

**WEST VALLEY COLLEGE**  
**Course Outline**

**Department:** Architecture

**Course Number and Title:** ARCH 081 - Landscape Plants: Summer & Autumn

**Length of course in weeks:** 16

**Units:** 3

**Total Class Hours/Week:** 5

**Lecture Hours/Week:** 2

**Lab Hours/Week:** 3

**Grade Type:** Grade/Credit/No Credit

**Catalog Description:** This course is a study of ornamental trees, vines, and groundcovers during the summer and autumn seasons. Emphasis is placed on growth habits, cultural requirements, maintenance, suitability for landscape use, and the ecology of plant communities.

**Schedule Description:** This course is a study of ornamental trees, vines, and groundcovers during the autumn and winter seasons.

**Recommended Preparation:**

BIO 042: Principles of Plant Biology.

**Course Outcomes:** Student Learning Outcomes

**Outcome:** Students will observe and evaluate microclimate influences upon plant material as indicated by bloom periods.

**Assessment:** Autumn color chart in a book format including photographs, sketches, botanical names, hardiness zone, date and other pertinent information.

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Identify ornamental plant material from cut specimens and plants growing in the landscapes.
2. Cite the growth habits and cultural requirements for each plant presented.
3. Identify the maintenance cycles and problems of the plant.
4. Compare and contrast the aesthetic effect of specific plant materials in the landscape.
5. Identify soil classification, fertility, and management.
6. Identify the ecology of plant communities.
7. Identify plant material by botanical name, common name and size group from stem sample, photograph and/or live specimen.

**Assessment:** Students in this course will be graded base on the following four categories:

1. **Writing Assignments:** written assignments
2. **Problem Solving Demonstrations:** quizzes
3. **Skill Demonstrations:** exam performance(s)
4. **Examinations:** multiple choice, true/false, essay, matching items, and final project

**Repeatability:** 1 time

**Methods of Instruction:** Lecture & Lab

**Lecture Content:**

1. Ornamental and Native Trees	15.00 %
2. Shrubs and Groundcovers	15.00 %
3. Vines	10.00 %
4. Annuals	15.00 %
5. Perennials, Herbaceous, and Ferns	25.00 %
6. Botanical (Family, Genus, Species, cultivar, variety, hybrid) and common names of each plant including placement within the landscape design	20.00 %

**Lab Content:**

1. Field investigation of plant materials including structure, form, placement, compatibility identification and use in the designed environment.	40.00 %
2. The study of approximately 25 different plants generally on and within the campus vicinity. Students apply their growing knowledge of botanical and common names and size groups.	60.00 %

**Critical Thinking:** Prepare plant identification cards: sketch, describe, organize, categorize, and recognize plant material by sight.

**College Level Required Reading, Writing, and other Outside-of-Class Assignments:**

Over a 16 week presentation of the course, three hours per week are required for each unit of credit. Two hours of independent work done out of class are required for each hour of lecture. Outside of the regular class time the students in this class will be doing the following outside of class:

- **Study:** 2.00 additional hours
- **Practice Skills:** 2.00 additional hours

**Textbook:**

Brenzel, Kathleen Norris. Sunset Western Garden Book. Rev. Upd. ed. Sunset Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780376039170