Landscape Plant Installation & Management
Hort- 331 Syllabus
WSU - Spring 2025

Instructor : Austin Little

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Office Hours:

- Mondays 10:30 –12pm

Class Meetings

- Mon., Wed. 9:10-10:00 Spark building 323

Lab Meeting Sections:

- 01 - Thursday 1:30-4:10pm Vogel Vogel 35
- 02 - Tuesday: 12:05-2:45pm Vogel Vogel 39

Course Text

- There is no textbook required for this course. Required readings will be posted on the blackboard class site: learn.wsu.edu

Course Introduction

Welcome to Landscape Plant Installation and Management

There are many unique and specific areas of knowledge that landscape managers and maintainers need for success. Many landscapes fail or do not progress properly due to mistakes in installation or shortsighted management practices.

What you learn in this class will help you evaluate the impacts of landscape installation and management practices on the health and durability of the landscape. The skills you learn in this class will benefit you throughout your adventures whether you choose to work in the green industry as a landscape manager, installer, landscape architect, instructor, researcher or an urban gardener.

At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to look at landscapes with a critical eye and be able to see both possibilities and problems within specific areas. The goal is for you to experience and understand many landscape practices and their impacts upon creating and sustaining a landscape for years to come.

Course Description

Principles & practices for installation & management of exterior landscape plantings, with emphasis on woody plants, specifications, site preparation, transplanting, growth control, and diagnosis of problems.

Students will learn the basics of site preparation, layout and plant installation. Students will also learn horticultural practices to maintain a landscape so that it will thrive today and for years to come. This includes an understanding of site assessment, pruning, transplanting, dividing, problem diagnosis, irrigation and fertilization of both young and mature landscapes. Landscape companies and groundskeepers spend a great deal of time estimating materials and labor. We will use landscape plans to learn explore these processes. We will focus on incorporating sustainable management practices whenever possible.

The learning process will happen through visual lectures, group discussion, group projects, assignments and hands-on labs. You will be assessed through tests, assignments and discussions. Active participation in this course is vital to your success.

My goal is for every student to learn, succeed, and have a great experience. I am here to help and encourage you! If you find you are struggling, please reach out as soon as possible.

Lecture Meetings

- Lecture Classes will be held every Monday/Wednesday from 9:10 - 10:00 a.m. at Spark 323

Lab Meetings

- Labs times:
  - Section 01 -Thursday 1:30 – 4:10 pm –Vogel 35
  - Section 02 - Tuesday 12:05 – 2:45pm – Vogel 39
- Labs will vary each week: During the beginning of the semester, most of the labs are indoors, but as the weather breaks, we will spend much of our time outdoors.
  - Students are required to participate in all activities. Sometimes we get wet, muddy or dirty. When we go outside, wear appropriate attire for the weather and that you do not mind getting dirty.

CANVAS - Learning Management System – access at: canvas.wsu.edu

My main line of communication outside of class throughout the semester is through CANVAS. This is where you go to find due dates for assignments and tests, and weekly schedules. If you miss a class, you can find out what you missed. I post power point presentations, grades, assignments and announcements onto CANVAS. To be successful in this class, you must routinely check CANVAS. All students enrolled in this course will be automatically placed in CANVAS.

Course Elements

Participation – 103 pts

- **Attendance: 73** points**:**
  - **5** participation points will be assigned each week: 1 pt / lecture and 3 pts /lab. If you attend and complete lecture/lab and participate with a good attitude and willingness to learn, you will receive a full 5 points for participation each week. If you attend part of alecture/ lab and leave early or do not participate, you will not receive full points. If you are absent you will receive zero points. I will drop your lowest participation week grade.

- **TSP Group evaluations 30** points:
    - will be assigned for consistent and high quality participation with your assigned group members to create your Tree species Project (30 possible: 10 per report) You will submit forms detailing your contribution and the contribution of each group member.

Comprehensive Exams – 400 points

- There will be 3 comprehensive tests worth 100 pts each. These will usually take place during class or lab periods. Unless there are extreme or extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with the instructor prior to the test, all tests must be taken on the day of the test.
- Final Exam will be comprehensive and worth 100 points. **If your final exam score exceeds your lowest test score, then that test score will be replaced with the same score as your final exam.**

Exam	Date (subject to change as reported in class)
Comprehensive test 1	Wed. Feb. 5th
Comprehensive test 2	Wed. March 19th
Comprehensive test 3	Wed. April 9th
Comprehensive final exam	Thursday May 1st 8am to 10pm Spark 331

Individual and Lab Assignments - 210 points

- Throughout the semester various individual and lab assignments are given. Some take place in lab and others outside of class. These will coincide with lectures to solidify concepts.

Outside class assignments:

#	INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS	Due	Pts
A	Assignment A	January 11	5
B	Assignment B	January 18	10
1	Information searches	January 23	20
2	Questions on assigned articles	March 20	25
3	Journal of observations of landscape practices	April 21	25
	Tailgate talk – presentation	varies	25

Tree species Project (TSP) - 200 points

Trees are the anchor of most landscapes. They provide many landscape and ecosystem services that increase as they grow. Trees are difficult to replace unlike a shrub or a perennial, and most trees require many years to mature. Choosing the correct species and placing it in the proper location can bring years of pleasure or cause long-term problems. For these reasons, tree species selection and placement are extremely important. Throughout this semester, you will be studying one tree species on WSU campus. By the end of this project, you will be able to look at all trees with a deeper awareness of their past, current and future life. For this project you will prepare three reports using a specific tree as your example. There will be a group of three people studying the same tree. Your group will present a summary of all the reports at the end of the semester

Late Policy: 2 points are deducted from the final score for each day past the due date.

Tree Report	Due dates	Report pts
1. Tree characteristics, comparisons and site study	Jan. 27, Jan. 30, and Feb. 13	10, 15, 25
2. Economic value	Feb. 27, March 6, and March 24	10, 15, 25
3. Pruning	April 3, April 10, and April 24	10, 15, 25
Group presentations	April 22 & 24 – lab period	50

Grades are determined from:

Participation 103points
Comprehensive Tests + Final exam 400 points
Individual Assignments, lab work 210 points
Tree Project reports and presentation 200 points
Po Points **Total Points: 913**

Grades are posted on CANVAS: **canvas.wsu.edu**

Percent		Grade
93.00 - 100		A
90.00 - 92.99		A-
87.00 - 89.99		B+
83.00 - 86.99		B
80.00 - 82.99		B-
77.00 - 79.99		C+
73.00 - 76.99		C
70.00 - 72.99		C-
67.00 - 69.99		D+
60.00 - 66.99		D

Student Learning Goals and Outcomes

WSU Learning Goal	Outcome: By the end of the semester, you will be able to:	Topic or activity to advance learning goal	Ways to evaluate proficiency
1.The Plant System	Describe the biological basis for plant responses to common landscape practices and environmental conditions	Lectures, readings, assignments, group projects, and class and lab activities on anatomy and practices	Exams;; Tree species Projects 1 + 3
2. Critical & scientific reasoning	Evaluate the impacts of landscape installation and management practices on the health and longevity of trees, particularly by observing physical specimens	Lectures, readings, group projects, assignments, and class and lab activities on anatomy, practices, & impacts	Assignment 3; Tree species Projects 1 + 3; Class and lab participation; Exams
2. Critical & scientific reasoning	Recognize cultural, weather, & pest problems on landscape plants and find solutions to these problems.	Lectures; readings; class and lab activities on diagnosing plant problems, landscape assessments	Class and lab participation; Exams
2. Critical & scientific reasoning	Find and interpret new knowledge, both in the scientific literature and in other forms, related to landscape plant installation and management	Lectures, lab activities, and assignments on finding scientific articles and other info. sources	Assignments 1 + 3; Tree species project
3. Quantitative reasoning	Determine economic value for individual landscape trees , developing estimates for landscape materials	Lectures; readings; lab activities on economic value, estimation	Tree Project 2; Exams Estimating labs

4. Global perspective	Promote sustainable practices used in landscape management	Lectures, readings, lab activities	
5. Experiential Learning	Identify plant groups and know how to maintain and control their growth. Be able to assess the needs of young and mature landscapes. Be able to read and use landscape plans for plant selection and estimating materials. Be able to confidently install and manage a landscape.	Lectures and labs	In class labs.
6. Science Communi-cation	Write about topics related to landscape plant installation and management	Written assignments and class and lab activities	Assignments 2, 3,; Tree species project Exams
6. Science Communi-cation	Discuss topics related to landscape plant installation and management	Class discussions and presentations	Assignments A + B; class presentations
6. Science Communicatio n skills	Recognize the contributions of people with different values working together in a group to achieve desired outcomes	Class and lab activities and group project interactions	In-class and lab participation; Group Projects 1, 2, + 3
7. Depth of learning	Determine physical, environmental, economic, and social impacts of installation and management practices	Lectures, assignments, readings, and class + lab activities on impacts of practices	In class and lab participation; Exams; Assignments 2, 3, Tree species project
7. Depth of learning	Make practical decisions regarding landscape plant installation and management and understand their impacts on woody plant longevity	Lectures, readings, assignments, projects, and class + lab activities on biological impacts of practices	Exams; Assignment 5; Tree species project

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Instructor Policies and Expectations

Be a positive, contributing member of the class. You are expected to act in a manner that will facilitate your learning as well as others' learning. Come to class prepared. Share your knowledge and experiences with the class. Do not disrupt or prevent the learning of others. Listen with respect. Enjoy learning!

Attend and actively participate regularly. Participation is important for learning. In this class, you will often work in groups. Students cannot learn effectively when others are not engaged. Be an asset to your group. If you must miss class or lab, review on CANVAS to see what you missed.

If you are sick and contagious,

- Please **do not come to class and infect others**. If you are concerned about your situation, please make an appointment to see me.

Assignment submission policy

- After uploading of your assignments to CANVAS, you must check to make sure they are properly submitted. This is solely YOUR responsibility.
- Instructors are not responsible for alerting non-submission of assignments
- You are responsible to resolve (ahead of time) computer-related compatibility issues, if any, that may affect your performance in this course. Documents must be submitted in either **word** or a **pdf** format. If you submit a document in a different format, you will receive a zero.
- Submissions that cannot be located on CANVAS or in email inbox are considered as "NO SUBMISSION".
- LATE ASSIGNMENTS: reports/assignments submitted late will lose 2 points per day they are late. **After 2 weeks, they will not be accepted.**

- When students write notes in the gradebook regarding a graded assignment, instructors are NOT alerted, If you want your note to be seen, you must e-mail the instructor.

Do not take credit for others' work.

- Academic dishonesty, in any form, including plagiarizing, is not tolerated. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you will receive a zero for the activity, and it will be reported to your advisor and to the Office of Student Standards and Accountability. You may also be expelled from class. Please see Academic Integrity Policy below.

Use electronic devices wisely.

- WSU is committed to fostering a learning friendly environment. Electronic communication devices can be detrimental to the learning environment. Therefore, cell phones must be turned off or put on silent/ vibrate mode and NOT be visible without permission of the instructor. Calculators on cell phones may NOT be used during exams. **You will need at least a basic calculator for this class**. Other devices may be used for taking notes.

WSU Policies

WSU Reasonable Accommodation Statement

- **Students with Disabilities:**

  Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities or chronic medical or psychological conditions. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit your campus' Access Center/Services website to follow published procedures to request accommodations. Students may also contact their campus offices to schedule an appointment with a Disability Specialist. All disability related accommodations are to be approved through the Access Center/Services on your campus. It is a university expectation that students visit with instructors (via email, Zoom, or in person) to discuss logistics within two weeks after they have officially requested their accommodations.

  For more information contact a Disability Specialist on your home campus:

  - Pullman, WSU Global Campus, Everett, Bremerton, and Puyallup: 509-335-3417 Access Center (https://www.accesscenter.wsu.edu) or email at access.center@wsu.edu

Academic Integrity Policy (www.conduct.wsu.edu/)

- All members of the university community share responsibility for maintaining and promoting the principles of integrity in all activities, including academic integrity and honest scholarship. Academic integrity will be strongly enforced in this course. Students are responsible for understanding the full Academic Integrity Statement found here. Students who violate WSU's Academic Integrity Policy (identified in WAC 504-26-010(3) and -404) will receive a zero grade for the assignment and will be reported to the Office of Student Standards and Accountability. Students will not have the option to withdraw from the course pending an appeal,. If you have any questions about what is and is not allowed in this course, you should ask course instructors.

WSU SAFETY INFORMATION:

- Classroom and campus safety are of paramount importance at Washington State University, and are the shared responsibility of the entire campus population. WSU urges students to follow the "Alert, Assess, Act," protocol for all types of emergencies and the "Run, Hide, Fight" response for an active shooter incident. Remain ALERT (through direct observation or emergency notification), ASSESS your specific

situation, and ACT in the most appropriate way to assure your own safety (and the safety of others if you are able).

- Please sign up for emergency alerts on your account at MyWSU. For more information on this subject, campus safety, and related topics, please view the FBI's Run, Hide, Fight video and visit the WSU safety portal.
- Full details can be found at https://provost.wsu.edu/classroom-safety/

- .***Safety will be enforced in this class.*** Safety for you and others is of utmost importance. There will be times when we will use hand tools, including shovels and saws. These can injure people if used inappropriately. Your full attention to safety instructions is MANDATORY. Risky behavior, such as carelessness or teasing (e.g. tossing snowballs at someone) WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. You could be dismissed from a class or lab. Having fun in this class is encouraged, but not at the expense of others.

Accomodation for Religious Observances or Activities

- Washington State University reasonably accommodates absences allowing for students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience or organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious organization. Reasonable accommodation requires the student to coordinate with the instructor on scheduling examinations or other activities necessary for course completion. Students requesting accommodation must provide written notification within the first two weeks of the beginning of the course and include specific dates for absences. Approved accommodations for absences will not adversely impact student grades. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. Students who feel they have been treated unfairly in terms of this accommodation may refer to Academic Regulation 104 – Academic Complaint Procedures.

Course Topics

Intro – what is landscape installation and management?
Structure and function of woody plants: (including dormancy, juvenility, physiology, and anatomy)
Estimating landscape management services
L. Design and site management
Assessing landscapes
Specifications/ contracts
Sustainability and landscape management
Pruning
Plant layout / Planting
Transplanting/dividing
Fertilizing
Establishment (after care)
Turf grass types and management
Irrigation systems and management

This syllabus is your contract for this class. Please read it thoroughly and contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the class. ***The instructor reserves the right to adjust this syllabus as the semester progresses. Any change will be communicated to students at the time the change is made.***