

Fall 2020 Maine Permaculture Design Intensive ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor names/contact:

Jesse Watson

midcoastpermaculture@gmail.com;

Kate Wallace kate@resiliencehub.org.

Office hours: Weeknights 4-8p

Zoom Meeting dates & times:

October 24 at 10 AM

October 31 at 10 AM and 1 PM

November 7 at 10 AM and 1 PM

November 14 at 10 AM and 1 PM

Google class link: TBD



Goals: Introduce people to basic permaculture concepts and design process. Provide people concrete tools to begin to design their own properties. Participants feel supported by facilitators and peers through online class, over email and seven live Zoom calls.

As designers and builders, our goal is to guide you through the essential design steps so that you can go out into the real world and build the systems you design with confidence. We will focus on designing with just enough accuracy to support you with layout and construction confidence. We will begin to re-awaken the ancestral dream of living in place as Earthlings in respectful relationship with the life forms and elements around us.



Course Overview: This is a streamlined course designed to support students through the essential aspects of a permaculture design process developed and honed in Maine over the last decade of professional practice. In this introductory 25-hour online course, students will learn the basics of ecological design tailored for a residential context. We will guide you through the essential steps of the design process and support you with exercises in the design of spaces where you live. The class will cover the basics of permaculture philosophy like ethics and design principles while also supporting students with practical design exercises that will be of immediate benefit. We will also work on goal articulation, ecosystem observation skills, base mapping, and a step-by-step system of layered design with a focus on edible landscaping techniques with a mix of perennial and annual plant elements. Throughout our sessions, we will mix it up with basic and advanced concepts and practice so that we can support students in overcoming that feeling of “not knowing where to start.”

Learning objectives: Understanding of permaculture design philosophy and ethics. Understanding of principles of ecological design. Participants will articulate and write goal

statements and revise them as needed. Students will observe ecosystems using sitting practices and native awareness observational techniques. Students will construct their base maps and draw maps of existing site conditions, zones of use, patterns of land management and patterns of planting plans using a combination of computer and hand drawing techniques.

Resources:

Physical Tools: computer/laptop, broadband internet, smartphone, clipboard, engineer's scale, circle template, paper (tracing and/or regular), post-its, pens/pencils of varying line weights and colors (twin-tip sharpies are fine, so are colored pencils).

If you don't already have most of them, total tool investment would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$40-50, and you can find all you need at any Staples or your local art store.

Software (all free): Email, Zoom, Youtube, Google Earth pro, Inkscape, Genius scan (or similar)

Optional but highly recommended: circle compass kit, Fedco tree catalog or similar nursery catalog (see picture above)



Detailed Course Description:

- **Students will learn:** Design philosophy, permaculture ethics, ecological design principles, edible landscaping plants and practices; polyculture/forest garden design, commonly associated permaculture techniques
- **Skills you will demonstrate:** Goal articulation, ecosystem observation skills, base mapping, ecological site assessment, layers of design/mapping using computer and hand drawing.
 - Software skills include: internet research to get high quality aerial photos and other data layers. Scale, rotate, layer images and export to pdf or image.
- **Course benefits:** Guided mentorship in a structured and iterative step-by-step process of analysis, design and construction. If you are a PDC grad, this is a succinct review of the design process. We will help overcome feelings of not knowing where to start. Our design process honors analytic and intuitive methods.
- **This course is intended for:** homesteaders, farmers, gardeners, landscapers, builders, design professionals
- **The experience in this online course:** readings, video, writing, experiential practices, software skill development, discussion, mentorship. This is designed as a self-study course with peer support and mentorship during the class.

Assessment: This course is for personal enrichment and professional development. You will get out of it what you put into it. There are no formal grades, tests, assessments, or certificates. Students are encouraged to assess their own development based on completion of assignments, class participation, observational skill and practice, production of writings, drawings, maps and design plans.

Course Policies:

We invite you to participate in the course based on values of:

Generosity, Curiosity, Self-care, Care of Others, Honoring & Valuing Difference

This online course is a combination of self-study, peer support and teacher mentorship for the duration of the course. Course work will be given out in incremental steps with clear guidance on study tips and coursework deadlines to aid students in time management.

Course Schedule:

Zoom Dates are definite

Assignment dates are tentative

Date	Theme/topic	Learning outcome addressed
Oct 24	Introductory Zoom Call	Meet & Greet, syllabus review, goals, logistics
Oct 24	Webinar: Thesis and Definitions	Permaculture theory
Oct 25	Webinar: Background and Lineage	Permaculture history and context
Oct 26	Webinar: Observation Skills - video and exercise	Native awareness practices
Oct 27	Webinar: Pattern Literacy - video and exercise	Developing pattern literacy in nature
Oct 28	Reading & Reflection: Permaculture Ethics	Permaculture theory and ethics
Oct 29	Reading & Reflection: Principles	Ecological design principles
Oct 31	Zoom class: Permaculture theory	Philosophy and problems confronted
Nov 1	Webinar: Permaculture Design Process	Understanding design process
Nov 2	Webinars & Mapping: Base Mapping	Creating a base map

Nov 3	Webinar & writing: Goal Statement	Creating and revising a goal statement
Nov 3	Webinar & Mapping: Tools for Design: Zones/sectors; input/output analysis; assets & challenges	Creating maps describing ecological conditions and land management regimes
Nov 4	Webinar & Mapping: Scales of Permanence data collection	Creating layers of map information. Map synthesis.
Nov 7	Live Zoom call	Base mapping Q&A, Scales of Permanence Q&A
Nov 8	Webinar: Gallery of Permaculture Design Strategies and Techniques	Understanding construction techniques and strategies of land use
Nov 9	Webinar & Exercise: Plant Relationships and Polyculture Design	Designing guilds and polycultures
Nov 11	Permaculture Site Tour (Spring and Fall)	Seeing real life examples here in Maine
Nov 14	Final Live Zoom call	Design/construction technique Q&A. Where to from here.