LDAR 6670 Plants in Design
Fall 2015  Wednesdays 9:30 – 12:15 PM  Room - to be determined

Introduction
Is planting design relevant to the current practice of landscape architecture? What are the special characteristics of plants that make them a unique medium in design? How can planting design be more than just “shrubbing it up?” These questions along with others will be explored as this course investigates the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of designing with living, growing, and ever-changing organisms.

Teaching Philosophy
During the semester special attention will be given to observation, evaluation and the practice of designing as a way of gaining knowledge about the theory and practice of planting design. The delivery of the course content will be through lectures, field trips, journal assignments, readings and a final project.

Instructor
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Office location
320m

Office hours
Thursday from 10:00-12:00 or by appointment

Cell phone
720.260.0117
Content
The semester will begin with a series of field trips to identify the primary plants comprising our native landscapes and a limited palette of plants adapted to Colorado’s semi-arid climate. Students will be expected to come dressed and equipped appropriately for spending this class time outside walking around studying plants in the landscape. Some field trips to visit specific landscapes and may extend beyond the normal class time. Meeting times and locations will be determined during class the week prior to the field trip.

With this fundamental knowledge of plant characteristics and what conditions influence their survival, students will move onto the primary focus of the course, which includes the principles, theories, methods and techniques for planting design. Included is the learning of the proper use of plants in design contexts that are responsive to site characteristics, functional requirements and qualities of plants. Fundamental horticultural topics and the methods for developing a planting plan, planting details and specifications will also be covered.

Course Outcomes
Students are expected to gain knowledge about the theory and practice of designing with plants, as well as to develop a set of practical skills that can be applied in future work within the profession of landscape architecture. At the end of the semester students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of how planting design can be used to affect the environment.
- Demonstrate an understanding of and familiarity with a basic plant palette of this region.
- Develop a planting design that thoughtfully applies principles, theories, methods and techniques for arranging plants as discussed in class.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the formal qualities of planting while considering the underlying relationships between these and the ecological and horticultural characteristics of plants.
- Prepare and present an organized, professional, and compelling verbal and visual presentation using appropriate media to explain complex ideas.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, conventions and standards necessary to document and implement a planting design, including planting plans and plant schedules.

Assessment
Students will be graded on quizzes, journal exercises, in-class exercises and assignments including a final project. Each of these exercises is intended to help students achieve the objectives of the course. The final grade for the course will be based on the following distribution:

- 30% Quizzes
- 30% Journal
- 10% Presentation and In-class Assignments
- 30% Final Assignment

To pass this class students will be expected to:

- Attend class, participate in class discussions and field trips.
- Identify plants introduced in class using common and scientific names.
- Correctly spell the scientific names of plants.
- Verbally and graphically represent a planting design concept.
- Draw a planting plan using graphic techniques currently used in the practice of landscape architecture.

Grades for all assignments will be given points on a numerical scale of 100. The letter grade will correspond to the numerical grade as follows: A=95 or greater; A- = less than 95 to 90; B+ = less than 90 to 85; B = less than 85 to 80; B- = less than 80 to 75; C+ = less than 75 to 70.

These letter grades are defined as follows:

A+ Exceptional
A Excellent
B- Below average
B Probationary status
C
A- Very good  
B+ Good, better than average  
B Good, average  
D Unacceptable, retake course  
F Failing, retake course

Requirements
Classes begin and end on time. **Field trips may extend past or occur outside of the normal class time but students will be notified of the time for the beginning and ending of the field trips.**

**Attendance is mandatory.** Two absences will be allowed before an academic penalty of one-half grade reduction is imposed. Late work will not be accepted unless ‘special circumstances’ exist.

Homework, journal assignments, projects, or any other required assignments that are turned in late will receive one grade reduction for being late. Any student who misses quizzes and/or examinations or fails to turn in homework and/or assignments will receive either a zero (0) or an F for the work missed. Extra credit assignments will not be given.

Canvas will be used as a tool to disseminate information and to allow students to access course material from home. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they are registered, have access, and know how to use Canvas.

Texts and Readings
No single textbook covers the range of topics explored in this class. The following books are recommended but not required. The two books by Gayle Weinstein listed below are not yet in print. On the first day of class orders will be taken to purchase copies of the text directly from Ms. Weinstein for students interested in purchasing her book. Short readings will be made available through Canvas. However, these are not the sole sources of information and further research into the topics will be required. An extended bibliography will be provided the first day of class.

**Recommended Texts**


Colorado Natural Areas Program. *Caring for the Land Series Volume 3, Native Plant Guide to Revegetation for Colorado.* Denver, Colorado: Colorado State Parks, 1998. (This is a free document produced by the Colorado State Parks. Students may download it from their website.)

**Other Resources**
Website for the pronunciation of plant names:  
Policies, Rules, and Regulations

Disabilities Access

Students with disabilities who want academic accommodations must register with Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 177 Arts Building, 303-556-3450, TTY 303-556-4766, FAX 303-556-2074. DRS requires students to provide current and adequate documentation of their disabilities. Once a student has registered with DRS, DRS will review the documentation and assess the student’s request for academic accommodations in light of the documentation. DRS will then provide the student with a letter indicating which academic accommodations have been approved. Once you provide me with a copy of DRS’s letter, I will be happy to provide those accommodations DRS has approved.

Absences, Tardiness, Quizzes and Examinations, and Homework

Except for documented health or disability reasons, I will not accept excuses for absences, tardiness, missed examinations, or homework not submitted. Documentation of disability or health related issues must be provided to Disability Resources and Services, 177 Arts Building, 303-556-3450, TTY 303-556-4766, FAX 303-556-2074.

Returning Assignments, Quizzes, and Projects

1. Assignments, quizzes and projects will be distributed either in a class session or left in your mailbox on the fourth floor for you to pick up at your convenience. Canvas will be used to post student grades.

2. I will announce when assignments, quizzes and projects will be available to be picked up, if they are not to be returned during class.

3. If you are concerned about ensuring your privacy when assignments, quizzes and projects are returned in class or made available for pickup, please provide me with an appropriately sized envelope with your name on it each time you submit an assignment, quiz, or project to me.

Academic Honesty

Student Code of Conduct: Students are expected to know, understand, and comply with the ethical standards of the university, including rules against plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submissions, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s ideas or words without acknowledgement. The incorporation of another person’s work into yours requires appropriate identifications and acknowledgement. The following are considered to be forms of plagiarism when the source is not noted: word-for-word copying of another person’s ideas or words; the “mosaic” (interspersing your own words here and there while, in essence, copying another’s work); the paraphrase (the rewriting of another’s work, while still using their basic ideas or theories); fabrication (inventing sources); submission of another’s work as your own; and neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes.

Professionalism and Classroom Decorum

The following ground rules apply to all students and are designed to ensure a classroom environment conducive to learning for all students:

1. Pagers, beepers, cellular telephones and handheld Internet devices must be deactivated before class begins and remain deactivated throughout the entire class period.

2. Please do not bring children to class.

3. Students who engage in disruptive classroom behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Life for appropriate disciplinary action under the CU Denver Code of Student Conduct and, when appropriate, to the Auraria Campus Police for investigation of possible criminal
action. The Code of Student Conduct can be found on the CU Denver website, under Office of Student Life and Student Activities. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, arriving late to class without explanation or apology; leaving class early without explanation or apology; reading a newspaper or magazine; reading a book with no connection to the content of the course; engaging in prolonged private conversations; sleeping in class; eating, drinking, and/or gum chewing; passing notes; being under the influence of drugs or alcohol; harassment or verbal or physical threats to another student or to the instructor; failing to deactivate pagers, beepers, cellular phones, and/or handheld internet devices; bringing children to class.

Students are prohibited from selling, or being paid by any person or commercial firm for taking, notes or recording class lectures without the advance express written permission of the faculty member teaching this course. Exceptions are permitted for students with a disability who are approved in advance by Disability Resources and Services for note taking or tape recording as an academic accommodation.

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Extended Bibliography

**Planting History and Design**


**Plant Identification**


*Note: This majority of this bibliography was graciously assembled and provided by Genevieve James.*