

LA 328 Spring Plants

Kelly Densmore

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**TIME: 2 sections offered: Mondays, Wednesdays 11:00am - 12:50pm CRN 32610
or 1:00pm - 2:50pm CRN 36074**

LOCATION: Lawrence Hall rm 231 / OUTSIDE WALKING MOST DAYS!!

CREDITS: 4

INSTRUCTOR: Kelly Densmore

office hours by appointment, location TBA email: kellyd@uoregon.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Spring plants seminar is a plant identification course focusing on flowering plants, their identification and design use, and the ecosystem services they provide. It is open to all majors. We will spend **most classes walking around outside** identifying plants on campus and in surrounding neighborhoods. Plant identification focuses on flowering trees and shrubs, groundcovers, and perennials, with the intention of exploring how flowering plants may be used in design to support both human needs and ecosystem functions. Sketchbook/Journal assignments will help students learn to identify plants via flower morphology and practice a series of short planting design investigations. Plant identification tests will be held outside. Please be prepared for plant walks rain or shine.

Field Trips will introduce students to different design scales with the underlying theme of designing climate resilient landscapes with eco system services in mind. Field trip sites may include a residential tour, a community garden, and a native plant restoration site.

The four categories of ecosystem services are:

- Supporting services - such as soil formation and nutrient cycling;
- Provisioning services - including the food, fuel, fiber, and medicines we collect from natural and managed ecosystems;
- Regulating services - stormwater management and climate regulation, carbon sequestration, and pollination;
- Cultural services - the beauty of the outdoors and the recreational, therapeutic, educational and spiritual roles of plants in human quality of life.

The final project will be a fully developed planting plan practicing one of the themes we have covered in class. Themes include but are not limited to stormwater gardens, phytoremediation, pollinator gardens, green roofs, color-based design, perennial edibles, climate resilience or restoration.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course with a satisfactory grade, students will be able to:

- correctly identify and memorize names of around 50-100 plants
- understand how flowers and fruit help distinguish plant families
- apply basic color theory to planting designs
- evaluate plant combinations and correct poor combinations
- design a space that celebrates/enhances/explores one or more of the ecosystems services categories