

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE | DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SCIENCES
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE DESIGN | PLSC 311 | MANAGEMENT OF LANDSCAPE
SYSTEMS



PLSC 311 – Management of Landscape Systems

University of Tennessee
Herbert College of Agricultural
Department of Plant Sciences

Meeting Time and Place: 1:50 – 2:40 Tuesday / Thursday
Environment and Landscape Laboratory - Rm 117

Course Credit Hours: 03

Prerequisites: PLSC 210 or consent of the instructor

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Michael Ross, SITES AP, ASLA

Office: Environment and Landscape Laboratory - Rm 103

Phone: 865.974.1606

Email: mross28@utk.edu

Appointments: Office Hours by appointment

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

I believe that education should be fully inclusive, accessible, flexible in modality, and responsive to global need. I believe that knowledge acquisition is an active pursuit. I believe that education is empowering and that those of us fortunate enough to be able to pursue education have an obligation to our global community to use our knowledge to make a difference.

Welcome Statement:

This is exciting! I want to welcome you to PLSC 311. We will be building an understanding of landscape systems and their management. The Anthropocene has created conditions that are challenging, intellectually stimulating, and require creativity to address. You are in a unique position to take your academic training and make a real-world difference. Design is only as good as it is managed and maintained. Here lies one of our principle challenges. The more complex the design, the greater the systems integration, the more specialized the management. As you know my job is to push you, challenge you, potentially frustrate you, and break down some of your previously held assumptions about the world around you. I want you to continue trust the process and know that I will be here to encourage you, to give you critical feedback, and to guide you on the path.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INFORMATION:

The initial site assessment, design, construction, and management of our landscapes and cities requires an interdisciplinary skillset that hinges on the understanding of local ecology, environment, society, and economics. Understanding a site relative to the larger system is essential for a holistic approach to be successful and will enable the application of sustainable and resilient practices.

Theories and practices of managing designed landscapes as integral components of communities and their contextual environment. This course will explore sustainable, ecological, and adaptive management approaches with an emphasis on site-scale practices, systems-scale thinking, and holistic solutions development.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. To further develop skills associated with sustainable landscape design and allied disciplines.
2. To develop the ability to evaluate a site, at many scales, in order to identify opportunities and constraints that will guide landscape management decisions.
3. To refine skills in systems thinking, restoration, mitigation, and management methodologies
4. To learn how to interpret and improve upon management/maintenance plans that are conscious of both ecological, social, and temporal implications

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

This course will utilize several teaching methods during the course of the semester: lectures and demonstrations, self-directed readings, hands-on service and experiential learning, class discussion, professional practice and design criticism through the lens of sustainable, equitable, resilient, and ecologically informed landscape management.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE:

Successful completion of this course entails commitment to class attendance, studying course lectures and reading materials, participation in class discussions, participation in class activities. Course grades will be earned through projects, exams and quizzes, attendance, and

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participation. It is highly recommended that students read and study course materials in preparation for class and be prepared to ask and answer questions during class.

TEXTS/RESOURCES/MATERIALS:

Required –

- *Sustainable Landscape Management: Design, Construction, and Management*, by Cook & Vanderzanden ISBN 978-0-470-48093-9
- Sustainable SITES Initiative *SITES v2 Rating System and Scorecard*, available free: <https://www.usgbc.org/resources/sites-rating-system-and-scorecard>

Highly Recommended –

- *Planting in a Post Wild World-Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes*, by Rainer & West, ISBN 978-1-60469-553-3
- *Principles of Ecological Landscape Design*, by Travis Beck, ISBN 978-1-59726-701-4
- *Garden Revolution: How Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change*, By Weaner & Christopher, ISBN 978-1-60469-616-5
- *Natures Best Hope*, By Douglas Tallamy, ISBN 978-1-60469-900-5
- *The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook for Prairies, Savannas, and Woodlands*, by Packard & Mutel, ISBN 1-55963-319-0
- *Tending the Wild, Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources*, by M. Kat Anderson, ISBN 978-0-520-28043-4

Recommended –

- UT Library Sustainable Landscape Architecture Guide - <https://libguides.utk.edu/sustainablelandscapearchitecture>
- <https://ag.tennessee.edu/plantsciences/Pages/landscape.aspx>

UT Library Perma-Links

- Planting in a post-wild world: https://utk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTN_KNOXVILLE/1o769mb/alma9925944098102311
- Principles of ecological landscape design: https://utk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTN_KNOXVILLE/1o769mb/alma9924317360102311
- Nature's Best Hope: https://utk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTN_KNOXVILLE/1o769mb/alma9925885557002311
- Sowing Beauty Designing Flowering Meadows from Seed: https://utk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTN_KNOXVILLE/1o769mb/alma9925944098002311

AI Policy: Permitted when Assigned in this Course with Attribution

In this course, students are permitted to use Generative AI Tools such as ChatGPT for specific assignments, as designated by the instructor. To maintain academic integrity, students must disclose any use of AI-generated material. As always, students must properly use attributions, including in-text citations, quotations, and references.

A student should include the following statement in assignments to indicate use of a Generative AI Tool: “The author(s) would like to acknowledge the use of [Generative AI Tool Name], a language model developed by [Generative AI Tool Provider], in the preparation of this assignment. The [Generative AI Tool Name] was used in the following way(s) in this assignment [e.g., brainstorming, grammatical correction, citation, which portion of the assignment].”

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

Students will be required to wear construction-appropriate clothing during selected days during the semester, including but not limited to: closed toed boots (No open toe or open heel shoes, sandals, etc. will be allowed. No high heels of any kind), rain gear, sunscreen. Work gloves, tools, and eye protection will be provided as needed.

Course Requirements, Assessments and Evaluations:

Grades will be assigned according to a point accumulation format. The grade scale will be based on the number of points accumulated as a percentage of the total possible. The following breakdown and grade scale will be used as a guide; however, circumstances may dictate slight revisions.

Point Breakdown:

Management Plan Case Study Project Student Presentations.....	100 pts
Management Plan Case Study Project (Written)	100 pts
Mid Term Exam	100 pts
Written Management Plan Project	200 pts
Cumulative Final Exam	200 pts
Attendance, Participation and Respect	100 pts

TOTAL 800 pts

Final Grade Scale:

94% or greater	A
90 – 93%	A-
87 – 89%	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 83%	B-
77 – 80%	C+
73 – 76%	C

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70 – 73%	C-
67 – 70%	D+
63 – 66%	D
60 – 63%	D-
60% or lower	F

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Punctuality, attendance, active participation, and overall effort during the course are basic professional behaviors, expected of all students, and is reflected in your final grade. All students begin the semester with an “A,” 100/100 points, for attendance, participation and respect. Students will lose **10 points** from this score **for every absence**, which will be recorded through participation in-class exercises and/or snap quizzes, or for each gross tardy: more than 15 minutes late. Students who are absent will be accountable for the day’s lecture content. They may contact the instructor or their classmates in order to acquire the necessary information.

Students who are observed to be disengaged from class, are not participating or otherwise disrespectful to the professor or their classmates will also have points deducted from their attendance grades.

It is essential that students make every attempt to attend each class. If you know you will need to miss or be late for class, please contact the instructor before the class period.

UNIVERSITY POLICY:

Dear Student, The purpose of this Campus Syllabus is to provide you with important information that is common across courses at UT. Please observe the following policies and familiarize yourself with the university resources listed below. At UT, we are committed to providing you with a high quality learning experience. I wish you the best for a successful and productive semester.

- Provost John Zomchick

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student is responsible for their personal integrity in academic life and for adhering to UT’s Honor Statement. The Honor Statement reads: “An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

YOUR ROLE IN IMPROVING THE COURSE THROUGH ASSESSMENT

At UT, it is our collective responsibility to improve the state of teaching and learning. During the semester you may be requested to assess aspects of this course, either during class or at the completion of the class, and through the TNVoice course evaluation. Please take the few moments needed to respond to these requests as they are used by instructors, department heads, deans and others to improve the quality of your UT learning experience.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES – <http://sds.utk.edu>

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment for all students. If you anticipate or experience a barrier in this course due to a chronic health condition, a learning, hearing, neurological, mental health, vision, physical, or other kind of disability, or a temporary injury, you are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at 865-974-6087 or sds@utk.edu. An SDS Coordinator will meet with you to develop a plan to ensure you have equitable access to this course. If you are already registered with SDS, please contact your instructor to discuss implementing accommodations included in your course access letter.

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY AND TRAINING – <http://accessibility.utk.edu>

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, provides reasonable accommodations for individual students with disabilities through its office of Student Disability Services. The university is also committed to making information and materials accessible, when possible. Resources and assistance to support these efforts can be found at <http://accessibility.utk.edu/>.

WELLNESS – <http://wellness.utk.edu/> and <http://counselingcenter.utk.edu/>

The Center for Health Education and Wellness empowers all Volunteers to thrive by cultivating personal and community well-being. The Center can answer questions about general wellness, substance use, sexual health, healthy relationships, and sexual assault prevention. The Student Counseling Center is the university's primary facility for personal counseling, psychotherapy, and psychological outreach and consultation services.

Any student who has difficulty affording hygiene products, groceries, or accessing sufficient food to eat every day is urged to contact the Big Orange Pantry for support. The Big Orange Pantry, located in Greve Hall, is a free resource for all students, faculty, and staff, no matter how great or small their need is. Students who need emergency financial assistance can also request funding from the Student Emergency Fund.

Students who are experiencing non-academic difficulty or distress and need assistance should call 974-HELP or submit an online referral. The 974-HELP team specializes in aligning resources and support to students experiencing mental health distress.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM – <http://safety.utk.edu/>

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is committed to providing a safe environment for learning and working. When you are alerted to an emergency, please take

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appropriate action. Learn more about what to do in an emergency and sign up for UT Alerts. Check the emergency posters near exits and elevators for building specific information. In the event of an emergency, course schedules and assignments may be subject to change. If changes to graded activities are required, reasonable adjustments will be made, and you will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines.

The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter or amend this syllabus as necessary.



Image: Vitra Campus by Piet Oudolf