

PLSC 311 – Management of Landscape Systems

University of Tennessee
Herbert College of Agricultural
Department of Plant Sciences

Meeting Time and Place: 2:15 – 5:15 Monday / Wednesday
Environment and Landscape Laboratory - Rm 117

Course Credit Hours: 03

Prerequisites: PLSC 210 or consent of the instructor

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Michael Ross, SITES AP, Associate ASLA

Office: Environment and Landscape Laboratory - Rm 104

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Email: mross28@utk.edu

Appointments: Office Hours via Zoom by appointment

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

I believe that education should be fully inclusive, accessible, flexible in modality, and responsive to global need. I believe that knowledge acquisition is an active pursuit. I believe that education is empowering and that those of us fortunate enough to be able to pursue education have an obligation to our global community to use our knowledge to make a difference.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INFORMATION:

The initial site assessment, design, construction, and management of our landscapes and cities requires an interdisciplinary skillset that hinges on the understanding of local ecology, environment, society, and economics. Understanding a site relative to the larger system is essential for a holistic approach to be successful and will enable the application of sustainable and resilient practices.

Theories and practices of managing designed landscapes as integral components of communities and their contextual environment. This course will explore sustainable, ecological, and adaptive management approaches with an emphasis on site-scale practices, systems-scale thinking, and holistic solutions development.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. To further develop skills associated with sustainable landscape design and allied disciplines.
2. To develop the ability to evaluate a site, at many scales, in order to identify opportunities and constraints that will guide landscape management decisions.
3. To refine skills in systems thinking, restoration, mitigation, and management methodologies
4. To learn how to interpret and improve upon management/maintenance plans that are conscious of both ecological, social, and temporal implications

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

This course will utilize several teaching methods during the course of the semester: lectures and demonstrations, self-directed readings, hands-on service and experiential learning, class discussion, professional practice and design criticism through the lens of sustainable, equitable, resilient, and ecologically informed landscape management.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE:

Successful completion of this course entails commitment to class attendance, studying course lectures and reading materials, participation in class discussions, participation in class activities. Course grades will be earned through projects, exams and quizzes, attendance, and participation. It is highly recommended that students read and study course materials in preparation for class and be prepared to ask and answer questions during class.

TEXTS/RESOURCES/MATERIALS:

Required –

Sustainable Landscape Management: Design, Construction, and Management, by Cook & Vanderzanden ISBN 978-0-470-48093-9

Sustainable SITES Initiative *SITES v2 Rating System and Scorecard*, available free:
<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/sites-rating-system-and-scorecard>

Highly Recommended –

- *Principles of Ecological Landscape Design*, by Travis Beck, ISBN 978-1-59726-701-4
- *The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook for Prairies, Savannas, and Woodlands*, by Packard & Mutel, ISBN 1-55963-319-0

Recommended –

- *Planting in a Post Wild World-Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes*, by Rainer & West, ISBN 978-1-60469-553-3
- *Garden Revolution: How Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change*, By Weaner & Christopher, ISBN 978-1-60469-616-5
- *Natures Best Hope*, By Douglas Tallamy, ISBN 978-1-60469-900-5
- UT Library Sustainable Landscape Architecture Guide -
<https://libguides.utk.edu/sustainablelandscapearchitecture>
- <https://ag.tennessee.edu/plantsciences/Pages/landscape.aspx>

UT Library Perma-Links

- Planting in a post-wild world: https://utk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTN_KNOXVILLE/1o769mb/alma9925944098102311
- Principles of ecological landscape design: https://utk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTN_KNOXVILLE/1o769mb/alma9924317360102311
- Nature's Best Hope: https://utk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTN_KNOXVILLE/1o769mb/alma9925885557002311
- Sowing Beauty Designing Flowering Meadows from Seed: https://utk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTN_KNOXVILLE/1o769mb/alma9925944098002311

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

Students will be required to wear construction-appropriate clothing during selected days during the semester, including but not limited to: closed toed boots (No open toe or open heel shoes, sandals, etc. will be allowed. No high heels of any kind), rain gear, sunscreen. Work gloves, tools, and eye protection will be provided as needed.

Course Requirements, Assessments and Evaluations:

Grades will be assigned according to a point accumulation format. The grade scale will be based on the number of points accumulated as a percentage of the total possible. The following breakdown and grade scale will be used as a guide; however, circumstances may dictate slight revisions.

Point Breakdown:

Student Presentations.....	100 pts
Students Literature Synopsis	100 pts
Landscape Performance Case Study Project	100 pts
Mid Term Exam	100 pts
Written Case Study Project.....	200 pts
Cumulative Final Exam	200 pts
Attendance, Participation and Respect	100 pts

TOTAL 900 pts

Final Grade Scale:

94% or greater	A
90 – 93%	A-
87 – 89%	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 83%	B-

77 – 80%	.....	C+
73 – 76%	.....	C
70 – 73%	.....	C-
67 – 70%	.....	D+
63 – 66%	.....	D
60 – 63%	.....	D-
60% or lower	.....	F

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Punctuality, attendance, active participation, and overall effort during the course are basic professional behaviors, expected of all students, and is reflected in your final grade. All students begin the semester with an “A,” 100/100 points, for attendance, participation and respect. Students will lose 10 points from this score for every absence, which will be recorded through participation in-class exercises and/or snap quizzes, or for each gross tardy: more than 15 minutes late. Students who are absent will be accountable for the day’s lecture content. They may contact the instructor or their classmates in order to acquire the necessary information.

Students who are observed to be disengaged from class, are not participating or otherwise disrespectful to the professor or their classmates will also have points deducted from their attendance grades.

It is essential that students make every attempt to attend each class. If you know you will need to miss or be late for class, please contact the instructor before the class period.

UNIVERSITY POLICY:



Dear Student, The purpose of this Campus Syllabus is to provide you with important information that is common across courses at UT. Please observe the following policies and familiarize yourself with the university resources listed below. At UT, we are committed to providing you with a high quality learning experience. I wish you the best for a successful and productive semester.

- Interim Provost John Zomchick



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

“An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

UNIVERSITY CIVILITY STATEMENT: -- <http://civility.utk.edu/> “Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, gracious-ness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteous-ness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus.”

DISABILITY SERVICES:

“Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 865-974-6087 in 100 Dunford Hall to document their eligibility for services. ODS will work with students and faculty to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.”

YOUR ROLE IN IMPROVING TEACHING AND LEARNING:

At UT, it is our collective responsibility to improve the state of teaching and learning. During the semester, you may be requested to assess aspects of this course either during class or at the completion of the class. You are encouraged to respond to these various forms of assessment as a means of continuing to improve the quality of the UT learning experience.

KEY RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:

- Undergraduate Catalog: (Listing of academic programs, courses, and policies)
- Graduate Catalog
- Hilltopics: (Campus and academic policies, procedures and standards of conduct)
- Course Timetable: (Schedule of classes)
- Academic Planning: (Advising resources, course requirements, and major guides)
- Student Success Center: (Academic support resources)
- Library: (Access to library resources, databases, course reserves, and services)
- Career Services: (Career counseling and resources; HIRE-A-VOL job search system)
- Student Health Center (visit the site for a list of services)
- OIT Help Desk: (865) 974-9900
- UT’s COVID-19 Information and Support page - <https://www.utk.edu/coronavirus/>

SOCIAL DISTANCING & COVID-19 PROCEDURES

Students are required to wear face masks at all times and maintain social distancing (6 feet between individuals in traditional classrooms, or, in instructional laboratories and similar settings, only a few minutes in closer proximity when absolutely necessary to achieve learning objectives). Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home.

Instructors have the right to ask those who are not complying with these requirements to leave class in the interest of everyone's health and safety. In the event that a student refuses to comply with these requirements, the instructor has the right to cancel class.

Additionally, following other simple practices will promote good health in and out of the classroom, such as frequent and thorough hand washing, wiping down desks and seats with disinfectant wipes whenever possible, not sharing personal items such as pens and cell phones, and avoiding crowded hallways and other enclosed spaces.

The Volunteer Creed reminds us that we bear the torch in order to give light to others. As Volunteers, we commit to caring for one another and for the members of the communities in which we live, work, and learn. This semester, the University asks that we all demonstrate the Volunteer spirit by following these and other health guidelines and requirements.

Assigned seating and seating charts will be used this semester.

Unusual circumstances may result in a change of teaching modality.

The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter or amend this syllabus as necessary.