

11:550:238 Landscape Management and Maintenance (3 credits)

Department of Landscape Architecture in collaboration with Rutgers Gardens

RUTGERS- The State University of New Jersey

School of Biological and Environmental Sciences Fall 2023

Rutgers Gardens Staff: Maxine Marvosa, Assistant Director of Rutgers Gardens	Schedule: Wednesday 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Instructor: Holly Nelson	Location: Rutgers Gardens rain garden (if rain: 245 Blake Hall)
E-mail: mam851@sebs.rutgers.edu	This course fulfills a Plant/Ecology major elective.
Office hours: by arrangement	

Program Goals:

1. Analyze physical features (soil conditions, hydrology, existing plantings, etc.)
2. Familiarize yourself with technical and industry standards to foster safe, accessible, healthy, and beautiful environments using professional practices (design, site engineering, sustainable systems) leading to effective selection of materials, methods, and technologies.
3. Communicate important aspects of plant demonstration gardens in a professional manner.

Learning Objectives:

1. Increase technical knowledge of all phases of the landscape maintenance industry through class lectures, course readings, and practice in the field.
2. Develop practical skills required of maintenance professionals, including proper planting, pruning, plant division, lawn and meadow maintenance procedures through lab exercises.
3. Expose students to maintenance issues and practicalities that can inform their design decisions.
4. Identify plant species in the field and gain familiarity with seasonal attributes and growth characteristics.

Class Description:

The course covers a broad spectrum of landscape management and maintenance issues with a focus on experiential learning. Sustainable landscape practices are becoming a priority for many corporations, homeowners and local/state government. Sustainable landscape practices will be discussed and practiced during lab hours. Lab exercises will consist of hands-on maintenance activities discussed in the associated lectures or reading assignments. Our focus this year will be on rain gardens.

Expectations of Student Participation:

Much of your learning will occur through your active engagement with your peers during the class while working on your maintenance project site. You are expected to engage fully in all activities on-site at Rutgers Gardens, even in moderately inclement weather. You should read be prepared for each field

session and be open to the ideas and challenges that unfold. Please read the syllabus carefully and be aware of assignments.

Required Fieldwork Lab: Please carpool to Rutgers Gardens in small groups and park in the Log Cabin Parking Lot. Expect to work in light to moderate rain (raingear will be provided as necessary). If weather is truly inclement, we will meet in room 245 Blake Hall, so please check your emails for Canvas announcements on a regular basis.

Attendance: This is an experiential learning class. Class attendance and a positive work attitude are mandatory. Two unexcused absences will result in a grade drop (i.e., from A to B). Each additional two absences will result in another grade reduction. It is the student’s responsibility to be in attendance at all required classes, and all personal plans should be made according to the course schedule.

If you are ill, please self-report your absence, according to Rutgers policy :

<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> However, reporting an absence does not excuse you--please notify the instructor 24-hours prior to the class to see if an alternate arrangement can be made. Please note that attendance will be taken at the start of each class and late arrivals will be marked as an absence.

Facilities and Equipment: Your use of the facilities and equipment is dependent upon responsible use with particular regard to the clearly established rules about their use as specified in the course safety class and associated procedures.

Fieldwork Lab Guidelines:

1. Arrive promptly, appropriately dressed for the weather. Expect to work 3 hours at the Gardens.
2. No texting, phone calls or non-course related web searches.
3. Be prepared to start working at 8:30 am, do not pull into the garden at 8:30.
4. All students **must** wear long pants and close-toed shoes.

Assignments: Required readings, quizzes, and assignments will be posted to Canvas. There is no required text.

Grading:

Attendance – 140 pts

Quizzes – 30 pts

Discussion/Assignments – 90 pts

Management Plan – 100 pts

Total – 360 pts

Date	Assignment Topics	Canvas Exercise
9/6	1 Overview: What is expected in this course	Reading
9/13	2 Equipment, Procedures (Safety)	Reading and Quiz
9/20	3 Plant ID: How plants grow (by runners, by seeds, etc.)	Existing Plant Palette: Excel Chart/ Plant Schedule with important characteristics
9/27	4 Plant ID: Herbaceous Trees + Shrubs	Excel complete plant schedule due 10/1
10/4	5 Choosing the right plant	Reading and Discussion
10/11	6 IPM	Reading and Quiz

10/18	7	Weeds: Common weeds Different removal procedures	Reading and Discussion
10/25	8	Weeds: Preventative measures Rain Gardens	Reading and discussion
11/1	9	Pruning: Trees (Identifying Tree Hazards)	Reading and Quiz
11/8	10	Pruning: Shrubs (flowering, otherwise)	Reading and Discussion
11/15	11	Soils	Reading and discussion
11/22	12	Discussion: what have you learned so far	Reading and NO CLASS: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 (Friday Classes)
11/29	13	Landscape Management Project	Landscape Management Project due
12/6	14	Presentations	Landscape Management Project discussion
12/13	15	Presentations	Reflection

Departmental Grading Guidelines

While the assignment of grades is ultimately the purview of the instructor, the department uses the following guideline for understanding appropriate grading in its courses:

A – Outstanding – This not only means fulfilling the requirements but impressing and going beyond the initial expectations of the project. The student has demonstrated a superior grasp of the subject matter coupled with a high degree of creative or logical expression, and strong ability to present these ideas in an organized and analytical manner.

B – Very Good – The student has demonstrated a solid grasp of the material with an ability to organize and examine the material in an organized, critical, and constructive manner. The projects and in-class performance reveal a solid understanding of the issues and related theories or literature.

C – Acceptable – The student has shown a moderate ability to grasp concepts and theories for the class, producing work that, while basically adequate, is not in any way exceptional. This performance in class displays a basic familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques.

D – Unacceptable – The work demonstrates a minimal understanding of the fundamental nature of the material or the assignment with a performance that does not adequately examine the course material critically or constructively. Students cannot graduate from the Landscape Architecture program with 2 D's in required 550 classes.

F – Failure – The student has demonstrated a lack of understanding or familiarity with course concepts and materials. Their performance has been inadequate. Failure is often the result of limited effort and poor attendance which may indicate that the student is not in the proper field of study

Final Letter grades

x > 90 A
90 > x > 87 B+
87 > x > 80 B
80 > x > 77 C+
77 > x > 70 C
70 > x > 60 D
x < 60 F

Student Work: Landscape Architecture courses are considered the property of the Department and may be retained in its archives for exhibition and accreditation purposes. Should your drawings or

assignments be retained by the Department, you will be given the opportunity to obtain a print or photographic record of your work. Department files are otherwise not available to students. =

Personal Circumstances: If you encounter any personal circumstances that inhibit your ability to fulfill the requirements of this course, you should contact the instructor immediately. Likewise, any student with special need, circumstance or disability should make an appointment with the instructor during the first week of class.

Academic Integrity: The intentional copying of another student's file, or portion of that file, and representation of that work as one's own, is in direct violation of Rutgers' University Integrity Policy. Please review the policy online: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml#one>. Consistent with this policy, any copying and/or "sharing" of exercises, assignments and projects will be treated as Level 2 violations and subject to the sanctions as outlined in the Integrity Policy.

DEI Statement: It is our intention that students of all backgrounds will be well served by this course. We will work to create an environment of inclusion which respects and affirms the inherent dignity, value, and unique-ness of all individuals, communities and perspectives. We are lucky to have a diverse university. Diverse voices and life experiences enhance the learning process, and we welcome students to share their personal experiences. We will not tolerate disrespectful language or behavior against any individual or group. If you feel as though you have been disrespected or treated unfairly by the instructors or any other individual, please let us know. You may speak with the instructors in person, over email or report anonymously via the Office of Academic Programs. In addition, you may also report bias to the Rutgers Diversity and Inclusion initiative using this link: <http://inclusion.rutgers.edu/report-bias-incident/>.

STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

DoSomething button through Rutgers Dean of Students office:
<http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

Wellness Coaching through Rutgers HOPE:
<http://health.rutgers.edu/education/hope/wellness-coaching/>

Self-Help Apps found on the Rutgers Student Health website:
<http://health.rutgers.edu/education/self-help/self-help-apps/>

NJ Hopeline - (1-855-654-6735) | **National Suicide Hotline** - (1-800-273-8255)

BASIC NEEDS RESOURCES

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the Rutgers Student Food Pantry and/or the Dean of Students (details below). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so, as they may be able to provide additional support.

Rutgers Student Food Pantry

848-932-5500 / College Ave Student Center, Room 115 (126 College Ave) / <http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/food/>
Check their website for hours and additional locations. The Rutgers Student Food Pantry is dedicated to helping all Rutgers students in need of food, no questions asked. Students will be provided with groceries that typically last about one week.

Dean of Students Office

848-932-2300 / 88 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / <https://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/>
Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm

The Dean of Students Office at Rutgers University-New Brunswick provides solutions, services, and support to help students navigate Rutgers University. The Office serves as a student support network by providing advocacy, problem resolution, and critical incident intervention for those times when additional assistance is needed. Please call to schedule an appointment to meet with a representative from the Dean's office.