

PLSC 421

NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Native plants and plant communities as a basis for landscaping and environmental restoration. Weekly lecture coupled with either an outing or service practicum. Study and work sites will primarily be demonstration projects of the UT Environmental Landscape Design Lab. They may include: local schoolyard habitats, greenways, wetlands, streambanks, and shorelines.

INSTRUCTOR:

Garry Menendez, ASLA, Registered Landscape Architect, Associate Professor
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103 Environment & Landscape Laboratory Phone: 974-0216

REFERENCES:

Wildflowers & Plant Communities by Timothy Spira
Gardening with Native Plants of Tennessee by Margie Hunter

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course students should have a general knowledge and understanding of:

1. Plant communities as indicators of site conditions and as a basis for establishing a plant palette for gardening or ecological restoration.
2. An extensive selection of native plant species of the region including their identification, traditional use, cultural preferences, ecological attributes, habitat value, and potential in landscape development.
3. The issue and impact of invasive exotic species as related to landscape management and ecosystem integrity.
4. The role of natural succession in environmental restoration.
5. Establishment and management considerations in working with native landscapes such as woodlands, wetlands, riparian buffers, rain gardens, and meadows.
6. Conservation issues relating to native plants in our landscapes and developed areas.
7. The role of native plants in strategies relating to contemporary applications and issues relating to sustainability.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Sustainable Landscape Principles and Practices
 - B. Plant Communities and Habitat Types
 - C. Performing an Ecological Profile Analysis
 - D. Invasive Exotics and other Conservation Issues

- II. Landscape Restoration with Natives
 - A. Projects and Case Studies
 - B. Field Outings
 - C. 'Service Learning'

- III. Gardening with Natives
 - A. Plant Identification
 - B. Cultural Preferences
 - C. The Design Process
 - D. Nursery Trends and Availability

COURSE APPROACH:

The intent of the course is to couple academic study with field and project experiences that reinforce classroom teaching. The area of environmental restoration is uniquely suited to this format, and such 'service learning' provides important benefits to the community or region. Also, the knowledge and enjoyment of gardening with natives is an indirect benefit. Outings to observe various habitat types, plant communities, or other landscape projects will supplement the 'service learning' practicum experiences. Van transportation may be provided to travel as a group for any off-campus outings depending on funding. (There is a possibility that we may need to carpool to some of the closer sites).

TESTS

A series of tests will be given, primarily to encourage the ongoing study, identification and cultural preferences of our regional native plants. The coverage will be limited in scope to information given in lecture coupled with a 'Blackboard' image library provided for review.

GROUP STUDY PROJECT:

A special project will be assigned early in the semester to encourage and guide the field study of plant communities and plant ecology. Groups will be chosen at random and will be charged with identifying a local site which will be studied and analyzed in order to prepare a "naturalized" landscape design using the native plants studied throughout the course. More details will be given in a separate assignment sheet.

ATTENDANCE/CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Due to the approach of the class and the minimal number of class sessions, attendance and class participation are especially important to continuity and teamwork. Attendance records will be kept and deductions made for each absence. (As a guide, 5 points will be deducted from point total for each missed lecture and 10 points for each missed lab).

GRADUATE CREDIT:

Any student taking this course for graduate credit will be assigned additional readings from *The Native Landscape Reader* by Robert Grese and will be expected to report and discuss these on a date to be determined. This is in addition to any requirements outlined in this syllabus.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

Grades will be assigned according to a point accumulation format. The following breakdown and grade scale will be used as a guide;

Point Breakdown:

Quizzes.....	500 pts
Attendance and Class Participation.....	100 pts
Group Study Project.....	200 pts
 TOTAL.....	 800 pts

Grade Scale:

92% - 100	736 – 800.....	A
89 – 91%	712 – 735.....	A-
86 – 88%	688 – 711.....	B+
82 – 85%	656 – 687.....	B
79 – 81%	632 – 655.....	B-
76 – 78%	608 – 631.....	C+
72 – 75%	576 – 607.....	C
69 – 71%	552 – 575.....	C-
66 – 68%	528 – 551.....	D+
62 – 65%	496 – 527.....	D
59 – 61%	472 – 495.....	D-
< 61%	472 or less.....	F

COMMUNICATION:

You will be expected to make use of articles and other materials available on the Canvas site. You will also be expected to check you UT email occasionally for updates and messages regarding class schedules, projects, etc.

DISABILITY, WITHDRAW, HONORS STATEMENT:

Disability Statement: Students who have a disability that require accommodations should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services (974-6087) to discuss their specific needs as well as schedule an appointment with me.

I. UT Course Withdrawal Policy from Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

(see the 2012-2013 Undergraduate Catalog, or http://registrar.tennessee.edu/registration/course_drop.shtml)

Drop Deadline with no W Notation on Transcript:

- Full-term Courses: ~ within 10 days of semester start (See Appropriate *Fall Term Date*)

Drop Deadline with a W notation on Transcript:

- Full-term Courses: ~11 to 42 days of semester start (See appropriate *Fall Term Dates*)

WP or WF notation on transcript:

- Full-term Courses: From about 43 to 84 days after the start of a semester you may drop a full-term course and receive either a WP (Withdraw Pass) or WF (Withdraw Fail). If you are passing the course, I

will assign a WP, which will not be computed in your GPA. If you are failing the course, I will assign a WF, which will be calculated as an F grade in your GPA. My signature is required on a WP/WF form picked up at the Registrar's Office in 209 Student Services Bldg.

Note to Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Recipients: After specific fall date (see Hill Topics) if you wish to drop a course that would result in changing your status from full-time (12 or more hours) to part-time (11 hours or fewer), you must receive approval from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships before doing so. See Financial Aid website at: <http://web.utk.edu/~finaid>

HILLTOPICS HONOR STATEMENT:

"An essential feature of The University of Tennessee 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." (Hilltopics: Student Handbook, 2017-2018, p. 14)