

Stocksch 386 – Sustainable Site Design & Planning (SPIRE# 20893 S2)

Course Schedule - Summer 2017 (Note: Course Syllabus is a separate document)

Instructor: Professor Thomas S. Benjamin, RLA, LEED-AP

Email: tsben1@eco.umass.edu

Online Office Hours *by email appointment only.*

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Week 1: July 10-12 - Course Introduction

Syllabus, Course Principles and Themes, Instructor Bio

Reading and discussion assignment: Thompson & Sorvig, Preface and Introduction

Lecture: Course Introduction - Landscape-Energy Connections

Video assignment: "Piano" video about change

Student biographies (bios) posted to course classroom site

Week 2: July 13-15 - Module 1, Part 1: Sustainable Site Design Overview, Part 1

Student Bios. Maintaining and enhancing site health through good design.

Reading and discussion assignment: Thompson & Sorvig, Principle I: Keep Healthy Sites Healthy

Review Student Briefing Potential Topics list provided by Instructor.

Visualization Exercise covered in lecture due as part of weekly discussion assignment.

Week 3: July 16-18 - Module 1, Part 2: Sustainable Site Design Overview, Part 2

What is Landscape Design? Conventional versus Sustainable Landscape Design. Maintenance based design. LEED and the Sustainable Sites Initiative.

Reading and discussion assignment: Thompson & Sorvig, Principle 2: Heal Injured Sites and Principle 10: Maintain to Sustain

Video assignment: The Willow School – Integrated Design Case

Sustainable Sites Initiative Presentation (PDF)

Week 4: July 19-21 - Module 2: The Design Process & Graphic Communication

Introduction to the Design Process: Observation, Site Analysis and the Design Stages. Graphic communication techniques for site design and planning.

Reading and discussion assignments: Thompson & Sorvig, Principle 4: Respect the Waters of Life; Brown & Gillespie, Introduction and Chapter 1.

Student Briefing Assignment topics and one page description due Friday, July 21st.

Week 5: July 22-24 - Module 3: Natural Factors in Landscape Design

Introduction to natural factors in landscape design: Geology, Soils, Hydrology, Topography, Microclimate and Vegetation

Reading and discussion assignment: Thompson & Sorvig, Principle 5: Pave Less; Brown & Gillespie, Chapters 2 & 3.

Video Assignment: Site visit to urban permaculture garden of Jonathan Bates and Eric Toensmeier, Holyoke, MA.

Week 6: July 25-27 - Module 4: Human Factors in Landscape Design

Human Factors in Landscape Design: History, Use, Location, Scale, Program and Budget. Topographical Design and Water Management – Earthwork/Grading & Drainage, Watersheds and Wetlands, Stormwater and Low Impact Design (LID) Features

Reading and discussion assignment: Thompson & Sorvig, Principle 3: Favor Living, Flexible Materials; and Brown & Gillespie, Chapter 4, 5 & 6.

Video assignment: Retrofitting Suburbia

Quiz #1 – to be submitted by Thursday, July 27th, 11:59 PM EST

Week 7: July 28-30 - Module 5: Permaculture Design & Prepare Student Briefings

Introduction to permaculture and regenerative design approaches.

Reading and discussion assignment: Thompson & Sorvig, Principle 6: Consider Origin and Fate of Materials.

Reading assignment – New York Times Article: “When Less Was More.”

Video Assignment: Site visit to UMass Franklin Commons permaculture garden, and interview with Ryan Harb.

Prepare Student Briefings for discussion next week. ***Briefings due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, July 30th.***

Week 8: July 31-August 2 - Module 6: Review and Discuss Student Briefings

Student comments on Briefings due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, August 2nd.

Week 9: August 3-5 - Module 7, Part 1: Vegetation, Microclimate & Planting Design -Part 1

Planting design, landscape plants and plant communities, and introduction to microclimate-conscious landscape design.

Reading and discussion assignments: Thompson & Sorvig, Principle 7: Know the Costs of Energy over Time; Brown & Gillespie, Chapters 7 & 8.

Week 10: August 6-7 - Module 7, Part 2: Vegetation, Microclimate & Planting Design-Part 2

Planting Design, continued. Green roofs and green walls – integrating buildings and vegetation. Invasive species management.

Reading Assignment: Thompson & Sorvig, Conclusions and Beginnings; Brown & Gillespie, Chapter 9.

Final Project topics and one page description due Monday, August 7th. Site photos and graphic concepts for design projects encouraged!

Week 11: August 8-10 - Module 8, Part 1: Community Aspects of Design and Planning

Transition Towns approaches for community preparedness.

Video assignment: Tina Clarke, Planning Consultant/Trainer: Transition Towns

Reading assignment: *To be announced*

Work on final presentations due Tuesday, August 15th!

Week 12: August 11-13 - Module 8, Part 2: Post-Industrial Landscapes

Post- industrial Landscapes.

Video/Reading assignment: New York Times Article, "River of Hope in the Bronx"

Week 13: August 14-15 - Module 9: Final Student Projects

Final Student Projects/Presentations – **10 mins each. Final Projects Due 11:59 PM EST, Tuesday, August 15th.**

Discussion assignment: Comment on student presentations individually.

Week 14: August 16-18 - Module 9, Completion: Discussion on Final Student Projects

Discussion Assignment: **Final comments on all student presentations and the overall course due by 11:59 PM EST on Thursday, August 17th.** Course wrap-up. Course Evaluations due Friday, August 18th.