This course is an introduction to the history, theory, and practice of creating gardens in harmony with the local ecology that express aesthetic and cultural values of individuals and societies. Group discussions and on-line presentations and reading material will introduce the concept of creating gardens that relate to place. Throughout the course we will explore the idea that gardens become sustainable and memorable when they express an aesthetic unique to place and that local ecology is taken to mean the connections between earth, mind, body, and spirit of the inhabitants of place.

Course work will include fieldtrips to built-works that reflect local ecology and regional aesthetics. Fieldtrip exercises will facilitate observation and study of the environmental aspects of place as they relate to design form and expression. Natural landscapes will be analyzed and interpreted to understand the traditional visual elements and principles of art and design.

**Pre Requisites**

There is no prerequisite for this course. The course is open to students that have an interest in the aesthetics of garden design developed as a process informed by a native plant pallet and the selection of local materials. The course is intended for students with or without any experience in plant identification or landscape design.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Determine the garden elements and construction materials appropriate to a historic, cultural, and environmental site context.
- Understand the theory of natural planting design, specifically the selection and arrangement of plants using the basic principles of design composition and the fundamentals of sound ecology and horticultural practice.
- Translate the principles of art and design to plant material selection and spatial placement.
- Understand the community aspects of the acequia system in Northern New Mexico as it relates to the historic influence on garden design.

**Course Format and Organization**

This is a 2 week summer session course with required pre-reading and discussion with follow-up reflection paper and journal submission for exhibit design.
Part 1—Pre course meeting, reading, and online D2L discussion.

Part 2—2 weeks in Taos
Taos provides a rich landscape for studying historic and contemporary vernacular design. Fieldtrip journal/reflections assignments that explore natural and built works, public, and private gardens, natural resources, history, and the societal culture of the local and regional environment. Discussion in the first part of the course will prepare students for field trip experiences. A series of written journal/reflection assignments will serve to document the experience. Journal reflection entries will be a minimum of 1 written page and 1 graphic page each. Field sketching, journaling, and analysis will demonstrate examples of native plant and landscape signatures. Exercises, discussion, and field trips will demonstrate the variety and richness that can be achieved to reflect regional character in this region of scarce water.

We will coordinate carpooling for all fieldtrips. You are required to maintaining a daily journal in which you complete field trips exercises focused on experience and reflection. The series of written and graphic exercise will serve to document this unique experience.

FIELD TRIPS
High Road to Taos and Chimayo Sanctuary
Acequia Madre system
Wheel Lake Plant Signature Hike
Carson National Forest Signature Hike
Local Organic Farm
Earthships
Taos Pueblo
Taos Museum Pass
Santa Fe Nursery-Plants of the Southwest
Santa Fe Botanical Garden
Santa Fe Rail Yard

Part 3—Gallery Exhibit
Immediately upon return from Taos we will hang an exhibit that documents the learning experience of time spent in Taos consisting of photographs, journal assignments and reflections.

Teaching Philosophy
Goals—what I hope to achieve:
- Provide a framework for student experience where each can express curiosity, explore ideas, and learn from each other.
- Present material that enables students to develop an ability to integrate information and apply critical thinking to the development of natural garden design.
- Provide students with the experience of participation in activities where they learn the aspects of the shared environmental culture of the Taos community. This will allow each to gain confidence for participating in the interdisciplinary professional practice that produces aesthetic and meaningful garden design.

Reading
There is no text required for this course; rather, a collection of readings associated with our schedule will be available on D2L. I will also make available a binder of all articles that you may share. All reading is
required. Students are expected to complete readings simultaneously to assigned exercises as they directly relate to the current problem.

**Attendance and Course Requirements**
We will meet and work together for a 5 hour session with daily pin-up, critique, discussion. Attendance is mandatory and you must consult with me prior to an absence to receive an excused absence. In order to successfully complete this course, participation in exercises, fieldtrips, class discussions, and activities is expected. Outside of scheduled class time you are expected to complete reading assignments, and reflection activities.

**Performance Evaluation**
Course grades will be based on a total of 100 points. A scale will be used to determine final course grades. Each assignment is accompanied by a problem statement outlining specific requirements.

All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in this course.

- 20% Reading talking points: a short summary, reflection, or question formation for each reading.
- 10% Day One Walking Tour Observation Exercise
- 40% Course Journal: a series of written and graphic reflections for each field trip and activity. *Journal reflection entries will be a minimum of 1 written page and 1 graphic page per assignment.*
- 20% Post Trip Written Reflection from selected readings and questions
- 10% Post Trip Exhibit Design and Installation

**Materials and Supplies**
- 1 bound course journal, minimum size 6” x 9”. Lined or unlined, pencils/pens.
- Digital camera

**Drawing Retention**
Representative samples of student projects will be selected and retained for program records. Your work thereby becomes property of the program. The work will be made available to you in order to make digital copies.

**Academic Integrity**
Students are expected to follow the university policy regarding academic integrity as described in your course catalog. See also supplemental OSU syllabus attachment.

**Bibliography**

Clark. *Water in New Mexico*, University of New Mexico Press; 1 edition July 1, 1987


Rivera, José A. *Acequia Culture: Water, Land, and Community in the Southwest*, University of New Mexico Press, 1998.


