University of Colorado Denver  
College of Architecture and Planning  
Department of Landscape Architecture  

LDAR 6670 Plants in Design  
Fall 2016  Wednesdays 12:30 – 3:15 PM  Room - 480

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
Lori Catalano  
email  lori.catalano@ucdenver.edu  
office location  320m  
office hours  Tuesday from 12:00-2:00 pm 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 may extend past or occur outside 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.

This semester the concept of water wise landscapes will be introduced as the “lens” through which the course is taught. The class will be collaborating on a project through the Hometown Colorado Initiative (HCI) with the City of Arvada and the Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) regarding the important topic of outdoor water conservation.

There are two project goals. The first goal focuses on evaluating the Garden In A Box program with the intention to improve and invigorate it. The second goal includes the development of educational materials/posters to inform Arvada residents about the benefits of outdoor water conservation and possible water wise landscape alternatives.

This project is proposed to begin with students installing multiple Gardens in a Box within the City of Arvada. After the installation students will evaluate how the Garden in the Box may be improved to evolve the program and product. Also during the semester students will follow the research and recommendations being generated by CRC on water conservation. If appropriate, students will incorporate the study’s findings into the educational materials/posters. At the end of the semester students will also participate in an educational open house to inform Arvada residents about their findings with the intention of encouraging residents to make changes to their outdoor water use.

**Deliverables to the City of Arvada** - The final deliverable will be a report to department staff summarizing the entire process and including the following items:

1. Documentation of the Garden In A Box installation.
2. Assessment and recommendations for improvements to the Garden In A Box program.
3. Development of educational materials related to water conservation in the landscape that are specific to the City of Arvada.
4. Participation in a public open house to inform residents about and promote outdoor water conservation.

**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. *(Content Knowledge)*
- Demonstrate an understanding of and familiarity with a basic plant palette of this region. *(Content Knowledge)*
- 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. *(Communication and Representation)*
• Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, conventions and standards necessary to document and implement a planting design, including planting plans and plant schedules. *(Content Knowledge)*

**Assessment**

Students will be graded on quizzes, journal exercises, in-class exercises and assignments including a final project. Students can access scores at any time within the Canvas gradebook. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>In-class Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Final Assignment</td>
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</tbody>
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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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Good, better than average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good, average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Below average</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Probationary status</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Unacceptable, retake course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing, retake course</td>
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**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.

Students are required to have an unlined sketchbook dedicated to this class only. The minimum size for the sketchbook is 6” x 9”; it may be vertical or horizontal.
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; copies of the books will be made available upon request. 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 made available 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: http://www.taunton.com/finegardening/pages/spg017.asp

Policies, Rules, and Regulations
Student Code of Conduct
University of Colorado Denver policies for student conduct can be referenced at: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/standards/students/pages/default.aspx

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism
All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy at this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying bribery, and threatening behavior. Violations of these policies will result a failing grade for the assignment, and may lead to disciplinary action. For more information, please see the College of Architecture and Planning’s Honor Code and CU Denver’s Academic Policies.


CU Denver’s Academic Policies http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/content.php?catoid=16&navoid=3369#Honor

Learning Environment
Students and faculty members each have a responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Respect for others is paramount. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty members have a professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated. Code of Student Conduct. http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/content.php?catoid=16&navoid=3369#Conduct
Discrimination
The University of Colorado Denver adheres to Title IX, which states that, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."
http://www.ucdenver.edu/policy/TitleIX/Pages/default.aspx

Disability Services
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to the instructor from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact the appropriate campus agency.
http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/content.php?catoid=16&navoid=3388&hl=disabilities&returnto=search#Disability

Safety And Risk Management
Policies exist for the safety of our academic community. These include firearms, alcohol and hazardous materials, as well as behaviors and situations. A list of hazardous materials is posted in all studios.

Accommodation for Religious Observances
Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. In this class, we will work with individuals on a case-by-case basis. Please notify the instructor in a timely manner so that accommodations can be arranged.

Absences, Tardiness, and Homework
Except for documented health or disability reasons, I will not accept excuses for absences, tardiness, or homework not submitted on time. Documentation of disability or health related issues must be provided.

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 silenced before class begins and remain silenced 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.
4. 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, bullying, and verbal or physical threats to another student or to the instructor; failing to silenced pagers, beepers, cellular phones, and/or handheld internet devices; bringing children to class.
5. 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.*