Scientific Illustration and Plant Identification
On location, detailed drawing and observation with pencil and paper

UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program

Course Syllabus
All skill levels welcome, Reg# Z6995, X494.65

Winter Quarter, 2014
Four (4) meetings

Instructor
David W. Squires, MA
Master Planner, Landscape Specialist, Project Designer

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Course Description
All skill levels, ON LOCATION, DETAILED DRAWING AND OBSERVATION WITH PENCIL AND PAPER  
Winter 2014

Course Title: Scientific Illustration and Plant Identification
ON LOCATION, DETAILED DRAWING AND OBSERVATION WITH PENCIL AND PAPER

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Class Dates, Times, and Locations

Sunday, February 9, 2014 @ San Gabriel Nursery and Florist
Saturday, February 15, 2014 @ T.B.D.
Sunday, February 23, 2014 @ Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden
Sunday, March 2, 2014 @ Valley Crest Tree Company – Specimen Yard

Prerequisites: None, all skill levels welcome
Knowledge Objective(s):

- Improved skills of observation and seeing; Learn to focus - awareness of details
- Proper writing of plant names
- Plan and establish a drawing format and process
- Improved basic plant identification knowledge through the use of sketching
- Improved illustrating/sketching techniques with pencil
- Keeping a sketchbook/journal and documentation
- Knowledge of plant material and location
  - Plant uses
  - Standard container sizes
  - Introductory plant part names and physical details
  - Plant environments, climates, micro-climates
  - Historical context
Course Description:

This is an introductory course and provides the student with an opportunity to improve their skills of observation and awareness through the use of illustrating or drawing plant material details with pencil and paper. The student's keen observation of plant details reinforces the characteristics that make each plant species unique from the next.

The course is held on location (As described on pages 2 and 8). Drawing details will focus on essential plant form, plant part characteristics and container/size or age. Drawing techniques, the use of selected plant materials, environmental or climatic requirements and historical context will be a point of discussion. The course will also focus on the development of a drawing format and process, along with the keeping of a sketchbook or journal by each student. Other areas of study, as they apply to plant materials and the selected locations, will be explored based on student interests during the course.

The instructor will work with each student individually and as a group. The course is focused on providing a means for each individual student to advance their knowledge and skills. The course is not a race or timed event, students will be given ample time to draw each plant specimen and experiment.

Students will work with an established plant palette for each site pre-selected by the instructor. These pre-selected plant palettes will be posted on blackboard prior to the beginning of each class. The student should study, prior to class, that week's plant materials in terms of plant characteristics, proper writing and spelling.

Each class will generally be organized as follows:

1) We will meet at the scheduled location per the designated meeting place (as described on pages 8-12) at 9:50am; class will start promptly at 10am.
2) Take attendance
3) General questions
4) Begin drawing of first plant specimen (4 – 5 species will be introduced each class)
5) The instructor will give instructions, descriptions and general information
6) The instructor will provide individual instruction and critique
7) Group discussions
8) The time allowed for each drawing will vary; a time limit will not be imposed
8) The class will move to the next specimen and repeat the process
HOMEWORK
Note: No formal homework is assigned during this course.

The student is to use time at home to improve and embellish each sketch drawn in class. This includes the addition of notes and photo samples to the sketchbook.

Each student will be graded on the following:

1) Attendance and participation
2) Keeping of a sketchbook/journal and drawing improvements
3) The student's ability to follow instructions
4) Plant identification and proper writing of plant names
5) Established drawing format and process
6) Observation skills as demonstrated by the students' drawings

Note: See Grading Criteria page 13.

DELIVERABLES

- The student's improved ability to observe and see plant characteristics and details
- An introductory understanding of plant part names and physical characteristics
- Students will produce detailed plant sketches (With pencil) within the format of a sketchbook/journal with the purpose of communicating the identification of a particular plant species and its characteristics.
- Students ability to establish a drawing format and process
- General knowledge of selected plant palettes, use and context
Required materials:

Most materials can be purchased at Graphaids in Los Angeles with a student discount of 30%. Prices listed below are approximate and do not include the 30% discount. The 30% discount does not apply to items on sale.

Graphaids is located at: (Check other locations)

12400 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90025
310.820.0445 (Phone)

- **Drawing Pencils**
  - Staedtler pencils: (3)HB, (1)4H, (1)H, (2)2B, (2)4B, (1)6B, (1)F ($1.59 each)

- **Paper**
  - Sketchbook/Journal, by Canson, Acid Free Paper, Size = 9" x 12", journal must be in the portrait format, spiral binding ($19.50)
  - (Two (2) large clips to hold journal pages outdoors, $.69 each)

- **One (1) Carry case** for materials, ArtBin (Plastic caring case) ($11.29)
  - The carry case should be simple/economic and easy to transport.

- **Sharpeners**
  - One (1) Hand held wood pencil sharpener with shaving compartment ($5.85)
  - One (1) Sandpaper block ($1.49)

- **Erasers**
  - One (1) Magic Rub Eraser ($0.99)
  - One (1) Kneaded Eraser ($0.99)
  - One (1) Erasing Shield ($1.12)

**Other**

- One (1) Mahlstick or Q-Tips ($1.29)
- One (1) Dry cleaning pad, by Alvin, 3oz. ($5.29)
- Hand wipes
- One (1) Drafting brush (Small) Chip Bristle Brush #1500, ($1.65)
- One (ITOYA Pocktlens ($4.29)
- Five (5) pieces of white card stock, smooth (Hand rest - smudging protection)

Optional - Small fold-up stool (Maximum size 18" x 18" with rubber foot caps, no exceptions. Note: Locations do not have seating.)
• **REQUIRED Textbooks**

Note: Pricing from Amazon
Note: Required textbooks #1 and #2 can be purchased at the UCLA student store.

1) **PLANT IDENTIFICATION TERMINOLOGY: An Illustrated Glossary** ($20.95)
   James G. Harris

2) **THE NEW WESTERN GARDEN BOOK, ($20.80)**
   Sunset Western Garden Books

• **OTHER Textbooks of Interest**

4) **THE CAMBRIDGE ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY OF BOTANICAL TERMS** ($55.04)
   Michael Hickey

5) **PLANT FORM, An Illustrated Guide to Flowering Plant Morphology** ($32.04)
   Adrian D. Bell

6) **SAKUTEIKI VISIONS OF THE JAPANESE GARDEN, A Modern translation of Japan's Gardening Classic** ($25.69)
   Jiro Takei and Marc P. Keane

• **Reference**

7) Readings, text, or websites may be suggested for reference based upon course development and student interests.
Scientific Illustration and Plant Identification Course Schedule

Meeting Agenda

All skill levels, on location, detailed drawing and observation with pencil and paper Winter 2014

1 On Location at: San Gabriel Nursery and Florist
February 9, 2014

- Students are to study the plant palette for this location prior to arriving on site. The plant palettes for all four (4) meetings will be posted on blackboard prior to the beginning of each class.
- Students should bring the required materials as listed on page 5. Please keep caring cases, book packs, etc. to a minimum size.
- Directions, parking, meeting place and general site information. Note: Students should plan to meet the instructor at the designated meeting place at about 9:50am.

- ADDRESS
  San Gabriel Nursery and Florist
  632 South San Gabriel Boulevard
  San Gabriel, California 91776
  626.286.3782 (Retail Main Store Phone)

- DIRECTIONS
  From the 405 and 10 freeway intersection take the 10 freeway East. Continue on the 10 freeway East past downtown Los Angeles. Exit the 10 freeway at the San Gabriel Boulevard exit in the San Gabriel or North direction. San Gabriel Nursery and Florist will be on your right hand side about 1 mile or so from the exit off the 10 freeway.
- **PARKING**
  San Gabriel Nursery and Florist has a parking lot behind the nursery. Street parking is also available.

- **MEETING PLACE**
  We will meet where the sidewalk from the back parking lot enters the nursery (Look for the instructor).

- Restrooms are available. Food, snacks, and drinks are located off site and require driving, consider a sack lunch.

**Questions: David Squires**
Cell Phone 310.266.2201

Note: A typical class session is outlined on page 4.

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**2 On location at: T.B.D.**

*February 15, 2014*

**3 On location at: Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden**

*February 23, 2014*

- Students are to study the plant palette for this location prior to arriving on site. The plant palettes for all four (4) meetings will be posted on blackboard.
- Students should bring the required materials as listed on page 5. Please keep caring cases, book packs, etc. to a minimum size.
- Directions, parking, meeting place and general site information. Note: *Students should plan to meet the instructor at the designated meeting place at about 9:50am.*

- **ADDRESS**
  Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden
California State University, Long Beach  
1250 Bellflower Boulevard  
Long Beach, California 90804

- **DIRECTIONS**  
  From the 405 and 10 freeway intersection take the 405 freeway South and exit at Bellflower Boulevard, South (Towards the ocean). Turn left at Beach Drive. Turn Left on Earl Warren Drive. The garden is about ½ mile on the left.

- **PARKING**  
  1) Once you have made the left hand turn from Beach Drive onto Earl Warren Drive as described above, look for the 'Yellow' parking pass dispenser in the center median.  
  2) Purchase a day pass for $5.00. The dispensers take $1.00 and $5.00 bills only. The dispensers also take Visa/MasterCard. This day pass is good for any lot that is not restricted  
  3) Once you have purchased your parking day pass, continue forward on Earl Warren Drive. Park in lot 16 just ahead on your right. From lot 16 the garden is directly across Earl Warren Drive

Cal State Long Beach parking information:  
562.985.4146 (Phone)

- **MEETING PLACE**  
  We will meet outside the front entrance to the garden.

- Restrooms are available from Noon - 4:00pm. Food, snacks, and drinks are located off site and require driving, consider a sack lunch.

**Questions: David Squires**  
Cell Phone 310.266.2201

- Note: A typical class session is outlined on page 4.
On location at: Valley Crest Tree Company - Specimen Nursery

March 2, 2014

• Students are to study the plant palette for this location prior to arriving on site. The plant palettes for all four (4) meetings will be posted on blackboard.

• Students should bring the required materials as listed on page 5. Please keep caring cases, book packs, etc. to a minimum size.

• Directions, parking, meeting place and general site information. Note: Students should plan to meet the instructor at the designated meeting place at about 9:50am.

- ADDRESS
Valley Crest Tree Company - Specimen Nursery
9500 Foothill Boulevard
Sunland, California 91040

- DIRECTIONS
From the 405 and 10 freeway intersection take the 405 North. Exit onto the 118 freeway East. Exit onto the 210 freeway East. Exit the 210 freeway at Sunland Boulevard turn left onto Sunland Boulevard. Left at Foothill Boulevard. Valley Crest Tree Company will be about 1½ miles on your left.

- PARKING
Parking is provided inside the front gate near the nursery office trailer.
- **MEETING PLACE**
The instructor will meet the students in front of the office trailer.

- Restrooms are available inside the office trailer. Food, snacks, and drinks are located off site and require driving, consider a sack lunch.

Questions: David Squires  
Cell Phone  310.266.2201

Note: A typical class session is outlined on page 4.

**GENERAL NOTES FOR ALL LOCATIONS**

Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes, keeping in mind you will be outside in a garden setting all day (Sunscreen as appropriate).

No cell phones, Ipods, Blackberries, laptops, headsets and other electronics of any kind will be allowed during the class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor. Please be sure that these devices are on silent. A 1 hour lunch break will be given around 12:30pm.

Please be respectful of our host location and their guests.
Grading Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance (5x 4)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active class participation (5 x 4)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sketchbook/Journal</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written exam</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final drawing exercise</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A three (2) point bonus question will be given on the written exam.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0% - 59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First Criterion

Five (5) points will be given for attending each class. If the student is 30 minutes or more late to class the student will not receive the attendance points for that class.

Second Criterion

Five (5) points per class are available for valuable participation during the class. The instructor will access 'valuable' on an individual basis.

Third Criterion

Each student's sketchbook or journal will be evaluated by the instructor based on formatting, drawing process, observation skills, notations, content, and accuracy. The students drawing ability will be evaluated by the instructor based on each student's improvement.
HOMEWORK
Note: No formal homework is assigned during this course.

The student is to use time at home to improve and embellish each sketch drawn in class. This includes the addition of notes and photo samples to the sketchbook.

Fourth Criterion

The written exam will consist of a number of essay questions. Points will be given by the instructor based on the student's answers.

Fifth Criterion

The final drawing exercise will be evaluated by the instructor based on the student's ability to demonstrate improvement, formatting of drawing, drawing process, identification of plant characteristics and details.

Sixth Criterion

The student's ability to follow instructions.

Inspiration

Samuel van Hoogstraten
Introduction to the Academy of Painting, 1678
Dutch and Flemish of the Rembrandt period, 17th century

"Learn first to imitate the riches of nature...the flat fields, hillocks, the streams, and the forests provide enough work for us...You will find in your homeland so much that is lovely, sweet, and worthwhile, that once you have tasted it, you will judge your life too short to picture it all."

"Songs of the Landscape Painter"
in Karel van Mander's book of Painters, 1604
Dutch and Flemish of the Rembrandt period, 17th century

"Take charcoal and chalk, pen, ink, paper, and draw what you see, whatever pleases your eye."

ENJOY!