

**ARCH 599 Urban Plant Ecology 4 units**

**Tuesdays 2:00pm-5:00pm, fall semester**

**Course Purpose:**

This course is primarily intended for upper division and graduate students in the School of Architecture who wish to develop an understanding of the relation between plant species and urban ecological conditions. The primary focus is on native, non-native, and adapted species and communities, appreciation of the character of plant types and their relation to urban ecological well-being, and the relation of plants to cultural preferences and symbolic meaning.

The class includes lectures, field trips, and case studies.

**Pre-requisites:**

Upper division or graduate standing in the School of Architecture; non-majors require instructor's approval.

**Grading:**

Two quizzes, 20% each

Plants notebook, 20%

Field Case Study, 20%

Final Exam, 30%

Class Participation, 10% (includes critical responses to the required readings, readiness to engage in classroom discussions and organized debates, and positive contributions to group exercises)

Each unexcused absence from a class or field trip will result in a reduction of 5% of the earned final grade.

**Bibliography:**

Berger, John J., ed., Environmental Restoration: Science and Strategies for Restoring the Environment

Bradshaw, Anthony, et.al. Trees in the Urban Landscape: Principles and Practice

Miller, Robert W., Urban Forestry: Planning and Managing Urban Greenspaces

Perry, Bob, Landscape Plants for Western regions: An Illustrated Guide to Plants for Water Conservation

Robinette, G., Plants, People and Environmental Quality

Sunset Western Garden Book, latest edition

**Statement for Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

## **SYLLABUS**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>FOCUS</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>
1	Plants, Environment, & Culture	
2	Plant Origins and Migration: native, non-native, and adapted	
3	Plant Types	
4	Plant Qualities	
5	Urban Eco-zones: topography, hydrology, soils, wind and sun	
6	Plant Ecology: hardiness, adaptability, interdependence	Quiz One
7	Plant Ecology: hazard management, wind, light and water interaction	
8	Growth and Form, Maturity and Succession	
9	Urban Forestry	
10	Urban Agriculture	
11	The Public Realm: Streets	
12	The Public Realm: Parks and Open Space	Quiz Two
13	The Private Garden	
14	Seasonal Delights	Case-Studies Due
15	Case-Study Presentations	