the country.
- Explain basic growth and development processes of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs.
- Demonstrate how to prune and train young landscape trees and shrubs both deciduous and evergreen.

- How to properly plant trees and shrubs, what fertilizer and soil amendments to use, staking procedures and post planting care which is often critical in terms of a plants survival.
- Protect native ecosystems in the urban and rural-urban fringe.
- Promote conservation and restoration in the landscape venue.

Learning Resources:

- **Required Texts:** Gilman, E.F., 2011, An Illustrated Guide to Pruning 3rd ed. Delmar publishing. I was in the field for 27 years before coming to academia and this is 'the' best book on pruning trees I have seen to date.
- **This URL** www.cengagebrain.com/isbn/9781111307301 will link you with the publisher and enable you to purchase just the chapters assigned in Gilman.
- Brickell, C.B., Joyce, D. 2011, The American Horticultural Society Pruning and Training, DK Publishing. This book covers over 800 plants and how to prune them along with chapters on general plant care in the landscape. Make sure you get the newly revised and updated version.
- **Required Readings:** As assigned by instructor

Evaluation of Student Performance:

The student can engage this course on a variety of levels. I would hope everyone would make the commitment to complete the reading assignments, post on the Discussion Board and make a Plant of the Week entry every week. You will get the most out of this course if you do. However your level of participation is up to you, it does not have to be weekly if that doesn't fit your schedule. If however, you want to receive the certificate of completion the list of requirements is below. Every candidate for the certificate is allowed to miss one week, I am also flexible as to weekly deadlines, simply alert me ahead of time if something comes up.

Discussion Board Participation

400 points or 40%

Each week's content will include one or more discussion pages to further online learning from lectures or readings from the week. Everyone brings something to offer to the class, whether it is personal experience, insight into the readings or a unique perspective. DB entries are due on Friday by 11:59 PM PST.

Plant of the Week**100 points or 10%**

Every week you will pick one plant, have it identified, determine whether it has been used appropriately, theorize the maintenance regime and whether that meets the goals for the plant as an element in the landscape. See separate document for an example of expected data. POTW entries are due by 5:00 Pm every Sunday.

Final Plant Project**500 points or****50%**

The final project will involve constructing a comprehensive landscape management plan for your backyard. **This project will be due Wednesday of week 10.**

Tentative Course Schedule of Topics and Assignments

W	Topic/lectures/discussion	Lab/demonstration/video	Reading Assignments	Grading Elements Due
1	Why Maintain Landscapes?	Equipment and gear	Gilman Chaps 1-5 11	Discussion Board POTW
2	Tree Growth and Development	Young Tree Establishment	Gilman 7,8,9	DB POTW
3	Mature Tree Management	Young and Mature Trees	Gilman12-13	DB POTW
4	Pruning deciduous Shrubs	Pruning Shrubs	Brickell pp 151-173	DB POTW
5	Shrubs, Vines, Shearing	Pruning Shrubs	243-247, Look up plants from vines PP in Brickell	DB POTW
6	Pruning Roses	Pruning Roses Ext.	Brickell 300-325	DB POTW
7	Apples and Pears	Scott and Al Pruning	Brickell 94-120	DB POTW
8	Grapes and Blueberries	Scott Pruning	Brickell 241, 288-295	DB POTW
9	Conservation and Restoration	How Green Is my Orange		DB POTW
10	Wrap Up			DB POTW

Course Policies

- All assignments are due by the time and date assigned unless stated otherwise. To receive full credit assignments must be turned in on time.
- Students are expected to be full participants in their own learning. This is not a format that is instructor centric, rather it is fueled by student interaction. This person to person assimilation and sharing of knowledge is more typical of the work environment.
- Late project due dates are granted only under extraordinary circumstances. Certainly the best advice is to keep up with the assignments and readings. If you are new to an online course this may require being more organized and disciplined.

Plagiarism

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board and other communications. Clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "F." Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct:

<http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/regulations/index.php#acdis>

Students with Disabilities

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through SSD should contact SSD immediately at 541-737-4098

Grading

You must obtain at least 700 points in the class to receive a passing certificate
A (940-1000), A- (900-939), B+ (870-899), B (830-869), B- (800-829), C+ (770-799), C(730-769), C-(700-729), D+ (670-699), D(630-669), D- (600-629), F (599 and lower)