

# Permaculture Design 2 Syllabus



**COLORADO**  
MOUNTAIN COLLEGE



## Instructor Information

**Instructor Name:** Courtney Lynn  
**CMC Email:** clynn@coloradomtn.edu  
**CMC Phone:** 541-666-0714  
**Office Hours/Student Drop-In Hours:** By appointment

**Instructor Name:** Tina Evans  
**CMC Email:** tevens@coloradomtn.edu  
**CMC Phone:** 970-870-4517  
**CMC Office:** Bristol Hall 229  
**Office Hours/Student Drop-In Hours:** By appointment

## Course Information

**Course Title:** Permaculture Design 2  
**Course Code:** SUS 2510  
**Credits:** 3  
**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of SUS 2500, Permaculture Design 1, with a grade of C- or above.  
**Semester:** 26/SU  
**Start Date:** 7/6/2026  
**End Date:** 7/18/2026  
**Course Formats:** In-person and hybrid (up to 25% online content).  
**Meeting Days and Times**

- 7/6/26: Zoom, 6:00–8:00 PM.
- 7/13/26-7/18/26: In-person, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

## gtPathways and Course Transferability:

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved this course (SUS 2510) for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT-SS2, Geography, category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C– grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this gtPathways category. For more

information on the gtPathways program, go to <http://highered.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtPathways/curriculum.html>.

## 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.

## Required Course Materials

Bloom, J., and Boehnlein, D. (2015). *Practical permaculture for home landscapes, your community, and the whole earth*. Portland, OR: Timber Press. ISBN: 978-1-60469-443-7.

Aranya (2012). *Permaculture design: A step-by-step guide*. East Meon, Hampshire, UK: Permanent Publications. ISBN: 978-1-85623-091-9.

Kimmerer, R.W. (2024). *The Serviceberry: Abundance and reciprocity in the natural world* ISBN: 9781668072240

## 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

Students in this course will deepen and extensively apply their understanding of permaculture principles and practices. They will gain practical skills in building healthy and productive soils, water harvesting and water management for garden and landscape health, ecological pest control, and the development of beautiful, sustainable, and food- productive landscapes. The course is heavily project-based, calling upon students to design and implement advanced applications of permaculture principles in a culminating project. This course is the second in a two-course sequence that comprises the Permaculture Design Certificate program.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Apply permaculture ethics, principles, and practices in a culminating design project.
2. Contextualize culminating design work appropriately in place, taking into account current and historical contexts of diverse worldviews, social power structures, and natural system conditions and potentials.
3. Apply self-awareness and inclusive approaches to diverse disciplinary and cultural perspectives.
4. Develop design goals and objectives relevant to design challenges and the socio-ecological context.
5. Explain the socio-ecological issues and goals the culminating design project addresses.
6. Create maps and other visual materials to depict the current place/system that is the focus of the design and to propose system design changes.
7. Develop a design implementation budget and a phased implementation plan.
8. Reflect upon the socio-ecological implications of the culminating design project.

## Evaluation Methods

### Overview of Required Coursework

**Class participation: 10% of final grade or 100 points:** The success of this course—for you and for your classmates—depends largely on your commitment to attending, preparing for, and participating in class. Readings and videos will be assigned as preparation for class sessions. For every class session, also be prepared to learn through observation, discussion, and hands-on work. If you don't complete readings and required exercises, you'll be lost in class, and class discussions will suffer markedly, impacting the learning of others as well. Also, since class participation constitutes a significant proportion of your final grade, your grade will suffer if you continually lag behind in or don't complete preparatory readings and videos, if you skip classes, or if you neglect to participate in hands-on class exercises and projects. That said, you will not necessarily be graded on the quantity of your participation. Having a great amount of poor quality, uninformed participation is not beneficial to you or to the class and will not result in a high grade for class participation. As one gauge of your class participation, we will take attendance at

every class meeting.

***Concept and Skill Building Assignments, 10% of final grade or 100 points:***

Throughout the course, you will be assigned a series of hands-on and/or written exercises designed to help you develop conceptual understanding and specific skills relevant to permaculture design and practice. Completed work that does not require a written submission via Canvas will be discussed synchronously during in-person class meetings. Your participation in these discussions will serve as the means for your instructors to record your completion of these assignments. Some assignments will require you to submit a written component that will be graded by your instructors and may also be discussed in class. Point values for each regular class assignment are listed in Canvas in the “assignments” section of our course site.

***Rapid Design Assignments: 20% of final grade or 200 points:*** You will engage in rapid design exercises targeted at each of the permaculture principles. These assignments help you develop design skills for the final design project and allow you to practice design workshoping in a group setting. These assignments are highly participatory in nature, and you will need to be in class in order to complete them. Some of these assignments may only require your participation in discussions in order to “hand them in.” Others may require submission via Canvas.

***Design Assignments Leading Up to the Final Design Project: 25% of final grade or 250 points:*** In collaboration with other members of the class, you will complete a series of assignments that will comprise steps in the completion of your final design project for the course. Each of these steps will represent an opportunity for you to present your ideas and work for feedback from your classmates and instructors. These assignments are, therefore, not expected to be perfect, though they should be robustly and fully developed first attempts to complete aspects of your final design. After receiving feedback on these assignments, you will be expected to revise and further develop them for inclusion in your final design project.

***Final Design Project and Project Presentation: 35% of final grade or 350 points:*** As the culminating experience of this class, you will work, both independently and with a team, to create a permaculture design project for a site near Bear Park at the Steamboat campus. This project will require observation, articulation of project goals, integration of permaculture ethics and principles, articulation of design ideas and concepts, research, and application of visual design methods. Your instructors and classmates will provide you with assistance and feedback along the way as you develop your project, in part, by completing the design assignments discussed above. During the final class meeting, you will present your final design project to the class and your community based client(s), using any maps and other visual aids you have created to effectively communicate your design processes and recommendations. Note: completion of this assignment is required for you to pass the class.

***Extra Credit:*** We may identify in class and/or via Canvas opportunities for earning extra credit. All such opportunities will be open to all students.

## Grading Scale

A 93.5%-100% 935-1000 points

A- 89.5%-93.4% 895-934 points

B+ 86.5%-89.4% 865-894 points

B 82.5%-86.4% 825-894 points

B- 79.5%-82.4% 795-824 points

C+ 76.5%-79.4% 765-794 points

C 72.5%-76.4% 725-764 points

C- 69.5%-72.4% 695-724 points

D+ 66.5%-69.4% 665-694 points

D 62.5%-66.4% 625-664 points

D- 59.5%-62.4% 595-624 points

F below 59.5% below 595 points

## Student Information and Support Services

*This section contains mandatory disclosures for students and is common to all CMC syllabi, but not relevant for gtPathways evaluation, so it is excluded here.*

## Class Management and Culture

This course is designed to help you learn and apply foundational knowledge about permaculture as a vehicle for sustainability, but it is your own efforts in this process that matter the most. Stay current with course readings and other requirements, and come to class ready to engage in stimulating discussions and hands-on projects with your classmates. Here are some additional general guidelines to help you understand the structure of this course, the expectations we have of you, and what you can expect from us:

1. In this course you will spend a portion of your effort learning asynchronously, meaning that you'll do some assignments and preparatory work on your own time -- at any time of day or night that works for you -- up until the due date for each one. Other portions of the course will be taught synchronously, meaning that you will have set dates and times for meeting with the class or doing specific assignments and exercises.

2. It is extremely important that you have a reliable Internet connection and a quiet workspace for the first class meeting that will be synchronous online. Take some time now to test out your audio and video settings to make sure you can participate in our Zoom-based video call. If you encounter any technical difficulties with our video conferencing platform, Zoom, it is your responsibility to troubleshoot them now so

that you can successfully join the first class meeting on July 7 at 6:00 PM. Contact the CMC Service Desk as a first step in troubleshooting any issues you encounter. Connect to the Service Desk by first calling the Steamboat campus front desk (970-870-4444).

3. You are required to complete assigned readings and view assigned videos prior to each class session and to be prepared to discuss relevant ideas and concepts in class.

4. Please do your best to avoid entering class late or leaving early because doing so disrupts the class. If you continually miss parts of class, you may experience difficulty fully participating because the course will progress quickly. Your professors also may not be available or able to help you better connect with the class in the middle of some exercises.

5. We will use the following online tool as primary means of communication: Canvas, CMC's chosen e-learning tool, will provide an online site for our course. Our Canvas site is where you will find course announcements, assignments, class session outlines, online materials, links to join the online class sessions, and more. We will provide an overview of Canvas during the first class meeting.

6. Assigned coursework must be turned in via Canvas. Unless otherwise stated, all written assignments must be word-processed. For live presentations, you will be asked to hand in your presentation materials in Canvas and also to give your presentation to the class in person.

7. Your Canvas e-mail is considered an official means of contacting you about this course. Therefore, you are expected to check your Canvas e-mail regularly. You are also expected to check Canvas regularly for important course announcements.

8. We may choose to alter the course material and assignments as the term progresses. These changes will be conveyed to you in class and reflected in Canvas.

9. We will accept late assignments for one week following the original due date. All late assignments will be docked one full grade (10%). No assignments will be accepted beyond the day after the end of the course (July 13, 2026).

10. If you need to miss a class for health reasons or due to an emergency situation, please notify us as soon as you are aware of this need in order to make arrangements to get the course material and make up any missed activities. Course attendance is part of your class participation grade.

11. Please do not expect us make course accommodations for you so that you may engage in personal travel (vacations, etc.). If you choose to miss class for personal travel or other personal reasons, you are expected to use Canvas to keep up with course readings and assignments. Do not expect us to review with you the material

you missed in class. You also will not have an opportunity to make up in-class work or participation credit.

12. As a student enrolled at CMC, it is important that you understand you have entered an agreement by enrolling in this course. If you decide not to complete the course, you may drop it through Student Planning; contact your campus registration staff if you are unable to drop online. If you drop by the refund date, the course will not be listed on your transcript. If you drop after the refund date and before the withdraw date, the course will be listed on your transcript with "W" listed as the grade. If you remain enrolled in the course after the withdraw date, you will receive a grade for this course at the end of the semester. This grade will be entered into your official transcript and will be factored into your GPA.

## CMC Libraries and Learning Commons

The CMC Libraries team invite you to connect with them so they can help support you. We all live in a continually changing information world, and librarians are here to help you navigate it! Whether your classes are in person or online, or whether or not you live near one of CMC's great libraries/learning commons, take advantage of your friendly professional librarians to assist you with accessing the resources you need to succeed in academics and beyond.

In Steamboat, come check out the library. Your librarians and learning commons have study spaces and technology-enabled and family-friendly study rooms so you can do online classes. You can also access laptops, calculators, Wi-Fi hotspots, and so much more! Research help is also available 24/7, so please choose what works best for you in terms of support. Connect with the librarians via:

- 24/7 [chat service](#),
- Email: [cmclibraries@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:cmclibraries@coloradomtn.edu) [Schedule an appointment](#), or
- In-person at the Steamboat campus.

Of special importance for this class: the CMC Steamboat library has an excellent collection of permaculture books that you can use for learning and inspiration! Please check them out to use in your design work for this class!

## Daily Course Content and Activities Summary

Day 1: 6:00 -- 8:00 PM, via Zoom

Course introduction; discussion of:

- Texts and other readings and videos.
- Major assignments.
- Course processes.
- Preparation and safety for outdoor class sessions.

## Day 2: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, in person

Permaculture principles addressed:

- Observe and interact.
- Designing from patterns to details.
- Catch and store energy.
- Use and value renewable resources.

Subject coverage in class:

- Site observation.
- Tour of CMC's Bear Park Permaculture Center.
- Site mapping (trilateration, scaling, orienting).
- Relative social privilege and disadvantage.
- Water in the landscape (rainwater collection, water harvesting, retaining water in the soil, basics of Colorado water law, contour lines and water flow, keyline design for water abundance in the landscape, graywater systems and greywater policy in Colorado).
- Beavers as nature's essential water engineers.

Assignments/activities due:

- Definition of permaculture design essay/discussion.
- Power flower: intersectionality of social justice.
- Practice site observation.
- Water in the landscape observation walk.
- Pattern design exercise.
- Hands-on exercise measuring slope.
- Visualizing keyline design.

Course learning outcomes addressed:

- Contextualize culminating design work appropriately in place, taking into account current and historical contexts of diverse worldviews, social power structures, and natural system conditions and potentials.
- Apply self-awareness and inclusive approaches to diverse disciplinary and cultural perspectives.
- Reflect upon the socio-ecological implications of the culminating design project.

## Day 3: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, in person

Permaculture principles addressed:

- Obtain a yield.



- Produce no waste.
- Catch and store energy.
- Use and value renewable resources.

Subject coverage in class:

- Fruit trees in the landscape (planting, disease management, pruning, grafting).
- Permaculture design mapping: base mapping, zone mapping, sector mapping.
- Mapping skills (trilateration, scaling, orienting, creating a key, including a compass rose and site and designer information).
- Turning wastes into productive system inputs.
- Energy in natural and build environments.
- Sustainable design for the built environment (insolation, insulation, thermal mass, natural lighting, natural building techniques, natural building materials, renewable energy, siting, natural climate control, efficiency).
- Incentives for renewable energy and efficiency measures.
- Greenhouses and greenhouse climate control (climate batteries, thermal mass, insulation, insolation).

Assignments/activities due:

- Trilateration for mapping.
- Fruit tree guild design exercise.
- Building efficiency analysis and reflection on a real building.

Course learning outcomes addressed:

- Contextualize culminating design work appropriately in place, taking into account current and historical contexts of diverse worldviews, social power structures, and natural system conditions and potentials.
- Develop design goals and objectives relevant to design challenges and the socio-ecological context.
- Explain the socio-ecological issues and goals the culminating design project addresses.
- Create maps and other visual materials to depict the current place/system that is the focus of the design and to propose system design changes.
- Reflect upon the socio-ecological implications of the culminating design project.

Day 4: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, in person

Permaculture principles addressed:

- Use and value diversity.

- Integrate rather than segregate.
- Use edges and marginal areas.
- Creatively use and respond to change.

Subject coverage in class:

- Social permaculture and “invisible structures” of social power.
- Designing for inclusion/exclusion of animals and wildlife in permaculture systems.
- Mutualism among plants, fungi, bacteria, and insects and other animals.
- Livestock integration in the food forest.
- Pollinator attraction and support.
- Repelling pests.
- Garden crop rotation.
- Seed saving and plant propagation.
- Permaculture plants for the Rocky Mountain West.
- Companion planting for plant and system health.
- Designing for disaster: wildfire resilience for landscapes and structures.
- Designing for disaster: floods.

Assignments/activities due:

- Identifying free sources for plant propagation.
- Pollinator and companion planting design exercise.
- Animal integration exercise.
- Client interview.
- Write up of site problems, overall vision, and goals.
- Hellstrip design exercise.
- Wildfire sector analysis and design exercise.

Course learning outcomes addressed:

- Contextualize culminating design work appropriately in place, taking into account current and historical contexts of diverse worldviews, social power structures, and natural system conditions and potentials.
- Apply self-awareness and inclusive approaches to diverse disciplinary and cultural perspectives.
- Reflect upon the socio-ecological implications of the culminating design project.

Day 5: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, in person

Permaculture principles addressed:

- Use edges and marginal areas.
- Creatively use and respond to change.

Subject coverage in class:

- Design proposal content and format.
- Design implementation, evaluation, and maintenance.
- Presenting to a client.
- Social permaculture: beyond land-based designs to designing social structures and systems.
- Working as a diverse team.
- Equity in team member and client contributions to the design.

Assignments/activities due:

- Base map of design site.
- Zone map of design site.
- Sector map of design site.
- Initial conceptual map sketch for design site.

Course learning outcomes addressed:

- Apply permaculture ethics, principles, and practices in a culminating design project.
- Contextualize culminating design work appropriately in place, taking into account current and historical contexts of diverse worldviews, social power structures, and natural system conditions and potentials.
- Apply self-awareness and inclusive approaches to diverse disciplinary and cultural perspectives.
- Develop design goals and objectives relevant to design challenges and the socio-ecological context.
- Explain the socio-ecological issues and goals the culminating design project addresses.
- Create maps and other visual materials to depict the current place/system that is the focus of the design and to propose system design changes.
- Reflect upon the socio-ecological implications of the culminating design project.

Day 6: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, in person

Permaculture principles addressed:

- Apply self-regulation and accept feedback.
- Use small and slow solutions.

Subject coverage in class:

- Economic permaculture: local living economies.

- Debt-based money and its implications in modern economies, societies, and communities.
- Community-based currencies.
- Ecovillages and other intentional communities.
- Avenues for access to land for beginning permaculturists and farmers.
- Reflecting on invisible structures and Final Design Projects: who/what is missing or not fully included?
- Design budgeting and phasing.
- Work on Final Design Projects.

Course learning outcomes addressed:

- Apply permaculture ethics, principles, and practices in a culminating design project.
- Contextualize culminating design work appropriately in place, taking into account current and historical contexts of diverse worldviews, social power structures, and natural system conditions and potentials.
- Apply self-awareness and inclusive approaches to diverse disciplinary and cultural perspectives.
- Develop design goals and objectives relevant to design challenges and the socio-ecological context.
- Explain the socio-ecological issues and goals the culminating design project addresses.
- Create maps and other visual materials to depict the current place/system that is the focus of the design and to propose system design changes.
- Develop a design implementation budget and a phased implementation plan.
- Reflect upon the socio-ecological implications of the culminating design project.

## Day 7: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, in person

Subject coverage in class:

- Continued work on Final Design Projects (until about 2:00 PM).
- Final Design Project presentations (2:00 PM).
- Celebration of success!

Assignments/activities due:

- Final Design Project.
- Final Design Project Presentation (afternoon).

Course learning outcomes addressed:

- Apply permaculture ethics, principles, and practices in a culminating design project.

- Contextualize culminating design work appropriately in place, taking into account current and historical contexts of diverse worldviews, social power structures, and natural system conditions and potentials.
- Apply self-awareness and inclusive approaches to diverse disciplinary and cultural perspectives.
- Develop design goals and objectives relevant to design challenges and the socio-ecological context.
- Explain the socio-ecological issues and goals the culminating design project addresses.
- Create maps and other visual materials to depict the current place/system that is the focus of the design and to propose system design changes.
- Develop a design implementation budget and a phased implementation plan.
- Reflect upon the socio-ecological implications of the culminating design project.