



Land Acknowledgement: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-teachings/territorial-land-acknowledgement>

Course Number: DSGN 331

Course Name: Introduction to Landscape Ecology

Section Number: L01 and L02

Classroom:

Mondays: [REDACTED] (L01), [REDACTED] (L02)

Wednesdays: [REDACTED]

Instructor: Krista Renwick

- Email: krista.renwick@ucalgary.ca
- Office Hours and Location: Fridays from 1:00 – 3:00PM via virtual meeting link or by appointment (exclusions: Sept 12th and 26th, Oct 17th)
[REDACTED]
- Instructor Email Policy: Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via students' @ucalgary emails within 48 hours excluding weekends and statutory holidays.

Teaching Assistants:

- Harman Brar, Email: harman.brar@ucalgary.ca
- Ruihong Chen, Email: ruihong.chen1@ucalgary.ca
- Fengxia Ning, Email: fengxia.ning@ucalgary.ca
- Mike Spennrath, Email: mike.spennrath@ucalgary.ca

Class Dates: Mandatory in-person: e.g., Mondays and Wednesdays, September 3 – December 3

- Monday
 - Section 1 (L01): 9:30 am – 10:45 am
 - Section 2 (L02): 11:00 am – 12:15 pm
- Wednesday
 - Sections 1+2: 9:30 am – 10:45 am

Course Description:

- This course introduces students to the principles of landscape ecology, focusing on the Calgary region's unique flora, urban fauna, and ecological interactions. Emphasizing the importance of community through ecology, students will explore landscape ecology's relevance at multiple scales and its application in design. The course also covers plant taxonomy, identification of common regional species, planting design principles, and the impact of human activity on ecological systems.
- Academic Calendar description: [DSGN331 Course | UCalgary Calendar](#)
- Course Hours: 3 units; (3-0)

Requisites: See [Section 3.3.5](#) of the Academic Calendar for more information regarding School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape courses.

- Prerequisite(s): DSGN 231 and admission to the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation program
- Corequisite(s): none

Course Delivery:

- In-person Delivery

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will know and be able to:

1. Understand key concepts and principles of landscape ecology.
2. Identify and categorize common plants (trees and shrubs) in the Calgary region.
3. Analyze the spatial dynamics of plant and animal communities at various scales.
4. Evaluate the impact of urban development and human activities on local ecosystems.
5. Apply landscape ecology knowledge and planting design principles to inform design decisions.

Learning Resources:

- Required readings, textbooks, and learning materials:
 - Schlanger, Zoë. *The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth*. New York. HarperCollins Publishers. 2024.
 - Physical/digital text or audio book are permitted.
- Other resources; this list supplementary readings support or expand on the material presented in class that students may find helpful, however, these are not mandatory for succeeding in this course.
 - Beck, Travis. 2013. *Principles of Ecological Design*. Washington DC: Island Press.
 - Carson, Rachel. 2002 [1962]. *Silent Spring*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
 - Dramstad, Wenche E., James D. Olson and Richard T. T. Forman. 1996. *Landscape Ecology Principles in Landscape Architecture and Land-Use Planning*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

- Kennan, Kate and Niall Kirkwood. 2015. *Phyto*. New York: Routledge.
- Kimmerer, Robin Wall. 2013. *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions.
- McHarg, Ian. 1969. *Design with Nature*. New York: Natural History Press.
- Orff, Kate. 2016. *Toward an Urban Ecology*. New York, New York: The Monacelli Press.
- Rainer, Thomas, and Claudia West. 2016. *Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes*. Portland, Oregon Timber Press.
- Technology requirements:
 - n/a
- BDCI Makerspace Training Requirement:
 - If a course requires the use of the BDCI Makerspace, students must complete all relevant online University of Calgary safety courses and the online Trajectory Safety training course to be granted access to the BDCI Makerspace.

Special Budgetary Requirements:

n/a

Additional Classroom Conduct and Related Information:

- **Code of Conduct:** The SAPL Studio spaces and other SAPL/University-provided facilities and equipment are governed by the [University's Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#). Professional and courteous behavior is expected at all times. For more information, please refer to [Appendix 1: Prohibited Conduct](#), including the following categories: 1. Protection of Individuals; 2. Protection of Property; 3. Protection of University Functions, Activities and Services; 4. False Information and Identification; 5. Possession or Use of Dangerous Objects, Drugs or Alcohol; 6. Aiding in the Commission of an Offence; 7. Contravention of Other Laws and University Policies; and 8. Failure to Comply with a Sanction.

Assessment Components:

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the Academic Calendar. In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
Quiz 1	Assignment 1a	10%	1, 3, 4
Quiz 2	Assignment 1b	10%	1, 3, 4
Group Project	Assignment 2	25%	2, 4
Individual Project	Assignment 3	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Group Project	Assignment 4	15%	4, 5

- Assessment and Evaluation Information:
 - If a student misses (or is late for) a required component of the course for a valid excuse or absence, they must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss applicable options to submit and/or make-up for that component.
 - Alternate arrangements for missed in-person assessments with a valid excuse will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Instructor and upon review of the student's class participation and attendance record.
 - For assessments submitted online (e.g., D2L), all late assignments will lose a letter grade (e.g., A- to B-) every 24 hours after the submission date/time. Late assignments submitted more than four days late constitute an automatic zero (0).
 - Missed in-person assessments (e.g., oral presentation, exam, etc.) as a result of an *unexcused* absence will receive an automatic zero (0).
- Attendance and Participation Expectations:
 - Students are expected to attend and come prepared to meaningfully engage in all class sessions. This includes producing or preparing content necessary for discussion and contributing to individual and class-wide discussions and/or conversations/assessments with the Course Instructor.
 - **Excused Absences:** In the event of an exceptional circumstance (e.g., illness, bereavement, etc.) or an exceptional opportunity (e.g., varsity athletic competition, national conference or awards ceremony, pow wow, etc.) up to four excused absences (for courses that meet twice or more per week) and up to two excused absences (for courses that meet once per week) are allowable per semester before jeopardizing one's own course grade and ability to pass the course. However, any such arrangements must be approved by the Instructor with advance notice by the student.
 - **Unexcused Absences:** Attendance at all class sessions and participation in all assessments is mandatory. Unexcused absences in excess of two per semester (for courses that meet twice per week) and one per semester (for courses that meet once per week) are grounds for failure in the course.
 - **Total Number of Absences:** The combined total number of excused AND unexcused absences per semester cannot exceed four per semester (for courses that meet twice per week) or two per semester (for courses that meet once per week). Any number in excess are grounds for failure in the course.
- Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:
 - All assignments (e.g., projects, papers, presentations, etc.) must be turned in on time.
 - Please submit all assignments electronically through Dropbox in D2L (unless otherwise stated in the assignment brief). Assignments may be submitted in PDF format (unless otherwise stated). Assignments should have a file name as follows: "Lastname-Firstname_coursenumber-semester_assignment-title" (e.g., Smith-Alex_DSGN331-F25_Assignment1). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

- Students are responsible for ensuring that all submitted digital files are in the correct format, complete, and accessible. Submissions that are corrupt, empty, incorrect (e.g., wrong file type), or inaccessible may receive a grade of zero. It is not the Instructor's responsibility to verify or notify students of submission errors. Students are encouraged to double-check their uploads and retain confirmation of successful submission.
- **Late Assignments:** Please see above for the course's policy on late assignments/assessments.
- **Final Examinations:**
 - "This course has no final examination."
- **Expectations for Writing:**
 - Please see the "Copyright and Legislation" Section of the University of Calgary Policies and Supports for information on the use of AI in this course.
 - Section E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum:
<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/2c2d1ce47b8c4d008aec9cc3da49876e>
- Criteria that must be met to pass: Each component of the course must be completed, and a passing grade of 55% achieved, to pass the course as a whole.

Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade):

As per [Section 3.5.1](#) of the Academic Calendar, the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School, with the exception of the following courses:

- Architecture 201
- Landscape Architecture 201
- Planning 201

Grading Scale:

Based on [Section F.1.1](#) of the Academic Calendar

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Good performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Approaching good performance

C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	Approaching satisfactory performance. Minimum grade requirement for SAPL prerequisite courses.
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Topic Areas and Detailed Class Schedule:

Course Schedule Date	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessments and Due Dates 9:30 am unless otherwise noted
Tuesday, September 2	First day of classes		
Sep 3	Introduction to Landscape Ecology		A1 Introduction
Sep 8	Characteristics and Plant Appearance		A2 Introduction
Sep 10	Characteristics and Plant appearance		
Sep 15	Assignment 1a	In class reflection	A1a due end of class
Sep 17	Taxonomy and Plant ID: common plants		
Sep 22	Assignment 1b	In class reflection	A1b due end of class
Sep 24	Understanding Landscape Structure		A3 Introduction
Tuesday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, University closed		
Oct 1	Understanding Landscape Structure pt.2		

Oct 6	Plant populations and communities		A2 due
Oct 8	Eco-revelatory design	Assigned reading – complete prior to class	
Monday, October 13	Thanksgiving Day, University closed		
Oct 15	Assignment 3 discussion		A3 check-in (in class)
Oct 20	Planting Design	Assigned reading – complete prior to class	A4 Introduction
Oct 22	Planting Design	Guest lecture	
Oct 27+29	Disturbance and Succession		
Nov 3+5	Wildlife Ecology and Habitat		
Nov 7	Assignment 3		A3 due 11:59pm
Nov 9-15	Term Break, no classes		
Nov 17	Landscape Ecology Applied: Ecological Restoration and Conservation		
Nov 19	Landscape Ecology Applied: Stewardship over time		
Nov 24-26	Assignment 4	Class presentations	A4 due
Dec 1-4	Assignment 4	Class presentations	
Friday, December 5	Last day of classes		
Tuesday, December 9	Start of exams		
Friday, December 19	End of exams		

Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

There are no scheduled out-of-class activities for this course.

University of Calgary Policies and Supports:

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY COVID-19 UPDATES AND PROCEDURES

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response/covidsafe-campus>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

[Student Accessibility Services](#) will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures please visit:

- Student Academic Misconduct Policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>
- Student Academic Misconduct Procedure: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>).

Notice to Students Regarding Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications and Tools in Learning Environments

- **Some Use Permitted:** Students may use generative AI tools in this course in accordance with the instructions and guidelines outlined for each course assignment or assessment. The use of generative AI tools must be referenced and cited following citation instructions outlined by the course instructor. Use of generative AI outside assessment or assignment guidelines or without citation will constitute academic misconduct. It is the student's responsibility to be clear on the limitations on the use of generative AI tools for each assessment or assessment, on the expectations for citation and referencing, and on fact checking statements created by generative AI tools. If you are in doubt as to the use of generative AI tools in this course, please discuss your situation with the course instructor.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

The University of Calgary (University) respects your privacy and is committed to ensuring the privacy of all students, staff, and community members. UCalgary's collection, use, and disclosure of your personal information is authorized under section 4(c) of the Alberta [Protection of Privacy Act](#) (POPA). It will be collected, used and disclosed as permitted under POPA and in accordance with the University's [Privacy Policy](#) and [Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Student Personal Information](#). All student assignments and personal information provided to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. It will not be disclosed to anyone else without your permission unless permitted under POPA.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual and/or gender-based violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual/gender-based violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual/gender-based violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE

If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/university-regulations/reappraisal-term-work>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk