

**Faculty of Science Course Syllabus  
Department of Biology**

**PLANTS IN THE HUMAN LANDSCAPE (BIOL 3225/ENVS 3225)  
Winter 2021**

**Instructor:** Rajesh Rajaselvam      Email: [Rajesh.Rajaselvam@Dal.Ca](mailto:Rajesh.Rajaselvam@Dal.Ca)      Office: LSC 3082

Office Hours: Tuesday/Friday 13:30 – 14:30 pm, Thursday by appointments

**Lectures:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday 09:35 – 10:25 hrs (Synchronous)

**Tutorials:** 6 tutorials (80 min/tutorial)  
Friday 11:35 – 12:55 pm (Synchronous)

*\*Delivery of lectures & tutorials: Synchronous via Collaborate Ultra on Brightspace*

---

### **Course Description**

The use of plants for human recreation and aesthetic purposes in gardens, public parks, suburban and urban landscapes. Topics include: history of gardens, garden design, identification, uses, and horticultural requirements of plants, soil and nutrients, plant materials, edible and medicinal plants in landscaping and plants and human health. The course includes interactive seminars and a landscape design group project.

### **Course Prerequisites**

BIOL 1010.03/BIOL 1020.03 (B- or higher) or BIOL 1011.03/BIOL 1021.03 (B- or higher) or DISP or PLAN 2001.03 or instructor's permission.

### **Course Textbook**

Alissa Smith & Jack Ingles, 2019. *"Landscaping principles and practices"*. 8th Edition. Nelson Education Ltd. OR

*"Plants in the human landscape"*, custom made text. Nelson Education Ltd.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Explain the importance of plants in landscaping and their different roles
- Understand soils and the importance of nutrients
- Become familiar with basic horticultural practices
- Describe and draw different landscape designs
- Understand the use of wild and medicinal plants
- Understand sustainability through landscaping

### Course Assessment

Assignment, Exam, or Presentation	Marks %	Date
Quiz 1	05	Feb 10
Mid-Term Exam	20	Feb 24
Oral Presentation (group presentation)	10	Mar 08, 10 & 12
Quiz 2	05	Mar 19
Project: Landscape Design	20	Apr 03
Lab/Seminar Reports	16	TBA
Final Exam	24	Apr 07
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

### Landscape Design Project and Oral Presentation

A professional landscape design for the given location should be submitted by the groups at the end of the course. Students/Groups are expected to do a 12 minute power point presentation on their proposed landscape design.

### Grading Scale

Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the [Dalhousie Common Grade Scale](#)

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D (50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F (<50)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)	

### Course Policies

#### **General Policies:**

Online class participation is considered vital. Detailed PPT lectures are uploaded before the lectures. No lecture recordings are uploaded (except for a few small clips), and virtual attendance in synchronous lectures to learn landscape drawing is highly encouraged. Biweekly discussion sessions are offered (mainly considering students in the time zones with at-least eight-hour difference) on request.

Tutorial/Seminar sessions are compulsory. Complete attendance of all lectures is highly recommended since it helps to improve your grade significantly. Details of the tutorials can be accessed asynchronously too.

Meeting deadlines is mandatory (due to the current health regulations/restrictions and internet-related issues, a two-week deadline is given to all landscape drawing submissions). No late submission without a valid reason is accepted for marking.

Brightspace (course web-tool) is used for lectures, tutorials, regular updates, and announcements. TAs are the first point of contact (unless for major issues) and copying the instructor on messages is highly recommended.

### ***Specific Policies:***

The policies will only be implemented when a student's absence is due to physical or mental health conditions; involvement in an accident; immediate family illness, injury, or death; or other extenuating circumstances as described in Dalhousie University's Academic Calendar Regulation: Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence (SDA)<sup>(1)</sup>. The student must notify the instructor or teaching assistant *prior* to the academic requirement deadline and must submit a completed Student Declaration of Absence form<sup>(2)</sup>. No more than **two (2)** separate Student Declaration of Absence (SDA) forms may be used per course during a single term. SDA forms are valid **only** for tutorials, mandatory lectures/presentations & quizzes.

### Quizzes

- If quiz #1 is missed for a valid and credible reason, those marks will be re-distributed to quiz #2
- If quiz #2 is missed for a valid and credible reason, those marks will be re-distributed to the final exam
- If both quizzes are missed, only one will be re-distributed

### Midterm Exam and Final Exam

- One makeup exam can be scheduled for any student(s) provided the examination was missed for a valid and credible reason (document/s may be required), the instructor or teaching assistant was notified prior to the examination start time.
- The makeup exam will be a different exam than the one given during the regularly scheduled examination time

### Tutorials

- Missing a tutorial is only acceptable in those cases where the student has notified the teaching assistant prior to the start time of the tutorial with a valid and credible reason

Altogether, **no more than three (3)** tutorials, quizzes, and exams may be missed as there will not be enough material to adequately evaluate the student on. Final landscape project completion is mandatory for this course.

<sup>(1)</sup>Academic Calendar Regulation: Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence: [https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/university\\_secretariat/Student%20Absence%20Regulation%20\(May%202018\).pdf](https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/university_secretariat/Student%20Absence%20Regulation%20(May%202018).pdf)

<sup>(2)</sup>Student Declaration of Absence Form: <https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/campuslife/Health%20and%20wellness/FINAL%20Student%20Declaration%20of%20Absence%20Form.pdf>

## Course Content

### Schedule (Tentative)

#### A. Lectures

##### Week 1:

Jan 06 - Course Introduction

Jan 08 - History of gardens/landscape

##### Week 2:

Jan 11 - Trees of Nova Scotia/ Plant database

Jan 13 - Drawing/Graphic Materials and Techniques (Chap 03 & 05)

Jan 15 - Landscape drawing I (Symbols/ Ground covers, Vines & Flower beds)

##### Week 3:

Jan 18 - Plant selection (Chap 08)

Jan 20 - The principles of design (Chap 02)

Jan 22 - Landscape drawing II (Non-plant features)

##### Week 4:

Jan 25 - Plant nutrients

Jan 27 - Plants in Horticulture/ Plant database

Jan 29 - Flowers (Chap 09)

##### Week 5:

Feb 01 - Soil I

Feb 03 - Soil II

##### Week 6:

Feb 08 - Installing landscape (Chap 18, 19 and 20)

**Feb 10 - Quiz 01.....5 marks & Midterm Review**

Feb 12 - Project introduction & Landscape drawing III (Samples)

##### Week 7: Study Break

##### Week 8:

Feb 22 - Introduction to Students' Oral Presentations

**Feb 24 - Midterm Exam .....20 Marks (@ 9:30am on Brightspace)**

Feb 26 - Landscape design (Project details) **Mandatory**

##### Week 9:

Mar 01 - Medicinal plants in landscape I

Mar 03 - Landscape design (Project preparation I) **Mandatory**

Mar 05 - Medicinal plants in landscape II & Landscape design (Project preparation II)

Week 10: Students' Presentation (Landscape design)..... 10 Marks  
Mar 08, 10 and 12

Week 11:  
Mar 15 - Students presentation (continued.)  
Mar 17 - Maintaining landscape plants (Chap 24 & 25)  
**Mar 19 – Pre-tutorial 3 & QUIZ 02 ..... 5 Marks**

Week 12:  
Mar 22 - Plant injuries (Chap 26 & 28)  
**Mar 24 - Landscape design project (Final touch/ TAs) *Mandatory***  
**Mar 26 - Pre-tutorial 4 in class/ *Mandatory***

Week 13:  
Mar 29 - Benefits of plants/ Trees and Environment  
Mar 31 – Group project submission

Week 14:  
Apr 05 – Final revision  
**Apr 07 - Final exam ..... 24 Marks (@ 9:30 on Brightspace)**

## **B. Seminar/Tutorial sessions**

*Attendance mandatory, (4 x 4) = 16 marks*

Jan 15: Assignment 1: Landscape design I (Scales and symbols/ Trees and Shrubs) **(Report required)**  
Feb 26: Assignment 2: Landscape design II (Backyard landscaping) **(Report required)**  
Mar 05: Group project information,  
Landscape Design: Landscape design (Organizing space in the landscape/ labelling)  
Mar 12: Design project (Discussion/final touch)  
Mar 19: Assignment 3: Landscape design III (Professional Landscaping) **(Report required)**  
Mar 26: Assignment 4: Landscape design IV **(Report required)**

## **University Policies and Statements**

**This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by Senate**

### **Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence**

As per Senate decision instructors may not require medical notes of students who must miss an academic requirement, **including the final exam**, for courses offered during fall or winter 2020-21 (until April 30, 2021). Information on regular policy, including the use of the Student Declaration of Absence can be found here: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html).

### **Academic Integrity**

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/academic-integrity.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

### **Accessibility**

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (Canada and Nova Scotia).

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/accessibility.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html)

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

**Code:** [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html)

### **Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect**

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness

**Statement:** <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>

### **Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory**

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre (1321 Edward St) ([elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca)).

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

### **Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)**

[https://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)

### **University Grading Practices**

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html)

## **Student Resources and Support**

### **Advising**

**General Advising** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)

**Science Program Advisors:** <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/academic-advising.html>

**Indigenous Student Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

**Black Students Advising Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)

**International Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/international-centre/current-students.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html)

**Academic supports**

**Library:** <https://libraries.dal.ca/>

**Writing Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)

**Studying for Success:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)

**Copyright Office:** <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

**Fair Dealing Guidelines** <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html>

**Other supports and services**

**Student Health & Wellness Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html)

**Student Advocacy:** <https://dsu.ca/dsas>

**Ombudsperson:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html)

**Safety**

**Biosafety:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

**Chemical Safety:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

**Radiation Safety:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

**Scent-Free Program:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Rajesh Rajaselvam  
[Rajesh.Rajaselvam@Dal.Ca](mailto:Rajesh.Rajaselvam@Dal.Ca)  
LSC 3082 (902.494.4251)