



**South Portland, Maine 04106**

## **HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

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**Title:** Landscape Design

**Catalog Number:** HORT 290 W1

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Contact Hours:** 64 hrs.

**Instructor:** Emma Schiffman Kelly, MLA

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### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

Time: Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 p.m., Fridays 3:00-5:00 p.m., Hort. Lab

Instructor: Emma Schiffman Kelly

Email: ekelly@smccme.edu Please e-mail me using your SMCC e-mail account.

Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays in the Horticulture Library, by appointment only

### **Course Description**

This course will introduce the student to the fundamentals of landscape design as it applies to residential and small commercial landscaping. Included will be the study of site evaluation, plan graphics, plant and hardscaping materials selection, the principles of formal and informal design, and working with clients. Students will produce preliminary and finished designs using these principles.

### **Course Objectives**

After successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Discuss and approach landscape design as a problem solving activity.
- Conduct a site analysis and inventory.
- Conduct a successful client interview.
- Select plant and hardscaping materials that are both site appropriate and aesthetically pleasing in a landscape design.
- Develop a sense of three dimensional design, and express those ideas in a two dimensional plan.
- Recognize the importance of good circulation patterns to an effective landscape design.
- Discuss the relationship between proper planting, cultural, and installation techniques and healthy plants and effective landscapes.
- Recognize the importance of proper maintenance as it relates to a successful landscape.
- Discuss the role of the designer as educator.
- Understand the responsibility a landscape designer has to make environmentally sound design decisions.

- Graphically communicate features and objects in the landscape through the production of two-dimensional plans.

### **Topical Outline**

- I. Landscape Design Fundamentals & the Beginnings of the Design Process
  - A. Why Design: place-making, problem solving
  - B. Graphic communication, a.k.a. Drawing is your friend
  - C. Site analysis and inventory
  - D. The client interview
  - E. Using the site analysis as a basis for developing functional diagrams
  - F. Developing a concept, program statement, and parti
  - G. Developing a preliminary design using design principles
- II. Learning from the Masters
  - A. Key figures and projects in the history of landscape design
- III. Generating Depth, and Adding Reality, to Your Design
  - A. Aesthetic, environmental, and space-making characteristics of plants
  - B. Taking shape – grading, hardscape, structures
  - C. Tools for furthering design - dimensional graphics, schedules, image palettes
  - D. Designing for Sustainability – the “m” (maintenance!) word
  - E. Pricing the Project – schedules and take-offs

### **Course Requirements, Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance is expected and is essential to success in this course. Because active participation and involvement in in-class exercises and critiques are expectations, missing more than 2 classes will result in a 10 point deduction from your final semester grade percentage for each subsequent absence. Missing part of a class will be considered a full absence. If regular attendance is going to be a problem, make an appointment with Emma to discuss your future in this course.

Budget 6-8 hours of time each week for study and completion of assignments for this class.

Homework / sketches / quizzes / in-class exercises	10 pts ea.
Design Process Pin-ups	20 pts ea.
Mid Term Review	50 pts
Precedent Study and Presentation	50 pts
Final Project and Presentation	100 pts

### **Student Evaluation and Grading**

A student's grade will be determined by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points assigned. Letter grade translations are

provided below. This means that if a student earns 512 of 600 possible points, he or she has earned 85.3% of the points assigned. Semester grade is then a B.

93-100 A	73-76 C
90-92 A-	70-72 C-
87-89 B+	67-69 D+
83-86 B	63-66 D
80-82 B-	00-62 F
77-79 C+	

**\*\*Horticulture students must earn a D or better in order to receive credit for this course\*\***

Projects and assignments are due *at the beginning of class*. Late work **will not** be accepted, unless student can demonstrate illness with a doctor's note or class is cancelled. Many assignments are sequential, often requiring feedback; therefore, timely submission is important.

### **Required texts**

VanDerZanden, Ann Marie and Steven Rodie. *Landscape Design: Theory and Application*. Clifton Park, NY: Thomson Delmar Learning, 2008.

Eck, Joe. *Elements of Garden Design*. New York: North Point Press, 2005.

### **Recommended texts**

Dirr, Michael. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*. Champaign, IL, Stipes Publishing Company.

Ellis, Barbara W. *Taylor's Guide to Perennials*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000.

Reid, Grant W. *Landscape Graphics*. New York, NY: Whitney Library of Design, 1987.

O'Donal's Nurseries Catalog

UConn Plant Database <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/>

Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>

Students will also receive various handouts and will be asked to do additional reading and research from internet sources, and from books and periodicals located in both our in-house library and the SMCC library located on the second floor in the Campus Center.

### **Supplies**

Basic drafting tools – pencils (**non**-mechanical 2B and 5B at a minimum), triangles, smooth drafting surface, T-square, erasers, circle template, drafting tape/dots, engineer's scale, calculator, etc.

Design notebook

PowerPoint capability

Trace paper, rolls – 12", 24"

Pens – varying fineness (try them out)

Vellum, 24" x 36" sheets (for presentations) Graph paper (5 or 10 / in. – optional)

3 ring binder and / or filing box  
Digital camera

Colored pencils / markers (optional)  
Measuring tapes (optional)

### **Important Scheduling Information**

The Horticulture Department's classes end the week ending April 21. To fulfill the required number of contact hours for each of our spring courses, Horticulture students will have academic responsibilities during SMCC's spring break (the week of March 12-17). All students enrolled in Horticulture classes will be encouraged to attend a 3 day / 2 night field during the break. Students should make every effort to attend. If you are unable to go, please notify your instructor as soon as possible, and you will be provided with an alternative assignment to complete. More specific details about the field trip will be provided as they become available. Students with three or more unexcused absences in any of their HORT courses will not be eligible to participate in this trip, and will be required to complete an alternative assignment. Transportation, accommodations, and admission fees will be provided by the Horticulture Department. Students will be responsible for their own food and spending money.

### **End-of-Course Evaluation**

Students complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal. Students can access the course evaluations beginning one week before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs Monday at 5 p.m. following the last day of the class. You will receive an e-mail to your student e-mail account when course evaluations are available.

### **ADA Syllabus Statement**

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call (207) 741-5798. If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

### **SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy**

Each semester students receive a \$20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general

access labs, library printers, Tutoring Services, Campus Center Lounge and technology labs). Be sure to log OUT of the system when you've finished your printing, to prevent unauthorized access to your account. Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 or send an e-mail to [helpdesk@smccme.edu](mailto:helpdesk@smccme.edu).

### **Refunds**

Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

### **Add-Drop Policy**

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

### **Withdrawal Policy**

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the Fall and Spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week Summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses, usually 75 percent of course meeting times; please check with the Registration Office. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Registration Office. This process must be completed either in person or by using SMCC e-mail accounts.

### **Plagiarism Statement**

If an instructor suspects that a student has knowingly committed a violation defined in the Maine Community College System Policy on Student Grade Appeals and Academic Misconduct, the instructor has the authority to review the alleged misconduct and determine the grade that the student should

receive for the assignment and the course. The instructor may assign a failing grade for the assignment or course and may require the student to complete additional work for the course. The instructor may consult with the department chair and/or the College's chief academic officer prior to making such decisions. If a student seeks to challenge an instructor's determination, the student should submit a grade appeal. Grade appeal forms are available in the Advising Office on the South Portland Campus or in the administrative offices in the Learning Commons on the Midcoast Campus. An instructor may also refer the matter to the College's disciplinary officer for review under the procedures of the MCCS Student Code of Conduct