

PLSC 230: Interior Plantscaping, Fall 2023
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

COURSE INFORMATION

Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:10 to 5:00 pm

Location: Room 113 of the Plant Biotech Building

Course Credit: 3.0 Hours

Prerequisites: None

Faculty Contact Information

Amanda Spangler

aplante@utk.edu

223 Third Creek Building

865-974-5193

Office Hours: by appointment on Zoom



Welcome Statement

My name is Amanda Spangler, and I will be your instructor for the course. I am looking forward to getting to know you this semester! This class will have scheduled weekly assignments due, as well as online discussion forums, readings, quizzes, and course materials.

This is not a self-paced course. It's important that you manage your own time each week to know when assignments, and any other weekly course obligations, are due. This will involve regularly logging into Canvas to check communications, monitoring your campus email address, and interacting with your classmates, myself, and course materials.

I look forward to working with you this semester and getting off to a strong start!

Instructor Availability

Please feel welcome to email me with updates, questions, or concerns. I will typically respond within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on the weekend and holidays. I will notify you if I will be out of town and if connection issues may delay a response.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History and introduction of the interior plantscaping industry. Identification, culture, propagation, and use of plants for the commercial interior plantscape. Management of the interior environment including light, humidity, growing media, insects, and diseases. Commercial use of containers, planters, water features, and artificial plants.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate the reasons why people grow plants indoors and describe the history of indoor plant cultivation
2. Identify and describe the growing conditions for a variety of common interior plants
3. Evaluate the common environmental conditions found in many interior landscapes, as well as the impact these can have on plant health
4. Apply horticultural management practices specific to interior landscaping

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

This is an in-person class. Participation in each class is crucial to fulfilling class purposes. Students are expected to attend each class meeting. Many of your assignments will be administered through Canvas, the University of Tennessee's Learning Management System. Additional [Canvas](#) and [Zoom](#) resources are available for students unfamiliar with these online environments. If you need any equipment to complete this course online, you can [borrow equipment from Pendergrass Library](#).

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE

Students are expected to attend each class, and they are encouraged to prepare for class by reading the sections of the textbook outlined in the semester calendar. Follow along with the semester calendar to be aware of upcoming assignments and assessments. Reach out to the instructor as soon as possible with any questions, ideas, or concerns about the class.

Learner Expectations

- Be prepared for all classes
- Be respectful of others
- Actively contribute to the class and learning activities
- Commit to setting and meeting high expectations for yourself
- Stay up-to-date on materials posted to the course Canvas site
- Read and (if necessary) respond to communications from the instructor
- Completely read and follow all instructions given for assignments and assessments
- Ask the instructor for clarification when needed

- Abide by the [UT Student Code of Conduct](#).

Instructor Expectations

- Start and end class on time
- Be prepared for all classes
- Evaluate all fairly and equitably
- Be respectful of all students
- Create and facilitate meaningful learning activities
- Clearly and effectively communicate course expectations and content
- Be open to constructive input from students in the course
- Abide by the University codes of conduct

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Recommended Texts, Resources, and Materials

- Halleck's [Gardening Under Lights: The Complete Guide for Indoor Growers](#) is available online
- Powell and Rosetti's *The Healthy Indoor Plant* is on reserve in Pendergrass Library
- Seignot's *Interior Planting: A Guide to Plantscapes in Work and Leisure Places*

Required Equipment

Students must have a working computer in order to complete assignments. If you need any equipment to complete this course online, you can [borrow equipment from Pendergrass Library](#). Students may be able to participate in class by using resources available in an [on-campus computer lab](#).

Course Resources

Canvas

This course will use Canvas via [Online@UT](#). As a student registered for this course you are automatically loaded into the course Canvas site, and it should appear on your homepage. I will post course announcements and materials on the Canvas site. Unless otherwise specified, all exams, discussion groups, and quizzes must be completed online through Canvas, and reports must be submitted online through Canvas.

Zoom

We will be using [LiveOnline@UT \(Zoom\)](#) for virtual office hours, for some group meetings, and, when determined necessary by the instructor or University, online class sessions.

iNaturalist

This course may use on [iNaturalist.org](#), a social network for naturalists, to enable the class to record and share observations. Some activities and assignments will take place on the UTK PLSC 230 project which will record and share observations with classmates and the broader iNaturalist community.

Technical Support

For technical issues, contact the OIT HelpDesk by phone at (865) 974-9900 or at the [Walk-in HelpDesk](#). For IT and Computing issues, use the online [Contact Form](#). **Again, if you need any equipment to complete the online portion of this course, you can [borrow equipment from Pendergrass Library](#).**

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Classroom Etiquette

All online and offline communication should adhere to [UT's Principles of Civility and Community](#).

Announcements

Announcements will be used to communicate with you about course logistics. All students are responsible for logging into Canvas on a daily basis to check for course updates. The three most recent announcements are posted at the top of the course home page. Students should check their [Canvas notification settings](#) to ensure they receive instructor announcements.

Discussions

We may have in-person and virtual discussion groups in this class. When engaging in class discussions, remember to: respect each other's ideas, feelings and experience; be courteous and considerate; and explore disagreements and support assertions with data and evidence.

Email

All students are provided with a working university email address. The instructor will use university email to communicate course information. Students are responsible for staying up-to-date on email communications. For assistance with email, please visit help.utk.edu. Thank you for your attention to detail and professional courtesy in all communications regarding the class, including email.

COURSE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Participation in each class is crucial to fulfilling class purposes. **Students are expected to attend all classes.** Students may not be distracted or distracting during class.

Technology

Cell phones, tablets, and laptops should be used for notetaking purposes only, but may not be used for recording audio or visuals. Sharing audio or visual files may violate University policy, copyright laws, or other restrictions. Smart phones and other technology will be turned off and remain in backpacks or purses during assessments. Use calculators and not smart phones during assessments.

Readings and Videos

It is important that all reading be completed and video assignments be watched prior to the lecture period. You will get much more out of the lectures if you have prepared yourself ahead of time and come prepared to ask any questions you may have regarding the material. Required reading assignments will be posted on Canvas.

Field and Lab Experience

Our class will frequently get hands-on experience in the lab, greenhouse, and in the field. Class will be held regardless of weather conditions. Students should dress appropriately for the weather and the work. Students are encouraged to wear durable clothing that can get dirty, and they are required to wear closed-toe and closed-heel shoes on all specified days (inside or outdoors).

Vans will be provided for transportation, if possible, for off-campus field trips. Accurate counts of those attending are needed in order to know number of vans to reserve. Students who plan to ride the van must inform the instructor one week prior to the field trip.

Guest Speakers

We are extremely fortunate to host guest speakers for many class sessions. These are professionals in their field, and their input often replaces recommended reading from the textbook. You are expected to be respectful, take notes, and ask speakers thoughtful questions.

Campus Closures

If the university closes campus for any reason, including [inclement weather](#), students who are unable to attend, submit assignments, or otherwise participate in a class session will not be penalized.

ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENTS, AND EVALUATIONS

Assignments

Experiential learning will be facilitated through either individual or group assignments for the course. The Learn and Share, Plant Info Sheet, Plant Hunt, and Plant Parent Assignments will create student engagement in problem solving in a broad array of horticultural topics, specific to the topic of interior plantscaping. Student work is expected to meet the content and formatting requirements outlined in the assignment sheets.

Field Reports

Only students who participate in tours and labs are eligible to participate in the Field Report assignments. Reports are due one week (7 days) after the event and must meet the criteria outlined in the assignment sheet. Field trip reports are worth **25 points each**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

If a student cannot participate in a field trip or lab, they must provide notice to the instructor by the Wednesday prior to the event in order to receive an alternative assignment. ***Students who fail to provide sufficient notice of absence will not receive an alternative assignment.*** Alternative reports are due 7 days after they are assigned.

Quizzes

Pop quizzes will be worth **20 points each**. During every class period there is a chance to have a pop quiz on previously covered material or any posted reading or video assignments.

Academic Honesty and Student Conduct

For this course, academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, not receiving unauthorized assistance to complete an assignment and selling or purchasing course assignments or assessments. Academic honesty will apply in accordance with policies found in [Hilltopics](#), the official student handbook of the University of Tennessee. Students must adhere to the principles and rules of the University and pursue academic work in a straightforward and truthful manner, free from deception or fraud.

In this course, it is expected that all submitted work is produced by the students themselves, whether individually or collaboratively. Students must not seek the assistance of Generative AI Tools like ChatGPT. Use of a Generative AI Tool to complete an assignment constitutes academic dishonesty.

GRADING CRITERIA

Points possible

Assignment	Points Possible
Plant Info Sheets	400 pts (100 pts ea.)
Learn and Share Discussions	300 pts (100 pts ea.)
Plant Parent Assignment	200 pts
Plant Hunt Assignment	200 pts
Field Reports	100 pts (25 pts ea.)
Plant ID Quizzes	100 pts (25 pts ea.)
Pop Quizzes	100 pts (20 pts ea.)
Total Points Available	1400 pts

Grading Scale

Final grades will be assigned in accordance with the UT grading scale. For further explanation about student [UT Grades and GPA](#) or other policies related to academic standing, please reach out to [OneStop](#).

Letter Grade	Percentage	Projected Points
A	More than 93 %	1023 to 1100 pts
A-	90 to less than 93 %	990 to 1022 pts

Letter Grade	Percentage	Projected Points
B+	87 to less than 90 %	957 to 989 pts
B	83 to less than 87 %	913 to 956 pts
B-	80 to less than 83 %	880 to 912 pts
C+	77 to less than 80 %	847 to 879 pts
C	73 to less than 77 %	803 to 846 pts
C-	70 to less than 73 %	770 to 802 pts
D	60 to less than 70 %	660 to 769 pts
F	Less than 60 %	659 pts and below

CAMPUS SYLLABUS

Dear Student,

The purpose of this **Campus Syllabus** is to provide you with important information that applies to all UTK courses. 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 want to wish you the best for a successful and productive semester.

- Dr. John Zomchick, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

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](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@utk.edu) (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 is committed to providing a safe environment to learn and work. When you are alerted to an emergency, please take 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, the course schedule 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.

COVID-19 Guidelines

[CDC guidance](#) recognizes the changing dynamics of living in a world with COVID-19. It rates COVID-19 community levels as low, medium, and high, with recommendations at each level about the use of masks and other precautions. At all levels of community spread, staying up-to-date with vaccination is the best way to protect yourself from serious illness and to limit the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a mask is always an option for any individual who chooses to do so, and the CDC recommends that those with high risk of severe illness talk with their health care providers. If you are sick, please stay in, avoid being around others as much as possible, and contact your health care provider for any symptoms that are worsening, moderate to severe, or concerning to you. For more information about vaccination or to self-

report an illness and receive support, visit <http://studenthealth.utk.edu/CommunityHealth>. For more information about COVID-19, visit <http://studenthealth.utk.edu/covid-19>.

KEY CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- [974-HELP](#) (developed to help distressed or distressing students reach their academic goals and to help maintain a safe community and learning environment for all students)
- [Center for Career Development](#) (Career counseling and resources, HIRE-A-VOL job search system)
- [Computer Labs](#)
- [Course Catalogs](#) (Listing of academic programs, courses, and policies)
- [COVID-19 Information and Support](#) (Visit the site for a list of resources)
- [Herbert Virtual Learning Commons](#) (Academic support, tools for individual study, wellness resources, and study groups)
- [Hilltopics](#) (Campus and academic policies, procedures and standards of conduct)
- [Judith Anderson Writing Help Center](#) (Writing support, navigating the writing process, and writing guides)
- [OIT HelpDesk](#) (865) 974-9900
- [Schedule of Classes/Timetable](#)
- [Student Counseling Center](#) (Visit the site for a list of services)
- [Student Health Center](#) (Visit the site for a list of services)
- [Student Success Center](#) (Academic support resources)
- Study Spaces (Check out this [Map of Quiet Indoor and Outdoor Study Spaces on Campus](#) to learn where you can find a distraction-free spot to attend online classes.)
- [Undergraduate Academic Advising](#) (Advising resources, course requirements, and major guides)
- [University Libraries](#) (Access to library resources, databases, course reserves, and services)

This document is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the instructor.

PLSC 230 SEMESTER CALENDAR

In addition to the schedule provided below, the Canvas Calendar is a great way to view everything you have to do for all your courses in one place. Each calendar view shows any assignments or events that have been added.

Week	Date	Topics to be Covered	Assignments Due
1	W 8/23	First day of class: Syllabus and Introductions	
	F 8/25	Centers of Origin	Welcome Quiz
2	M 8/28	Historical Background	
	W 8/30	Modern Innovations	
	F 9/01	Benefits of Interior Plants	Learn and Share 1
3	M 9/04	No Class - Labor Day Holiday	
	W 9/06	Botanical Basics	
	F 9/08	Plant Identification	
4	M 9/11	Foliage Environment	
	W 9/13	Root Environment	
	F 9/15	Field Study 1: Hesler Biology Greenhouses	Plant Info Sheet 1
5	M 9/18	Student Presentations – Plant Info Sheets	
	W 9/20	Plant Propagation	
	F 9/22	<i>Activity: Plant Propagation</i>	Field Report 1
6	M 9/25	Managing Light	Plant Parent Update 1
	W 9/27	Managing Air Quality	
	F 9/29	Managing Temperature	
7	M 10/02	Growing Media	Plant ID Quiz 1
	W 10/04	Managing Soil Moisture	
	F 10/08	Field Study 2: Student Union	Plant Info Sheet 2
8	M 10/09	No Class – Fall Break	
	W 10/11	Student Presentations – Plant Info Sheets	Plant Parent Update 2
	F 10/13	Preventing Health Problems	Field Report 2
9	M 10/16	Diagnosing Health Problems pt. 1	Learn and Share 2
	W 10/18	Diagnosing Health Problems pt. 2	
	F 10/20	Field Study 3: Baker Center	
10	M 10/23	Interior Plant Production	Plant ID Quiz 2
	W 10/25	Guest Speaker: TBD	Learn and Share 3
	F 10/27	Field Study 4: Stanley's Greenhouse and Plant Farm (off-campus)	Plant Info Sheet 3
11	M 10/30	Student Presentations – Plant Info Sheets	
	W 11/01	Transportation Considerations	Field Report 3
	F 11/03	Plant Specification and Selection	Plant Parent Update 3
12	M 11/06	Interiorscape Installation	
	W 11/08	Guest Speaker: TBD	Field Report 4

	F	11/10	Interiorscape Maintenance	
13	M	11/13	Guest Speaker: TBD	Plant ID Quiz 3
	W	11/15	Living Walls	
	F	11/17	Guest Speaker: TBD	Plant Info Sheet 4
14	M	11/20	Student Presentations – Plant Info Sheets	Plant Parent Update 4
	W	11/22	No Class Day	
	F	11/24	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
15	<i>M</i>	<i>11/27</i>	<i>No Class – Work on Plant Hunt</i>	
	W	11/29	Guest Speaker: TBD	
	F	12/01	Student Presentations – Plant Hunt	
16	M	12/04	Plant Swap!	Plant ID Quiz 4 Plant Parent Update 5
	W	12/06	Final Exam Review	
	-	TBD	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> TBD	

This schedule is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the instructor