

SYLLABUS

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Analysis of how gardens reveal the relationship between culture and nature. Emphasis on the perception, design, and ecology of gardens in world cultures and their adaptation in the California landscape. Prerequisite: Env. S. 100W, or consent of instructor. 3 units.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: *The course is designed . . .*

- A. . . . **to provide students the tools needed to heighten their plant and garden observation techniques** (e.g., how to use the camera as a *scientific* and ". . . *spiritual tool* to train the eye to really see and take in--to record on film [or digital imagery] different points of view and different moments of light and illumination" [Murray 1997] as they apply to plants and gardens). (Part I of course: Photographing Plants and Gardens: Helpful Hints).
- B. . . . **to raise student awareness of their own local environment—specifically their neighborhood garden landscapes** (i.e., to stretch the mind and push back the boundaries that delimit their perception of the garden). (Part II of course: Neighborhood Block Analysis).
- C. . . . **to then place the students' own neighborhood landscape garden into the larger picture of California's wild gardens; the relationship of plants, gardens and world cultures; and the role of the garden as idea, place, and action**. (Part III of course: The California Landscape Garden: Ecology, Culture, and Design).
- D. . . . **to allow students to research, explore, investigate, document, and photograph the actual source of California's botanical jewels—California wild gardens**. (Part IV of course: Biogeographic Field Site Analysis & Associated Garden Design).
- E. . . . **and finally, to give students an opportunity to design a California native garden based on their field investigations of plant communities and ecology** (i.e. to help students imagine and design (and perhaps someday actually create) landscape gardens that better reflect contemporary environmental values. (Part V of course: Garden Design Project).

COURSE APPROPRIATENESS: This course is an approved elective in the Department of Environmental Studies. It is especially relevant to such fields as **environmental restoration, green building design** (which includes the surrounding landscaping), **urban planning, & water resource management**.

EnvS 118 Gardens, Culture, and Environment may also serve as an approved elective in other departments as well. Check with your major advisor for approval. Being interdisciplinary, this course draws upon the fields of geography (e.g., **biogeography**), biology (e.g., **botany**), anthropology (e.g., **cultural ecology**), photography (e.g., **nature photography**), geology (**soil and water science**), and so on. If you have an interest in any of the above fields of knowledge, you will likely find this class interesting and beneficial.

In addition, this course provides "breadth" for students, academics, and professionals interested in the garden as a reflection of cultural and environmental values, and "depth" (vision, practical information, and

principles of design) for individuals searching for ways to express personal environmental values and concerns in **home or community gardens**, or in other forms of the urban landscape.

And, if you like taking photographs, especially getting out and **photographing wild landscapes** (e.g., oak woodlands, redwood forests, fields of wild flowers, etc.), you will have a variety of opportunities in this class to explore with your camera and polish your craft.

PREREQUISITE: Env. S. 100W, or consent of instructor.

TEXTS/REFERENCE BOOKS:

A. Required:

1. Keator, Glenn and Alrie Middlebrook. 2007. Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens. Berkeley: UC Press.
2. Francis, Mark, and Andreas Reimann. 1999. The California Landscape Garden: Ecology, Culture, and Design. Berkeley: UC Press.
3. Faber, Phyllis M., ed. 1997. California's Wild Gardens. Berkeley: UC Press.
4. Turabian, Kate. 2007 (7th Ed). A Manual for Writers. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

B. Recommended for students that seriously want to improve their plant/garden photography:

1. Nichols, Clive. 2007. The Art of Flower and Garden Photography. London: Argentum/Aurum Press.

COURSE OUTLINE: See separate "Course Outline" handout.

EVALUATION:

Seminar Performance (includes daily "engaging"* and several formal presentations) (1/3 Seminar Participation; 1/3 Presentation of Reading Material; 1/3 Presentation of Written Term Projects)	30%
Neighborhood Block Analysis	10%
Biogeographic Field Site Analysis	30%
Garden Design Project	30%

*This is a seminar, not a lecture class where students are sometimes "forgiven" for occasionally missing class or arriving late. **In seminars (whether graduate or undergraduate level), one simply does not arrive late nor miss class.** Furthermore, participation means "engaging" in the class discussion, not simply attending class.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: See separate handout.

OFFICE HOURS:

My office is in WSQ 115A, which is part of the main office suite for the Department of Environmental Studies. My phone number is (408) 924-5455. E-mail: KleeGary@comcast.net. This e-mail goes to my home office, and I check for messages daily, including weekends. **If you use e-mail, I'll respond "the same day"(within 24 hours), or I will buy you a cup of coffee. Guaranteed!** Office hours are on a self-appointment basis. In other words, there is a sign up sheet on

my office door. Sign up at least 1 week in advance of desired day. Appointments are in 10-15 minute blocks. Office hours this semester are as follows: _____ (TBA.