- EXAMPLE Syllabus -

PSS 137: Landscape Design Fundamentals
Details will vary semester to semester
(Cross-listed with CDAE 137, ENVS 137, NR 137)

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Course Description
Landscape Design Fundamentals is a studio course that introduces students to the principles of landscape design. Students in this class will examine the world in new and different ways, including observations of natural and cultural phenomena, and studies of form and function on small and large-scale sites. We will explore the process of landscape design, from site inventories and analyses to conceptual and schematic plans, and learn the basics of planting plans, section drawings, and design details. Students will learn to use graphic media and materials and will be expected to keep a sketchbook practicing their skills. This class will work on two major design projects during the semester, at least one of which will be in collaboration with partners from the Vermont community. Typically, the first is a team project that introduces students to field observation, drawing, and analysis techniques. The second is an individual project, which requires critical thinking about a real design challenge and will include schematic planning and design details. Students will work on graphic and verbal presentation skills, and learn to give their peers constructive criticism. Students will share their work with faculty, professionals, and community partners during mid-term and final presentations.

Prerequisites/Credit: Minimum junior standing; 1 course in design or drawing. This course is approved for graduate credit. 4 credits.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is mandatory; attendance will be part of your class participation grade. Studio work requires attendance for lectures, assignments, design time and critiques. Much of a design education comes through observing each other’s work progress. Every three absences will result in a drop of one full letter grade (i.e., 10% of the total 100% possible).

Academic Integrity: Offenses against the UVM Code of Academic Integrity are deemed serious and insult the integrity of the entire academic community. Any suspected violations of the Code are taken very seriously and will be forwarded to the Center for Student Ethics & Standards for further intervention. To read the Code of Academic Integrity and learn more about the Center for Student Ethics and Standards, visit website at: http://www.uvm.edu/cses/?Page=ah.html&SM=ahmenu.html

Example Grading Breakdown:
Class Participation (attendance, discussion during lectures, peer critiques, group work): 10%
Black & White Exercise – Ordering Principles – Precedent Study: 3%
Sketchbook Prompts (grade is result of 4 check-ins during semester): 12%
Project 1 (30%)
  Site Inventory/Scaled Drawing/Plan, Site Analysis, Context Plan (Group): 12%
  Site Narrative including Opportunities & Constraints (Group): 5%
  Concept Diagrams (Individual): 5%
  Midterm Presentation (Graphics 6%, Presentation Skills 2%) (Group + Individual): 8%
Project 2 (45%)
  Site Analysis (Group): 3%
  Conceptual Diagrams (Individual): 4%
  Schematic Plan (Individual): 12%
  Section Drawing (Individual): 8%
  Planting Plan + Plant List: 8%
  Final Presentation (Overall 2%, Graphics 6%, Presentation Skills 2%): 10%
Total: 100%
**Supplies:** Obtain supplies by second week of class, except your **sketchbook**, which needs to be obtained by Wednesday (second day of class)

- Sketchbook, at least 6”x8,” unlined, mid-weight paper
- Tracing Paper Roll – 24” x 20 yards or larger
- Engineer's Scale
- Circle Template
- Triangles: 10” -30-60-90 and/or 10” – 45-90.
- Drafting Tape or Dots
- Scissors
- Set of Drawing Pencils: at a minimum get 2H, HB, 2B
- Eraser (Pink Pearl or similar)
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pentel Sign Pen(s)
- Pentel Micron Pens (or similar) with at least 3 line weights
- Black Markers: minimum of 3 different line weights
- Either Colored Markers or Colored Pencils - Prismacolor or equivalent minimum 20, lots of green shades and earth tones
- Exacto or other Cutting Knife and Blades
- Cutting Mat
- Straightedge – heavy weight

**Books:** There is no textbook for this course, but some recommended books are below. It is *highly recommended* to get at least one graphics or landscape design drawing book (marked with asterisk *), but please preview descriptions of books online to choose what is best suited to your interests. **Required readings** on particular topics will be posted on Blackboard and announced prior to lectures.


*Hutchinson, E. Drawing for Landscape Architecture: Sketch to Screen to Site. 2011. Thames & Hudson.


Reid, G. From Concept to Form in Landscape Design. 2007. Wiley.
