

Permaculture Design I Syllabus



COLORADO
MOUNTAIN COLLEGE



Instructor Information

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Office Hours/Student Drop-In Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3:10 -- 4:30;
Wednesdays from 12:30--1:30; and by appointment

Course Information

Course Title: Permaculture Design I

Course Code: SUS-2500

Credits: 3.00000

Semester: 25/FA

Format: HYB1, LEC,

Go to the [Class Types webpage](#) for more information.

Start Date: 8/25/2025

End Date: 12/8/2025

Refund Date: 9/9/2025

Withdraw Date: 11/17/2025

Never Attended/ Verify Participation

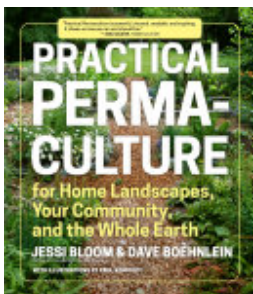
Colorado Mountain College faculty and staff want you to be successful in reaching your educational goals. This starts with attending all of your classes.

Never attended reporting dates for the current semester are available on the [CMC Registrar's Office](#) page. Never Attended/Verify Participation Reporting is based on your attendance and engagement. If you never show up to class, you may be dropped from the course, and this may impact your financial aid. Go to the [Never Attended/Verify Participation webpage](#) for more information.

Location: Steamboat Academic Center (SB) 216 and Bear Park Permaculture Center

Meeting Days & Times: Mondays from 9:10 am -- 11:10 am

Required Course Materials



Title: Practical Permaculture

Subtitle: For Home Landscapes, Your Community, and the Whole Earth

ISBN: 9781604694437

Authors: Jessi Bloom, Dave Boehnlein

Publisher: Timber Press

Publication Date: 2015-02-04

Requirement: Required

Format: Print

Other

You will receive this text as part of your LMP order. Additional readings, videos, etc. will be available in our Canvas modules.

Learning Materials Program

For all courses that are included in the [Learning Materials Program](#), with the exception of some lab kits, all required physical and digital course materials are automatically provided to you by the all-inclusive [Learning Materials Program \(LMP\)](#) at a per credit fee. In order to receive these materials, students must verify their physical shipping address prior to the start of the semester. [Address can be verified by accessing the LMP website](#),

failure to verify address will result in delayed delivery of materials. If you have any questions contact the LMP customer service team at 1-844-523-9056 or [submit a request](#) for expedited service.

What to do if you drop a course? If you have already received the book(s), or they have been shipped, you are responsible for retrieving/returning the books within 7 days of dropping the course. Holding onto provided materials for the entire term will result in extra LMP fees. Refer to our [instructions](#) on how to return your books. Digital books are automatically returned. **Please note:** All books, even workbooks, must be returned if you drop a class. At the conclusion of the semester, students are responsible for returning materials provided by the LMP on or before the posted deadline either to their local campus or by [generating a free shipping label through the LMP](#). Failure to return materials will result in late fees being assessed to your account.

Course Description

Introduces principles and practices of permaculture: an approach to inclusive and holistic system design and implementation for increasing health, vitality, and resilience within human-nature systems. Through observation, critical and creative thinking, and hands-on design and implementation, the course focuses on optimizing beneficial relationships within systems. Permaculture ethics and principles form the foundations for student regenerative design projects.

Evaluation Methods

Grading Scale:

A = 94-100 %
A- = 90-93.9 %
B+ = 87-89.9 %
B = 84-86.9 %
B- = 80-83.9 %
C+ = 77-79.9 %
C = 74-76.9 %
C- = 70-73.9 %
D+ = 67-69.9 %
D = 64-66.9 %
D- = 60-63.9 %

F = 59.9 % and below

Overview of Required Coursework:

Presence and Engagement	30%
Weekly Homework/Journaling	25%
Guild Research and Design Project	10%
Mapping for Permaculture Project	15%
Final Creative Design Project & Presentation	20%
Total	100%

Description of Required Coursework:

Presence and Engagement

- Showing up to class is super important, but attendance is only the first step. Your success in this course (both for you and your colleagues) depends largely on your commitment to preparing for, attending, and participating in class. Your focused involvement in class will prepare you for the bigger projects and deepen your engagement with the course content in a way that isn't possible in isolation.
- We also strive to help each other reflect on the type of participation we are engaging in. Typically, quality is more important than quantity. Participation should be informed by our class materials as well as your own personal experience, and should help to strengthen the collective of our group.
- Technology is embedded in our lives, and we understand that it may be necessary for you to communicate with others during class. However, our class time provides us with a wonderful opportunity for meaningful personal interactions that don't involve devices—these moments are powerful allies in our learning processes. In general, we ask that you strive to avoid using your devices for non-class activities, and limit your non-class phone/technology use to before or after class. That being said, if something comes up that you must deal with, please do so quickly and without distracting others.
- We embrace Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at CMC and as such, strive to model behaviors that reflect this. We are all unique individuals from different backgrounds, all with very different life experiences. This results in a wide variety of thoughts, ideas, opinions, perspectives, etc. Please work to honor (and learn from!) those perspectives that differ from your own. If you experience

or witness behavior that feels disrespectful or does not honor a difference of perspective, please contact one of us immediately.

- In general, the assumption is that you will be fully present for all our sessions. However, we also understand that life happens and sometimes you have to prioritize. We use the following grading rubric for attendance:

- **Zero absences:** You will earn an additional 10% extra credit in the attendance category (110/100 points).
- **One or two absences:** Will not affect your grade. You can miss up to twice for any reason and still receive 100% in the attendance category (100/100 points). Please be aware that we do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences.
- **Three absences:** Reduces your attendance grade by 25% (75/100 points).
- **Four absences:** Reduces your attendance grade by 50% (50/100 points).
- **Five absences:** Reduces your attendance grade by 75% (25/100 points).
- **Six absences:** Reduces your attendance grade by 100% (0/100 points).
- **Seven absences:** You will be withdrawn from the course or issued a failing grade.

0 Absences	1-2 Absences	3 Absences	4 Absences	5 Absences	6 Absences
Earns an additional 10%. (110/100)	No penalty. Earns 100%. (100/100)	25% reduction. (75/100)	50% reduction. (50/100)	75% reduction. (25/100)	100% reduction. (0/100)

****Please communicate with us regarding any unavoidable or emergency situations that result in more than two absences.****

Weekly Homework/Journaling

- This includes any required reading, videos, worksheets, discussions, journaling, etc. You can expect to have homework every week.
- Specific instructions for homework/journaling assignments will be posted on Canvas. You will always be expected to demonstrate that you've completed this work, either by submitting on Canvas or by reflecting in your journal.
- In general, your PDC journal provides an opportunity for exploration, rather than having to worry about "right" or "wrong". It is meant to be a place for reflection, problem solving, recording, connecting, developing, storytelling, wrestling, situating, figuring, daydreaming. In general, it is the place to digest the course content and make it your own, reflecting your personal relationship with the

course content. It is an invaluable place to record your experiences (both external and internal) in the course.

- Due dates for homework assignments are posted in Canvas. Because our work often builds on previous assignments, keeping up with homework is essential for success. If you need an extension on a due date for a homework assignment, you will need to contact one of us prior to the due date. We will work to establish a new due date based on your specific situation. Work submitted late without prior communication will be accepted up to one week late, but with a 5% deduction in points. Any work submitted beyond one week late may not be accepted.

Guild Research and Design Project

- The first of two larger course projects is a Guild Research and Design Project. This project calls on you to complete a research and design project resulting in the conceptual development of a permaculture guild. You will learn about guilds (intentional groupings of mutually beneficial plants) as a central approach to permaculture design. This assignment calls upon you to apply your developing knowledge of guilds to a real-world design context.
- Specific instructions and grading information will be available via Canvas.

Mapping for Permaculture Project

- The second of the two larger course projects is your Mapping Project. Key aspects of the process of creating a permaculture design involves drafting various maps of your site that show its current state, its patterns of use, the forces that influence it, desired future changes, and perhaps more. For this project, you will create three site maps: a base map showing the site's current state, a zone map showing its current patterns of use, and a sector map showing energies and influences that come from outside the site boundaries and affect your site, bring both challenges and opportunities your was as a designer. We will devote in-class time to developing these skills, and you will receive lots of feedback from your instructors and peers.
- Specific instructions and grading information will be available via Canvas.

Final Creative Design Project & Presentation

- The final exam for PDC1 is a Creative Design Project, which will involve drafting various maps of a particular location (TBD by students and instructors) that shows its current state, its patterns of use, the forces that influence it, desired future changes, and perhaps more. For this class, you will create three site maps: a base map showing the site's current state, a zone map showing its current patterns of use, and a sector map showing energies and influences that come from outside the site boundaries, bringing both challenges and opportunities your way as a designer. For the final project, you will synthesize ideas on how to apply permaculture ethics, principles, and practices to achieve desired outcomes. This project represents a culminating experience for the class. You will be asked to share your own work and respond and reflect on the work of others as a celebration of learning at the end of the course.
- Specific instructions and grading information will be available via Canvas.

CMC Libraries & Learning Commons

I encourage you to reach out to the CMC librarians. They can support you with any research assignments and locate a variety of college level materials for you to use in your research projects in this class and others. Additionally, our library spaces often have quiet spaces for study and places you can access for online classes. As a CMC student you can borrow materials, devices—calculators, laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots—and request items through interlibrary loan. You can access the [library homepage](#) through Basecamp and in your Canvas space and find out more about the library.

Connect with the librarians by

- 24/7 [chat service](#)
- Email: cmclibraries@coloradomtn.edu
- [Schedule an appointment](#)
- In-person at Rifle, Spring Valley, Glenwood Center, Edwards, Steamboat and Leadville

Student Information and Support Services

- A. Accessibility and Accommodations:** CMC is committed to providing equitable access to our programs through reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities (e.g., psychological, learning, chronic or temporary health conditions). Accommodations are designed to minimize the impact of a disability and ensure access to programs for all students with disabilities. CMC professors and staff make every effort to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom and clinical settings please contact [an Access Services Coordinator](#) at your campus or begin the accommodations request process through the confidential online portal [Accommodate](#). Early planning is essential, so please feel free to make any matters known as soon as possible.
- B. Right to Know:** The College is required by law to share certain types of information with students. The [Right to Know webpage](#) includes information including disability services, complaint processes, policies and procedures, textbook information, registration, attendance and grading, graduation rates, and more. In addition, [Student Services](#) offers resources to promote your well-being and success. Take advantage of these programs and services, which include academic support and advising, access and disability services, career services, veterans' benefits, housing, orientations, food and nutrition support, and financial aid. Reach out and find support at [CMC Counseling Services](#), [TogetherAll Online Mental Health & Wellbeing Support](#) and [Colorado Crisis Services](#).
- C. Students Rights and Responsibilities:** The [CMC Student Handbook](#) outlines the expectations for student conduct as well as the college's academic policies and expectations. This includes expectations for appropriate use of technology, students' rights and responsibilities within and outside of the classroom, and academic policies and requirements. Classroom behavior that disrupts the teaching and learning environment is unacceptable.
- D. Financial Aid Support:** We strongly encourage you to [apply for financial aid](#) so you don't miss out on any opportunities that may be available to you. You may also qualify for work-study, which provides campus employment opportunities. Your educational journey is important to us, and we're committed to supporting you every step of the way! If you have any questions, please [contact the Office of Financial Aid](#). We're here to help!
- E. Notice of Nondiscrimination:** Equal Opportunity Colorado Mountain College is an equal opportunity educational institution and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its educational programs or activities. More information is available at this link: [Title IX, Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination & Harassment](#) Inquiries concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 and ADA may be referred to Dr. Lisa Runck, AVP Student Services

and Dean of Students, , 802 Grand Avenue, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, 970-945-8691, or to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Region VIII, Federal Office Building, 1244 North Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204 303-844-2991.

- F. **Right to Privacy:** Colorado Mountain College continues to encourage and foster a vibrant academic community, whether remote or in person. We are committed to respecting the privacy rights of all participants in the classroom environment and promoting the highest standards of academic integrity. Sharing course content outside of the course may have a chilling effect on classroom discussion and interfere with the educational process. Students may not record, photograph, screenshot, share, reproduce or re-distribute any class activity without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodation discussed below. Additionally, CMC discourages non-students from listening to courses in the event student personal identifying information is revealed during the course. Students in all modalities are equally held to the academic standards set forth in the Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook. Some students may require reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments Act that would allow them to record, photograph, screenshot or reproduce some course content, including video, audio, or other content. Students with disabilities should contact CMC's Access, Inclusion & Disability Coordinator about receiving these reasonable accommodations. More information can be found at [Access, Inclusion & Disability Services](#).

Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills

- Explain permaculture design ethics and principles and their application to permaculture design.
- Explain how social and environmental factors and processes influence places.
- Identify a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives related to sustainable design challenges and their potential solutions.
- Communicate self-awareness about how personal attitudes, behaviors, and/or beliefs relate to those of others within system design processes.
- Include diverse perspectives and worldviews, along with relevant social power structures, when responding to design challenges in human-nature systems.

- Apply social sciences tools (such as interviewing, direct observation, and literature review) and perspectives (such as social equity and social change theories) for analyzing and interpreting system design issues and creating design responses.
- Utilize environmental and social context to explain issues and develop strategies for designing and implementing permaculture projects.
- Apply permaculture principles at an introductory level using context and independent inquiry to articulate desired design outcomes and explain their implications.

Class Management and Culture

- **The Importance of Open and Clear Communication:** All of us come to this classroom with different backgrounds, different strengths and challenges, different learning preferences, different life experiences and circumstances. Our goal for each of you is successful completion of our course outcomes and skills. The path to success will not look the same for each student. Minimum expectations are generally set via the syllabus at the beginning of the semester, but we have learned over years of teaching that rigidity and restriction rarely lead to success. That is why it is imperative that you come talk to us when issues come up that are preventing you from being successful in this course. Similarly, we will strive to be open and clear with all course material, assignments, expectations, etc. If you don't feel our communication is clear, open, and transparent, please let us know and we will make adjustments as necessary.
- **Caregiver Responsibilities Policy:** As parents ourselves, we have great respect for students who are balancing their pursuit of education with the responsibilities of caring for children or other family members. If you run into challenges that require you to miss a class, or if your caregiving responsibilities are interfering with your ability to engage in learning, please contact one of us. There may be some instances of flexibility we can offer to support your learning.
- **School-Life Conflict:** Many students face obstacles to their education as a result of work or family obligations or unforeseen personal difficulties. If you are experiencing challenges throughout the term that are impacting your ability to succeed in this course, or in your undergraduate career more broadly, please reach out to one of us immediately so that we can work together to form a plan for your academic success. If you are unable to attend our office hours, please email to set up a time that works for you or arrange a meeting by Zoom.

- **Names & Pronouns:** If your name is not the same as the name that appears on the college provided roster for the course, please let us know so that we can use the name and pronouns that you use.
- **Accommodations:** We all learn differently, and we want every student to succeed in this course. Services and reasonable accommodations are available to persons with temporary and permanent disabilities, to participants with DACA or undocumented status, to students who are multilingual learners, to participants facing mental health or other personal challenges, and to participants with other kinds of learning challenges. Please feel free to let either of us know if there are circumstances affecting your ability to participate.
- **Student Support Services:** This campus provides extensive academic supports for students, and these supports are there to let students achieve the academic success they are truly capable of. All of us need a support system, and many students benefit from the use of counseling services. Most students access them at some point in pursuit of their degree. We have provided a list of the academic support offices offered by CMC including the Right to Know webpage, Student Services, CMC Counseling Services, You@CMC, Colorado Crisis Services, and Access, Inclusion & Disability Services.

Tentative Course Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Attendance	Assignment	100
9/8/25	JNL: Developing a Sense of Place	Assignment	10
9/8/25	READ & RESPOND: B&B, Mann, and Blackie	Assignment	10
9/8/25	WATCH & RESPOND: Intro to Permaculture Videos	Assignment	10
9/8/25	IN CLASS: Site Observation Exercise	Assignment	20

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/15/25	READ & RESPOND: B&B and Hemenway	Assignment	10
9/15/25	IN CLASS: Observation of Ecological System Functions and Principles at Work in Bear Park	Assignment	20
9/15/25	IN CLASS: Comfrey Chop & Drop	Assignment	20
9/22/25	JNL: Observing Patterns in Nature	Assignment	10
9/22/25	READ & RESPOND: B&B and Kimmerer	Assignment	10
9/22/25	WATCH & RESPOND: Introduction to Patterning_(with Geoff Lawton).	Assignment	10
9/22/25	IN CLASS: Field Trip-- Botanic Park	Assignment	20
9/29/25	WATCH & RESPOND: Microclimates	Assignment	10
9/29/25	IN CLASS: Microclimate Scavenger Hunt	Assignment	25
10/5/25	WATCH & RESPOND: Permaculture Ethics, Principles, and Ecology	Assignment	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/6/25	READ & RESPOND: B&B and Diaz	Assignment	10
10/6/25	WATCH & RESPOND: On Water	Assignment	10
10/6/25	IN CLASS: Base Map Assignment	Assignment	50
10/13/25	JNL: Water Quality and Virtual Water	Assignment	10
10/13/25	READ & RESPOND: Glanzberg	Assignment	10
10/13/25	WATCH & RESPOND: Dryland Water Harvesting	Assignment	10
10/13/25	IN CLASS: Sector Map Assignment	Assignment	50
10/13/25	IN CLASS: Zone Map Assignment	Assignment	50
10/20/25	READ & RESPOND: B&B and Griffiths	Assignment	10
10/20/25	WATCH & RESPOND: On Soil	Assignment	10
10/20/25	IN CLASS: Jar Test of Soil (Setup)	Assignment	15
10/20/25	IN CLASS: Sheet Mulching	Assignment	20
10/27/25	READ & RESPOND: B&B and Akomolafe	Assignment	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/27/25	WATCH & RESPOND: Soil Health/Human Health	Assignment	10
10/27/25	IN CLASS: Field Trip to Elkstone Farms	Assignment	20
10/27/25	IN CLASS: Jar Test of Soil (Analysis)	Assignment	20
11/3/25	Guild Research and Design Project and Presentation	Assignment	100
11/3/25	IN CLASS: Plant Cuttings and Propagation	Assignment	20
11/10/25	JNL: Yield and Waste Reflection	Assignment	20
11/10/25	IN CLASS: Garlic Planting	Assignment	20
11/17/25	WATCH & RESPOND: From Seed: The Untold Story	Assignment	10
11/17/25	WATCH & RESPOND: Valemon the Bear	Assignment	10
11/17/25	IN CLASS: Herb Bundles	Assignment	20
11/17/25	Table of Permaculture Ethics and Principles	Assignment	50
11/24/25	JNL: Social Niches	Assignment	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
11/24/25	READ & RESPOND: Hemenway	Assignment	10
12/8/25	Creative Design Project	Assignment	125
12/8/25	Creative Design Project Presentation	Assignment	75

This schedule is subject to change at any time, depending on instructor evaluation of student skills/understanding/knowledge. The instructor will communicate changes to the schedule as needed.

Schedule

Our course schedule is provided in Canvas via detailed weekly modules. Descriptions of all required assignments are included within the Canvas site. Please note that our course schedule is subject to change at any time, depending on instructors' evaluation of student skills, understanding, and knowledge. The instructors will communicate changes to the schedule as needed.

A Word about Academic Honesty

You create your own path in life, and it takes effort to build this path in a manner that is both meaningful and satisfying. In order to derive deep knowledge on this path, we must take the time to develop a personal relationship with the content—taking it in, reflecting on it, and ultimately coming to our own interpretations and conclusions. This course is designed for you to learn foundational knowledge about permaculture. That being said, the expectation is that the work you do in this class is uniquely yours. **Plagiarism at any stage and in any amount, including computer-generated responses, is considered academic misconduct and is unacceptable.**

The assumption is that all work submitted by students is generated by the students themselves, working individually (or occasionally in groups). Students should not have

another person/entity do the writing/thinking of any substantive portion of any assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write/draft assignments and/or using artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT or Gemini. These methods undermine students' abilities to develop the skills and outcomes necessary for success in this course.

Per the CMC Board of Trustees, the following uses of AI are considered generally inappropriate and may violate academic integrity policies:

- Submitting AI-generated content (text, code, images, etc.) as one's own work. This includes writing entire drafts or sections of assignments.
- Copying answers without understanding material.
- Replacing one's own efforts, learning, and critical thinking with AI.
- Using AI to impersonate others in discussions or group work.
- Presenting someone else's language, ideas, or work without giving proper credit.

It is important to state here, however, that there are instances where the use of tools like AI can deepen and increase student learning and may be allowed with proper citation/attribution. Part of our work will be learning to distinguish between uses that undermine the learning process and uses that contribute to and deepen the learning process.

A student judged to have engaged in academic misconduct as defined in the "Academic Policies and Requirements" section of the *Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook* will, at a minimum, receive a zero for the work in question. The student may also be removed from the class, resulting in a failing grade. All student course material may be submitted to turnitin.com (or another anti-plagiarism or AI detection program) at the instructors' discretion. More information about CMC's [academic misconduct procedure](#) can be found on Basecamp and in the [Student Handbook](#).

Please be aware that all instances of academic dishonesty/misconduct and plagiarism (including unauthorized and/or uncited AI-generated submissions) will be reported to administration.