PST-1441: INTRODUCTION TO LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: PST-1441 : Introduction to Landscape Design

Board of Trustees:
MAY 2025

Academic Term:
Fall 2025

Subject Code
PST - Plant Science/Landscape Tech.

Course Number:
1441

Title:
Introduction to Landscape Design

Catalog Description:
Introductory principles and processes of landscape design. Emphasis on understanding how to read and interpret professional blueprints as well as creating basic landscape designs. Topics include aesthetic and environmental systems analysis and the development of basic site and landscape design projects. Preparation of various landscape designs provides exposure to design theories applicable to the use of landform, vegetation, water and structural landscape elements.

Credit Hour(s):
3

Lecture Hour(s):
2

Lab Hour(s):
3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite
PST-1311 Deciduous Woody Landscape Plants, or PST-1321 Evergreens, Groundcovers, and Herbaceous Plants, or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):
Use the design process to create landscape plans for aesthetic and functional use.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:
Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.
Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):
1. Produce the graphical representation of sites using drawing/drafting tools.
2. Define the meaning of hardscape and softscape and use these elements in a landscape design plan.
3. Use common symbols for plants, buildings, and non-plant features to communicate spatial relationships in the landscape.

Course Outcome(s):
Use industry standard scales to create a landscape design plan.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.
Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Identify common scales used in the Green Industry.
2. Utilize both engineers and architect scales to measure and scale designs.
3. Use a scale drawing to create a job site layout.

Course Outcome(s):

Utilize the design process to evaluate client needs to create a landscape design plan.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.
Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Interpret client needs based on client interview.
2. Create a landscape design plan using the information gained in the client interview.
3. Present preliminary plan to solicit client feedback for a final plan.
4. Create and present a final landscape design plan.

Course Outcome(s):

Discuss topics of ecosystem health and environmental sustainability and how they are addressed in the Green Industry through landscape design.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Oral Communication: Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication for an intended audience that is clear, organized, and delivered effectively following the standard conventions of that language.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the role the Green Industry plays in creating sustainable landscapes.
2. Define what makes a landscape a sustainable ecosystem.
3. Discuss methods to engage clients in understanding the role their landscape can play in ecosystem health.

Course Outcome(s):

Identify common landscape materials and their use in the landscape.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Not Applicable: No Essential Learning Outcomes mapped. This course does not require application-level assignments that demonstrate mastery in any of the Essential Learning Outcomes.

Objective(s):

1. Identify common Green Industry building materials.
2. Create a landscape design utilizing water and fire elements.
3. Create a landscape lighting plan.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Homework
2. Design projects

3. Speed designs
4. Quizzes
5. Tests

Course Content Outline:

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1. Review of Green Industry building materials
   a. Hardscape elements
   b. Low-volt lighting
   c. Water features
   d. Fire features
   e. Decking, fencing, arbor and trellis materials

2. Using equipment and working with scale
   a. Use of drawing tables, drafting equipment and drawing tools.
   b. Lettering and graphic techniques
   c. Basic drawing, design principles, elements, and processes
   d. Form and composition
   e. Space articulation
   f. Landscape symbols, lettering and plan development
   g. Site survey and inventory and creating site plan
   h. Site visual and environmental analysis
   i. Two dimensional graphic communication
   j. Hardscapes in the landscape
   k. Softscapes in the landscape
3. Utilizing the design process
   a. Written and graphic analysis of site environment and synthesis with project criteria
   b. Spatial analysis recognition
   c. Analyzing client needs through verbal inquiry
   d. Development of conceptual (functional), preliminary and master plans
   e. Primary materials palette and uses Concept or functional diagrams
   f. Preliminary design plan
   g. Final design or master design plan
   h. Presentation skills for client interactions

4. Understanding issues within the Green Industry and application to ecosystem management
   a. Environmental liability and impact to climate
   b. Environmental systems interaction and manipulation
   c. Aesthetic and functional combination of materials
   d. Functional and aesthetic manipulation of surface grades
   e. Managing storm water through the landscape
   f. Functional limits of design elements

Resources

Booth, Norman and James Hiss. *Residential Landscape Architecture*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2017.

Bertauski, Tony. *Designing the Landscape: An Introductory Guide for the Landscape Designer*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2021.

Bertauski, Tony. *Plan Graphics for the Landscape Designer: with Section-Elevation and Computer Graphics*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2018.

Sauter, David. *Landscape Construction*. 3rd Edition. Delmar Cengage Learning, 2010.

Rosemary Alexander. *The Essential Garden Design Workbook*. Timberpress, 2017.

Skiba, Richard. *Landscape Design and Construction*. After Midnight Publishing, 2024.

Resources Other

Association of Professional Landscape Designers – Landscape Design Resources: https://apld.memberclicks.net/landscape-design-resources (https://apld.memberclicks.net/landscape-design-resources/). 2025.

Encyclopedia of Landscape Design - https://www.dk.com/us/book/9781465463852-encyclopedia-of-landscape-design/. 2023.

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