

## **Syllabus: Residential Landscape Design (On-line course)**

**ORH4932 (27537) Fall 2025**

Instructor: Gail Hansen, PhD

Office hours: Thursdays (zoom class session) or by request for an alternate day or time

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### **Course Description**

#### **LDE 3410C- Credits 3, Prerequisite: none**

Basics of residential landscape design including the art and science of design and developing landscape plans. Emphasizes the use of ornamental plants and outdoor spaces for functional and aesthetic improvement of home environments.

### **Course Structure**

Zoom meetings on Thursdays, 4pm to 5pm (time may be revised by consensus after first class meeting)

All reading lessons, exercise worksheets, handouts, and project instructions will be available in canvas.

### **Course Format**

Four areas of instruction include:

- **Design Concepts-** Art and science of design, Plant characteristics, Plant selection, Form and pattern in hardscape, Composition, Color theory, Inspiration, Elements and principles, Design trends, Styles and themes
- **Development Concepts-** Design process, Inventory and analysis, User Interview, Plant palettes, Conceptual plans, Composition with plants and drawing a planting plan
- **Cultural and social Concepts-** Landscape preferences and perceptions, Novel landscapes
- **Graphics and Presentation-** Graphic Symbols, Rendering, Plan Labels, Plant Materials Schedule

### **Goals and Objectives**

**Course Goal:** To develop a functional and aesthetic landscape for a residence using the design process and elements and principles of design.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:** by the end of the semester students should be able to:

- Describe plant characteristics and list functional use of plants
- Describe basic concepts of color theory and the aesthetic use of plant material
- Identify appropriate plant materials for residential design in Florida
- Understand the concepts of landscape preferences and perceptions
- Describe design themes and styles and identify examples in landscape images
- Use a site inventory and analysis to develop a design
- Identify and describe the characteristics of a design theme/style and apply to design project
- Show evidence of design understanding by using form and spatial composition
- Develop a planting plan based on the Florida-Friendly principle of right plant-right place
- Develop graphic plans for planting designs, including symbols, labels, and a plant schedule

### **Evaluation**

Students are evaluated on exercise worksheets and design projects:

- **Readings and Exercise worksheets-** students are expected to read each of the Lessons and complete the worksheet, plus the tutorial assignment. The worksheet and assignment will be uploaded in canvas each week
- **Landscape Plans Site #1 and Site #2-** students will draw a fully rendered landscape plan and materials schedule (spreadsheet). The site base map, photos of the site, a description of the project site and design requirements will be provided in canvas. Students may be allowed to choose their own site for Landscape Plan #2 if they can provide all the required documents.

The primary reason for deduction of points is incomplete assignments- make sure that all assignments are complete before submitting.

### **Grading Policy**

Students are responsible for keeping track of their scores on assignments and monitoring their progress. Concerns and/or questions about scores should be discussed with instructor immediately, **do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss grade questions**. No extra-credit assignments will be given to rectify low or missing grades. See link below for UF grading policies.

<b><i>Assignments</i></b>	<b><i>Total Points</i></b>	<b><i>Percentage of Final Grade</i></b>
Readings and Exercise worksheets	100 points total	25%
Tutorial assignments	100 points total	25%
Landscape Plan Site #1	100 points total	25%
Landscape Plan Site #2	100 points total	25%

### **Grading Policy**

<b><i>Percent</i></b>	<b><i>Grade</i></b>	<b><i>Point Scale</i></b>	<b><i>Grade Points</i></b>	<b><i>Percent</i></b>	<b><i>Grade</i></b>	<b><i>Point Scale</i></b>	<b><i>Grade Points</i></b>
90.0 - 100.0	A	360-400	4.00	69.0 - 71.9	C-	276-287.6	1.67
87.0 - 89.9	A-	348-359.6	3.67	66.0 - 68.9	D+	264-275.6	1.33
84.0 - 86.9	B+	336-347.6	3.33	63.0 - 65.9	D	252-263.6	1.00
81.0 - 83.9	B	324-335.6	3.00	60.0 - 62.9	D-	240-251.6	0.67
78.0 - 80.9	B-	312-323.6	2.67	0 - 59.9	E	0-239.6	0.00
75.0 - 79.9	C+	300-319.6	2.33				
72.0 - 74.9	C	288-299.6	2.00				

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)  
[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

### **Student Responsibilities**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to be present at all scheduled zoom meetings and must inform instructor by email prior to class if they will miss a class (emergency situations are an exception to this policy). One un-excused absence is allowed; every absence thereafter that is not pre-arranged with the instructor will result in a grade penalty unless a true emergency prevented attendance. Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

### **Assignments**

Students are expected to complete and upload all assignments by the due date. Students must have permission from instructor to turn in assignments at a later due date. See attached semester schedule for topics and dates of assignments.

### **Required References and Materials**

Required textbook: None. All reading materials will be supplied. Students are required to purchase a few drawing tools for creating the landscape plans. A detailed materials list is included on the semester schedule. Materials include pencils, circle templates, an engineer's scale and paper for making copies of base maps. Students will need a printer that prints 8.5 x 11" sheets and has a scanning function to scan and save completed landscape plans as pdf files to be uploaded.

### **Student Fees**

Lab fees are assessed for this course. Fees are used to make copies of base maps for uploading in canvas.

## **Course Evaluation Process**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **UF Policies**

### ***University Honesty Policy***

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### ***In-Class Recording***

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### ***Students Requiring Accommodations***

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### ***Course Evaluation***

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing [online evaluations](#). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students on the [Gator Evals page](#).

### ***Software Use***

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as

appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### ***Student Privacy***

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

### ***Campus Resources:***

#### **Health and Wellness**

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

*GatorWell Health Promotion Services:* For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

#### **Academic Resources**

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

## Lesson and Project Schedule for ORH4932 Residential Landscape Design (Projects on Page 2)

Lessons & Exercises for Weeks 1 through 6 O-Zoom = Optional Zoom meeting.						
Week	Dates and Zoom meetings	Topics	Lessons (Reading assignment) Lessons 1 to 6- Design knowledge Process 1 to 6- Design steps and skills	Exercise (Powerpoint activity) <b>Upload ppt. no later than 6pm on due date in canvas</b>	Short Tutorial with activity sheet <b>Upload tutorial no later than 6pm on due date in canvas</b>	Due
Intro	8/21	Residential Design	Introduction to the Landscape design course	None	Your goals- what do you want to learn from this class	08/26
1	8/25 to 8/29	Florida Landscapes	Lesson 1- Florida Landscapes- Challenges and Changes	Art & Science for Florida Landscapes	Shopping for supplies (nothing due for this activity)	none
	Thurs- 8/28 O-Zoom	Aesthetic Characteristics of Plants	Lesson 2- Aesthetics Characteristics of plants- Texture & Form	Aesthetic Characteristics- types of texture & form	Ideal landscape- photos and description	09/02
2	9/1 to 9/5	Design Principles & Function	Lesson 3- Landscape Design Principles and Functional Design	Principle Design and Functional Design	Start plant list (spreadsheet)	none
	Thurs- 9/4 O-Zoom	Color Theory	Lesson 4- Color theory for Landscape Design	Color Theory: Themes and Combinations	Preferred color schemes- photos and description	09/09
3	9/8 to 9/12	Form & Pattern	Lesson 5- Using Form & Pattern in the Landscape	Geometric and Naturalistic Forms	Preferred hardscape materials	09/11
	Thurs- 9/11 O-Zoom	Themes, Styles and Trends	Lesson 6- Design Themes, Styles and Trends	Identifying Themes and Styles	Preferred styles and themes	09/16
4	9/15 to 9/19	Client Meetings and Documents	Process 1- Client Interview, Site Inventory & Analysis	Documenting the Site: Inventory and Analysis	Program Development- list of activities	09/18
	Thurs- 09/18 O-Zoom	Preferences and Norms	Process 2- Landscape Preferences and social Norms	Preferences and Social Norms	Social norms in your neighborhood- photos and description	09/23
5	9/22 to 9/26	Plant Palettes	Process 3- Building a Plant Palette	Plant Selection	Plant Selection- L.A.B. Data sheet	09/25
	Thurs- 09/25 O-Zoom	Concept Plan	Process 4- Developing a Conceptual Plan	Exploring spatial organization with concept plans	3 concept plans for one site	09/30
6	9/29 to 10/3	Composition	Process 5- Plant composition	Process Step 5- Arranging Plants	Drawing Plan symbols	10/02
	Thurs- 10/02 O-Zoom	Drawing the Plan	Process 6- Drawing the Planting Plan	Process Step 6- Drawing the Planting Plan	Master Plant Schedule	10/07

Naming convention for all uploads: : *Last name\_Lesson #(or Process#)\_Due Date*. Example: Hansen L6 0916 and Hansen P2 0923

1. Powerpoint exercises- save and upload Powerpoint exercises as a Powerpoint, not a pdf. This is so I can make comments on the slides
2. Tutorial activities- download the word document (or spreadsheet) of the tutorial activity and complete the activity described on the sheet. Save as a word document (not a pdf) and upload.
3. Some tutorial activity sheets will need to be printed to complete the activity. Follow the directions on the sheet for saving and uploading.

Project #1 North Florida Residence Required zoom meetings on Thursdays only				
Week	Dates and Zoom meetings	Completed for the Thursday zoom meeting	Tasks to work on during the week	
7	10/6 to 10/10 Thurs- 10/9 R-Zoom	Introduction to project site and client needs. Review grade sheet and due dates (no items due this meeting)	Select a design theme or style, decide on a form for hardscape elements, and develop a rough concept plan. <b>Upload drawing as a pdf in canvas</b>	Final Deliverables: Planting plan w/Labels Plant Schedule Project Description  <b>Wednesday, November 5, 2025- Final project due. Upload finished plan in canvas no later than 6pm</b>
8	10/13 to 10/17 Thurs- 10/16 R-Zoom	Discussion and feedback on how to refine the concept and any revisions to hardscape layout.	Final hardscape, preliminary plant list, plant bedlines and plant layout bubbles <b>Upload drawing as a pdf in Canvas</b>	
9	10/20 to 10/24 Thurs- 10/23 R- Zoom	Discussion and feedback on preliminary plant list and plant layout bubbles	Plant arrangement- Preliminary plant symbols (circles) with labels <b>Upload drawing as a pdf in Canvas</b>	
10	10/27 to 10/31 Thurs- 10/30 R-Zoom	Discussion on plant arrangement and labels	Draw final plan with plant symbols, label all plants, complete the Plant schedule spreadsheet, and write project description (half page)	
11	11/3 to 11/7	Wednesday, 11/05- Final project due. (Project #2 begins Thursday 11/06)	<b>Upload drawing, schedule and description as a pdf in Canvas</b>	

Project #2 Anywhere Florida Residence Required zoom meetings on Thursdays only				
Week	Dates and Zoom meetings	Completed for the Thursday zoom meeting	Tasks to work on during the week	
11	Thurs- 11/6 R-Zoom	Introduction to project site and client needs. Review grade sheet and due dates (no items due this meeting)	Select a design theme or style, decide on a form for hardscape elements, and develop a rough concept plan. <b>Upload drawing as a pdf in canvas</b>	Final Deliverables: Planting plan w/Labels Plant Schedule Project Description  <b>Wednesday, December 3, 2025- Final project due. Upload finished plan in canvas no later than 6pm</b>
12	11/10 to 11/14 Thurs- 11/13 R-Zoom	Discussion and feedback on how to refine the concept and any revisions to hardscape layout.	Final hardscape, preliminary plant list, plant bedlines, and plant layout bubbles <b>Upload drawing as a pdf in Canvas</b>	
13	11/17 to 11/21 Thurs- 11/20 R- Zoom	Discussion and feedback on preliminary plant list and plant layout bubbles	Plant arrangement- Preliminary plant symbols (circles) with labels <b>Upload drawing as a pdf in Canvas</b>	
14	11/24 to 11/28 Thurs- 11/27	Thanksgiving week. Optional	Draw final plan with plant symbols, label all plants, complete the Plant schedule spreadsheet, and write project description (half page)	
15	12/1 to 12/3	Wednesday 12/3 - Final project due.	<b>Upload drawing, schedule and description as a pdf in Canvas</b>	