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

Course Syllabus
All skill levels welcome, Reg# W76788, X494.65

UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program

Fall Quarter 2011
Four (4) meetings, November 12, 2011 - December 10, 2011

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

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Scientific Illustration and Plant Identification  
All skill levels, ON LOCATION, DETAILED DRAWING AND OBSERVATION WITH PENCIL AND PAPER  
Fall, 2011

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

Instructor: David W. Squires, Master Planner, Landscape Designer, Project Manager  
Cell Phone: 310.266.2210  
Email: dwsquires@ucla.edu

Class Dates, Times, and Locations:

Saturdays, 10:00am - 4:00pm  
*Note that the December 4th class takes place on a Sunday.

November 12, 2011  
San Gabriel Nursery and Florist, San Gabriel, California

November 19, 2011  
San Gabriel Nursery and Florist, San Gabriel, California

*Sunday, December 4, 2011  
Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, Long Beach, California

December 10, 2011  
Valley Crest Tree Company - Specimen Nursery, Sunland, California

Alternate location:  
Kyoto Grand Hotel - Rooftop Japanese Garden, Los Angeles, California

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

- Improved observation skills and awareness of details
- Proper writing of plant names
- Plant identification through the use of illustrating/sketching with pencil
- Improved illustrating/sketching techniques with pencil
- Keeping a sketchbook/journal
- Establish a drawing process
- Knowledge of plant material and location
  - Plant uses
  - Plant environments, climates, micro-climates
  - Historical context
Course Description:

This course 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 course is held on location (As described on pages 2 and 7). Drawing details will focus on essential plant form and plant part characteristics. 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 process and 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 class. The student should study, prior to class, that weeks 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 7-11 between 9:45am and 10:15am.

2) Take attendance
3) General questions
4) Begin drawing of first plant specimen
5) The instructor will give instructions, descriptions and general information
6) The instructor will provide individual instruction and critique
7) 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

Each student will be graded on the following:

1) Attendance and participation
2) Keeping of a sketchbook/journal and drawing improvements
3) Plant identification and proper writing of plant names
4) Drawing process
5) General knowledge of each site and plant specimen

Note: See Grading Criteria page 12.
DELIVERABLES

- The student's improved ability to observe and see details
- Production of drawings and a sketchbook/journal demonstrating the students ability to communicate identification of plant material characteristics
- General knowledge of selected plant palettes, use and context

Required materials:

Most materials can be purchase 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, $0.69 each
- **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 Pocketlens ($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.)
Information Sources:

• **Suggested reading materials**

1) PENCIL MAGIC, Landscape Drawing Techniques **($15.63)**
   Phil Metzger

2) WESTERN GARDEN BOOK **($20.80)**
   Sunset Books

3) SEEING AND DRAWING **($19.95)**
   Mason Hayek

• **Other**

6) Readings, text, or websites may be suggested for reference based upon course development and student interests.
Meeting Schedule

Meeting 1
On Location at: San Gabriel Nursery and Florist
November 12, 2011

- 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 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.

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

2 **On location at: San Gabriel Nursery and Florist**

November 19, 2011

- 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**
  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 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 the nursery. Street parking is also available.
- **MEETING PLACE**
  We will meet where the sidewalk from the 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.

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

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

December 4, 2011  **Note: This is a Sunday.**

- 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.

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**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, enter lot 14 on your left. Look for the 'Yellow' parking pass dispensers.
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, exit lot 14 and turn left onto Earl Warren Drive, lot 16 will be just ahead on your left, park in lot 16. 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.

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

### 4 On location at: Valley Crest Tree Company - Specimen Nursery

December 10, 2011

- 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 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 at the front gate as they enter the nursery.

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

- **Written exam and final drawing exercise.**
- Journals to be turned in to instructor for grading. Grades will be posted by December 19, 2011.
- Exams and journals can be picked up at the UCLA Extension building, Room #414, December 20, 2011 (Ask for Andrea). The exams and journals will be kept for a limited time so please be timely in retrieving your materials.
- Instructor will select work from each student's journal to be displayed at 1010 Westwood Boulevard. Date and location of display to be determined, ask the instructor for details.

**GENERAL NOTES FOR ALL LOCATION**

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 lunch break will be given.

Please be respectful of our host locations and their clientele.
## Grading Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</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>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final drawing exercise</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A three (3) point bonus question will be given on the written exam.

## Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</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 a 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.
Fourth Criterion

The written exam will consist of a number of objective questions and 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 specimen, and attention to detail.

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!