

**PLANTS AND HUMAN CULTURE
PLSC 100**

Instructor: Susan S. Barton Office Hrs: 11-12 TR
 146 Townsend Hall (by appointment, 831-1375)
 sbarton@udel.edu

Guest lecturers: Rick Darke, Richard Lighty, Gary Schwetz, W. Gary Smith
Scheduled Classes: 9:30 – 10:45 TR **Credit Hours:** 3
Room: 304 Gore Hall

Course Description:

Current survey of interrelationships between plants and diverse human cultures. Different cultural lenses, such as socio-economic status, cultural heritage and residential environment (urban vs. rural) will be used to explore landscapes. Issues, such as invasive species, water management and societal benefits of gardens provide opportunities for exploration, discussion and problem solving.

Requirements & Grading:

Grades will be based on a straight arithmetic average with:

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	< 60	F

Assignments:

Readings: Readings will be assigned prior to some lectures. All reading assignments will be posted on the web.

Reflective journal: A reflective journal will be used to assess class activities (lecture, readings, discussion and assignments) from your experiential perspective. Reflective journaling questions will be posted on the web to guide your writing. Reflective journals will be turned in and graded at the end of each of the four major sections of the course. (20% of final grade)

Class Presentations:

I. You will research a garden from a particular culture including how the garden style evolved and how it is related to the culture of the people who create and use it. Cultures might include different countries (i.e. Japanese gardens, Brazilian gardens) as well as different regions/locations or styles in the United States (i.e. urban gardens, Southern gardens, cottage gardens). Topics are due on September 12. Students will work in groups of threes or fours and

present information about their chosen topic to the rest of the class (approx. 15 minutes). These student presentations will be scheduled on October 12, 17 and 19. (15% of final grade)
Peer evaluations will be used to assess each group member's contribution.

II. You will select an image or passage related to the course that you find most meaningful to present to the class (approx. 2-3 minutes). (5% of final grade)

Quizzes: Quizzes on assigned readings will be taken in small groups using the IFAT format. You will take the quiz first individually and then discuss the correct answers in your small group. The group will reach consensus on the correct answers and you will receive a grade as a group. (5% of final grade)

Exams/Papers: Short essay exams will be administered at the end two of the four major sections of the course. For the other two sections, students will be required to complete a short paper about a topic(s) from that section. (35% of final grade)

Class Discussion/ Postings: Some class sessions will be structured as discussion sessions in which students will be expected to discuss readings or material that has been presented. In some cases, a posting will be used to stimulate discussion on the web. Assignments may require posting and discussion or may involve submitting the assignment prior to class discussion of the topic. In some cases, students will be asked to state and defend their position on a specific topic. (20% of final grade)

Class Policies:

1. Excused absences (based on official University policy)
 - Absence on religious holidays listed in [University Calendars](#) is recognized as an excused absence. Nevertheless, students must inform me in advance by email (sbarton@udel.edu) of their intention to be absent on a particular upcoming religious holiday.
 - Absences on religious holidays *not listed* in University Calendars, as well as absences due to athletic participation or other University sanctioned extracurricular activities will also be recognized as excused absences. Nevertheless, students must inform me in advance by email (sbarton@udel.edu) of their intention to be absent on a particular class meeting during the first two weeks of the semester.









- Absences due to similar events that could not have been anticipated earlier in the semester will also be recognized as excused absences upon my advanced notification by email (sbarton@udel.edu) from an appropriate *faculty advisor* or *athletic coach*.
- Absence due to serious illness or death within a student's *family* is also recognized as an excused absence. To validate such an absence, the student must present evidence to the **DEAN'S OFFICE** of his or her college. The Dean's Office will then provide a letter of verification to all of the student's instructors for the term.
- Absence due to serious illness of the *student* (e.g., hospitalization, surgery or protracted medical illness or convalescence) is also recognized as an excused absence. To validate such an absence, the student should present evidence to the **DEAN'S OFFICE** of his or her college. Supportive evidence will be provided on the student's request by the Student Health Service directly to your **DEAN**.
- Absence due to relatively minor, short-term illnesses of students (e.g., colds and flu, where attendance in class is undesirable), or their immediate families is also recognized as an excused absence. To validate such an absence, the student should present me with a written note from the University Health Services or a physician. If possible, please notify me before class so we can wish you a speedy recovery and discover if you need any additional help on a topic.
- Absence due to short-term military duty in the National Guard or active reserve is also recognized as an excused absence. To validate such an absence, the student should present evidence to the **DEAN'S OFFICE** of his or her college. The Dean's Office will then provide a letter of verification to all of the student's instructors for the term.









Note that students are not penalized if absent from an examination or lecture because of an excused absence. They *are*, however, fully responsible for all material presented and exams missed during their excused absences.


2. Regular class attendance is strongly encouraged and expected. A portion of the grade for this class is based on class discussion and participation. Guest lecturers for this class are nationally known speakers and students should not miss those lectures unless the absence is unavoidable.




3. Late Work Policies

- A 10% penalty per week will be assessed on all assignments turned in after the due date.
- No work will count toward your grade unless it is handed in prior to or at the time of the last class period.

PLSC 100		PLANTS AND HUMAN CULTURE	
Introduction			
August			
	29	Receive syllabus, Introduction, List 5 relationships YOU have with plants.	
	31	Roots of Agriculture	Richard Lighty
September			
	5	The World of Plants—A snapshot	Rick Darke
Pathways			
	7	Paths of Desire	Rick Darke
	12	Scenic Byways	
	14	Enhancing DE Highways Survey - Take survey and discuss	
	19	Enhancing DE Highways – Project/lessons for landscape	
	21	Exam	

Cultural Landscapes			
	26	Sense of Place	
	28	Patterns in the Landscape	
October			
	3	Cultural Landscapes-North America	Rick Darke
	5	Cultural Landscapes-International	Rick Darke
	10	UD Art in the Garden	
	12	Student Presentations	
	17	Student Presentations	
	19	Student Presentations	

	24	Art in the Garden	W. Gary Smith
	26	Exam	
<u>The Healing Garden</u>			
	31	Community Garden Panel	DCH
November			
	2	Social Research	
	7	No Class – Election Day	
	9	Place-Based Education Short Paper due	
<u>The Environment</u>			
	14	Invasive Plants	
	16	Rain Gardens	
	21	Managing Water	Gary Schwetz

	28	Suburban Biodiversity	
	30	5-minute Presentations Short Paper due	
December			
	5	5-minute Presentations/Discussion/Wrap up	