2015

Syllabus: Introduction to Permaculture

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Intro to Permaculture
STOCKSCH197G-SEC01
Fall 2015

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:15

Morrill Science Center Room 319A

Instructor:
Lisa DePiano, M.R.P. ldepiano@umass.edu
Office hours by appointment, Tuesday and Thursday 10-12

Course Overview:

The Permaculture Design Course is a three-credit course that offers students a foundation in permaculture history, ethics, principles, design process, and practical applications. The framework behind the theory and practice of permaculture is rooted in the observation of natural systems. By observing key ecological relationships, we can mimic and apply these beneficial relationships in the design of systems that serve humans while helping to restore the natural world. This course trains students as critical thinkers, observers, and analysts of the world(s) around them, and then goes on to provide students with the tools needed to design for inspired and positive change.

Key Outcomes:

The goals for this course include 7 Key Outcomes. Students will:
- Understand permaculture **history, ethics, principles**
- Identify **connections** between social, cultural, environmental, and political challenges
- Recognize and analyze **patterns** found in society and the natural world
- Apply **whole systems thinking** to problem solving through design
- **Observe, analyze, and assess** a site to determine its resources and constraints
- Gain knowledge of a **rigorous design process**
- **Learn techniques** for clean water, soil, food production, buildings, and economics

Reading Materials:

There are no required texts for this course. All course-reading materials are found on e-reserves and material online through the open education initiative.

Assignments:

Students are expected to participate in all class discussions and complete all reading, writing, and other assignments. All writing assignments are to be typed doubled spaced with **12-point font and no more than 1" margins.**

- A two-paragraph journal entry will be due weekly; this entry is aimed at helping students to reflect on and organize their thoughts about course content. Hand written journals will not be excepted. Journals must be submitted on moodle.

- A midterm research paper (3-5 pages) on an instructor-approved topic of students' choosing will support students in developing in-depth knowledge in a focused area. Students must cite at least 3 resources 2 of which must be found on the UMass libraries database.

- The course is divided into 3 thematic sections. At the end of each section, there will be a quiz that reviews content presented in that section.

- The final project will be a creative opportunity for students to demonstrate the skills and knowledge gained in the course; the outcome will be a practical application of their new understanding of how to design.

Grading:

Grades for the course will be based upon student's ability to achieve the learning objectives and assignments mentioned above. In addition attendance is mandatory and will be a significant portion of the overall grade.

Attendance and Participation – 30 points (30%):

There are 28 total classes and each student starts the course with 2 (free) points for "Attendance and Participation". Each class attended earns the student 1 additional point toward their overall grade.

A student who attends and participates in all 28 classes can receive a score of 30/30. If a student misses two classes, they can receive a 28/30. Attendance will be taken each class by passing an attendance sheet If a student comes to class more than 5 minutes late, and miss the attendance sheet they will only earn ½ point for that class.

Weekly journal – 25 points (25%):

Weekly journaling assignments will be given as homework on Thursdays and students will hand in the assignment on moodle by the following Tuesday, at the start of class. A guiding question will be given at the end of each Thursday class. Students are asked to provide feedback to the instructor and reflect on the week's lecture and reading topics. Journal entries should be at least 2 paragraphs (8 – 10 sentences) in length to receive full credit.

There are 14 total weeks in the semester and each student starts the course with 2 (free) points out of a possible 30 points for "Journal Entries". Each journal entry is worth 2 points and a student who passes in all 14 journal entries on time (at the start of the following class) can receive a perfect score of **30 points**.

A **late journal/blog entry is only worth 1 point**, however, students will not receive any credit for a journal entry if it arrives more than 1 week (7 days) after it was assigned

Quizzes- 15 points (15%):

After each of the 3 thematic sections there will be a quiz that reviews the content presented in each section. Each quiz is worth 5 points or 5% of the total.

Midterm Research Paper- 15 points (15%):

There will be a midterm research paper (3-5 pages) **12-point font and no more than 1" margins,** on an instructor approved permaculture technique of students' choosing.

Mid-Term Grading Rubric

Criteria	Points
Used at least 2 permaculture principles or the ethics	25

Criteria	Points
3 sources, 2 either book or journal article from UMass library databases	25
Within the 3-5 page range	25
Grammar, writing quality	25

Midterm Research Paper– 15 points (15%):

There will be a midterm research paper (3-5 pages) **12-point font and no more than 1" margins,** on an instructor approved topic of students' choosing.

Final Design Project– 15 points (15%):

The final project will be an opportunity for students to work in small design teams to demonstrate the skills and knowledge gained in the course; the outcome will be a practical application of their new understanding of how to design and organize. Each student group is required to submit a proposal detailing the problem. permaculture principles and ethic's used and scope and timeline of the project.

Final Grade Breakdown

Attendance	30%
Journal	25%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm Paper	15%
Final Project	15%

Extra Credit– Up to 5 points for going to a outside event suggested in the course and giving a verbal and or written report back on the event itself and the lessons learned for the class.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will be penalized at 5% of the potential project grade per day, including weekends i.e. one day late highest grade A-, two days B+, etc. If you

have a good reason for being late notify me as soon as possible to schedule another due date. Assignments will no longer be accepted one week after they are due.

Academic Honesty Policy:

All of your work for this course will follow the academic honesty policy established by the University of Massachusetts. You can find a copy of the policy in the student handbook at http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acahonesty/.

Course Calendar is on moodle: * this calendar is subject to change