

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
Course Syllabus - Plant Sciences - PS 491 (3 hrs)
INTERNATIONAL STUDY:
HISTORY and CULTURE of INTERNATIONAL GARDENS
and LANDSCAPES

Glorious Gardens of Spain & Portugal
May 12 – 28, 2017

Lead Instructor: Garry Menendez – Associate Professor – Plant Sciences
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Room 103 Environment & Landscape Lab

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Summary:

Learn how historic sites, gardens, and arboreta reflect the climate, topography, history, philosophical social structure, art and politics at the time of their creation. Course will focus on observation of local plant material, study of different garden and landscape design styles, and will foster an appreciation of international cultures.

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will better understand and be able discuss:

1. plants of international gardens
2. cultural, environmental, and historical influences on development of international gardens.
3. history (art, music, politics, religion and class distinctions) of foreign cultures.
4. attitudes and behaviors to foster an appreciation for foreign unfamiliar cultures.

Suggested Reading:

Paradise on Earth – The Gardens of Western Europe by Gabrielle Van Zuylen

Grading Procedures: % of final grade

- 10** – brief paper on assigned garden, person or topic, which will be used to compile all information into a study document for each participant.
- 20** – 1200-1300 word paper on selected topic (*see separate assignment sheet*)
- 10** – Written summary (250 word limit) describe, as if writing for a potential employer, how your travel experience influenced your perspective about your place or role in today’s “global” society

- 45 – Detailed journal¹ documenting your observations, comparisons, and experiences on your journey.
- 10 – Answers to pop quizzes & submitted questions (recorded in journals)
- 5 – Photo CD containing top ten *Best of* pictures from the trip. (Photo contest results to be announced at reunion dinner in fall).

¹ *Past examples of “A-grade” journals have typically exceeded 30 handwritten pages and included detailed descriptions of personal perceptions, experiences, impressions, food critiques, cultural revelations, and horticultural discussion: essentially mini-travelogues. Many also contained hand-drawn sketches, watercolors and pencil/pen-drawn illustrations, poems, garden or site entry tickets, etc.*

Students enrolled in **PS 491 for Honors Credit**, will be expected to provide a (minimum) 800 word summary of a previously agreed upon choice of assigned article, book, or journal article. Graduate students will also be required to revise and resubmit (resubmission is optional but encouraged for undergraduates enrolled for honors credit) editorial corrections to their assigned formal writing exercise for an improved grade and will be encouraged to prepare their resubmission as if for publication.

Due Dates:

Garden assignment summaries (no longer than 2 pages) will be due electronically by April 21, 2017. Journals and photo CD (names on everything!) to be received by instructor by July 18, 2017. Students will receive “Incomplete” grade for summer. A “Change of Grade” form will be turned in by instructor to records office in early September.

Journals:

You should record where you went daily, what you saw and how different garden and historical sites affected you. You should also include thoughts on how the surroundings and cultures differ from those you are most used to.

Sketches are very helpful (and sometimes even nice to look at!). These may consist of plants, architecture, garden structures, countryside, and other novel perspectives.

CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITIES:

As representatives of The University of Tennessee and ambassadors from the U.S., you will be expected to behave like adults. Realize that you are responsible for your own personal actions, that you are subject to local and national laws, regulations and cultural mores (not those of the U.S.) and that inappropriate actions / behavior may *also* be subject to University censure and jurisdiction upon your return. You will have the freedom to explore the social scene and locales during planned “free” times. Note that our academic studies will conclude in late afternoon. Most dinners and evenings are times for independent exploration. Bear in mind however, the instructor(s) are not liable for your actions during these

times and that it is your responsibility to show up ON TIME for all scheduled activities and in good social and physical health.

Instructor(s) have the right to send anyone home at any time that is deemed to be a dangerous or a disruption to student learning or instruction at their own expense. Refer to “Standards of Conduct” in Hilltopics for additional information.

**PS 491
FORMAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

Students will be required to write a 1200 – 1300 word paper pertaining to one of the following topics:

Food Finds

The Art of Finding One’s Way

What They Do for Fun (regional sports and pastimes)

Happening History (local legends & lore)

Urban Archaeology (historical preservation within contemporary society)

Entertainment (Music and art)

Other*

** Get creative! Additional topics can be developed per student interest and must be approved by the Lead Instructor (Menendez)*

The Goal:

Imagine yourself writing an article for a travel or trade magazine aimed at potential travelers to the area. Your papers must be creative, engaging, fun to read, and informative. Students should strive to personalize these “articles” by integrating *(relevant and appropriate details of)* their personal travel experiences and observations. In other words, I will not accept dry recitations of facts cut and pasted from the Internet. In fact, technological and other written resources *must be properly credited*, (for appropriate citation examples, follow the MLA style guide). We encourage that information gathered before, during and after the trip be used to compose final paper.

Final products will be graded on content, grammar and composition. (Yes, spelling also counts).