

ELFIN PERMACULTURE  
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## ELFIN PERMACULTURE

### ANNUAL PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE ONLINE

#### Schedule of Study Topics, Reading Assignments and Report Deadlines

Reading assignments shown here may be superseded by specific assignment sheets issued before and during the course. This schedule represents the default assignments for each, week. Reading in advance is highly advised. Items marked with an asterisk are included in required reading list. All items on the course reading list must be read, whether or not they match specific weekly reading assignments. **We strongly recommend reading through this entire document at the beginning of the course and frequently thereafter, so that you do not miss deadlines.**

#### Discussing the Readings

In sending email about the course content, please put the course week and topic in the subject field plus the specific them of your comments. For example, if you have a comment about our emphasis on teaching rather than consulting in our courses, you could address it as follows in the Subject Field:

Week 1: Style, schedule, intent ..., Consulting by Design Course Graduates

In that way, we can file your comments exactly where they belong.

#### Copyright

Your comments to the course are automatically copyrighted by US copyright law and probably by the laws of other pertinent countries. (There has been strong movement toward uniformity of these laws in recent decades.) The registration form that you signed grants us the limited right to use your comments and other submissions in our teaching of permaculture. All other rights belong to you. (If you wish to use material submitted to another student, contact that student directly for permission.) We will not ask for a waiver of copyright unless we wish to publish your comments in some other way.

It is possible that we will wish to publish your design, or portions of it, as a resource from our special order list. In that case, we will approach you for permission.

#### Schedule

We number the course weeks for convenience. We may extend such a "week" to 14 days if we decide to continue a discussion or make allowance of some sort. There are extra weeks in the course schedule to allow for this. Basically, the designation Week 1, Week 2, etc., allows us to use the same outlines in each course cycle without changing a batch of dates. Originally, each week corresponded to one day in the live certificate course that we teach. It has been convenient to keep this method of identifying course teaching units.

#### WEEK 1 Introduction/Bad News

# Introductions--Send your personal statement to everyone.

# Style, schedule, intent, and content of course

# Overview of permaculture

Bad News -

Water

Soil

Air

Climate

Forests

Good News -

## Permaculture

### # Feedback and questions

#### Reading for Week 1:

##### Required:

- \*"The Fate of Our Forests, A Time to Choose" by Dan Hemenway, TIPSYS #4.
- \*"Permaculture Design: A Warning, a Vision, a Gift" by Dan Hemenway, TIPSYS #3.
- \*"Solar Age or Ice Age?" by Don Weaver, TIPSYS #4.
- \*"A Green World Instead of the Green House" by James Duke, TIPSYS #3.
- \*"Climate & Ozone: The Stratospheric Link" by John Gribbin, TIPS I, 3.
- \*"Politics and Genetic Resources," by Cary Fowler, TIPSYS #3.
- \**Permaculture Design Course Pamphlet I* by Bill Mollison
- \**Permaculture Design Course Handbook* (pg. 1)

##### Also recommended:

*State of the World* (Current & past editions), WorldWatch Inst. [web site: http://www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org)  
[gopher site: gopher://gopher.icg.apc.org:70/11/orgs/worldwatchemail](http://gopher://gopher.icg.apc.org:70/11/orgs/worldwatchemail)

*Global 2000 Report*

*Robin* (Volumes IV-XI)

*Survival of Civilization*, by John Hamaker & Don Weaver

"Farm Debt" by Wes Jackson TIPSYS #4.

*Rights to Our Genetic Resources* by Sahabat Alam Malaysia.

*The Man Who Planted Hope and Grew Happiness* (A mythical account.) by Jean Giono.

### WEEK 2 Basic Principles

#### # Feedback and questions

#### # Entropy

#### # Principles of natural design

#### # Mollison's design principles (Handbook, pp. 1-3)

#### # Succession

#### Reading for Week 2:

##### Required

- \*"Living Lovingly on the Earth" by Dan Hemenway, TIPSYS #2 (pg. 9 ff.)
- \* *Permaculture Designer's Handbook* by Bill Mollison (Chapters 1 and 2)
- \* "Forests: Green Gifts from Gaia" by Bill Mollison. TIPSYS #3 (pg. 22 ff.)
- \* "Traditional Practices of Farmers," Sahabat Alam Malaysia, TIPS I, 1.
- \* *Introduction to Permaculture* by Bill Mollison (Chapt. 1-3).

##### Also Recommended

*Entropy* by Jeremy Rifkin (Viking Press)

### WEEK 3 Permaculture Design Basics

#### # Feedback and questions

#### # Permaculture design (Handbook, pp. 2-3)

#### + Design examples (instructor's option)

#### Reading for Week 3:

**Required**

- \**Permaculture Design Course Pamphlet VIII*
- \**Permaculture Designers' Manual* (**Chapter 3**)

**Also Recommended**

*Ocean Arks and City Farms*, **John Todd**

**WEEK 4: Idealized Landscapes**

# Feedback and questions

# Humid landscapes  
Keyline  
Arid landscapes  
Other landscapes

**Reading for Week 4**

**Required**

- \**Permaculture Design Course Handbook* (pp. 5-8)
- \**Water for Every Farm* by P.A. Yeomans (This book is technically out of print. It is essential and we will supply it as long as possible.)
- \**Permaculture Design Course Pamphlets II, III, IV, V, and VI*
- \**Permaculture Designers' Manual* (**Chapters 10-12**)

**Also Recommended**

YPC Pamphlet #10, *Erosion: Principles & Management* by John Farghar  
YPC Pamphlet #11, *Arid Lands Water Harvesting* by John Farghar

**WEEK 5. Patterning/Edges/The Permaculture Design Report**

**DEADLINE**--You should have posted to the class a description of your intended design project if you are registered for the full course or the design practicum. **SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE ON YOUR DESIGN SO FAR LESS THAN 500 WORDS, INCLUDING QUESTIONS, PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED, ETC.**

# Feedback and questions

# Edges, edge effects, edge harmonics  
# Client Interviews  
# Overview: The permaculture design report  
# Practical Tips for Your Permaculture Design Project [NEW]

**Reading for Week 5:**

**Required:**

- \**Permaculture Design Course Pamphlets VII and IX*
- \**Permaculture Designers' Manual* (**Chapter 4**)
- \***Patterning** - \* \* *PDC Handbook*, **pg. 4**
- \* **Report Writing**, *PDC Handbook*, **pp 24-25.**
- \* "A Look at Permaculture Design..." by Robert Kourik (paper supplied in course reading package)

**WEEK 6: Feedback, Catch-up, Review, Field Work**

**DEADLINE: Report on your client interview and preliminary field visit to your design site.**

# Feedback and questions

# Principles of transformation, presentation by instructor of a study in progress.

# Principles of transformation, discussion by class

**WEEK 7 Work on your design.**

**DEADLINE;**

**If you wish to arrange to report your design in a later course, this is the last week to receive permission from the instructor to do so.** Allow time for the instructor to consider your request, ask questions, and reply. The end of this week is the **deadline** for APPROVAL, not submission of the request. Strong reasons are needed to delay submission of the design report.

# Pursue student questions or themes special to this course.

# Students do more field work and research for their design report.

Reading for Week 7:

Required

\*"The Politics of Diversity" by Vandana Shiva

**YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED THE FIRST SEGMENT OF THE COURSE.**

This has been an introduction to natural design principles and considerations. IN THE NEXT SEGMENT OF THE COURSE WE WILL LOOK AT TECHNIQUES, STRATEGIES, AND THEMES that may be included in a Permaculture Design. A major purpose of the following segment of the course is to exemplify the applicability of the design principles. Another purpose is to make you aware that bodies of information exist which you can study in detail when appropriate for a given design.

**WEEK 8 - energy**

# Feedback and questions

# Conservation and edge: Solar and conservation vocabulary and concepts.

# Biomass

# Wind power, wind breaks, natural cooling, & water power

Reading for Week 8:

(The field of energy has a good many useful books. We list just a few resources here.)

Required

\**Energy Paper #1*, by Bill Mollison (YPC Paper 13 - North America edition)

\**Energy Paper #2*, by Bill Mollison (YPC Paper 14)

\**Permaculture Designers' Manual* (Chapter 5)

\* *How to Live...* Chapt 1, Chapt 2, Chapt. 5 (appropriate technologies), Chapt. 7 & 8, (transport);

Chapt 10 (solar/electric);

**Also Recommended**

*Permaculture I* (pg. 41 ff. - Windbreaks)

*Methane Generation from Human, Animal and Agricultural Wastes* (NAS)

*Energy for Rural Development & Supplement* (NAS)

*The Methods of Jean Pain* (Difficult to read)

*The Solar Greenhouse Book* (McCullagh)

*The Passive Soar Energy Book* (Mazria)

## **WEEK 9 Nutrient Cycles-A-Soils**

### # Feedback and questions

#### # Soils

#### # Soil treatments

#### # Soil shaping

#### # Shaping time as a dimension of soil

#### # Hybrid systems - Fukuoka

#### # Keyline cultivation

### Reading for Week 9:

#### Required

\* *TIPS I*, 3. **Special soils issue. Very important.**

\* *Water for Every Farm and the Keyline Method*

\* *Designers Manual* (Chapters 5 & 6)

\* *Erosion: Principles and Management*, Yankee PC Paper 10, by John Fargher.

\* *Circle Gardens*, by Richard Webb & Dan Hemenway. Yankee PC Paper 20.

\* *Introduction to Permaculture*, Chapt. 5.

\* *Handbook*, pp. 6-7

#### Also Recommended

*How to Grow More Food Than You Thought Possible...* by John Jeavons

*The One Straw Revolution* by Masanobu Fukuoka

Any of Ruth Stout's books from Rodale

*Worms Eat My Garbage*, by Mary Applehof

"Information for Using Gesteinsmehl" translated by Christian Campe, TIPS I, 1.

*Guidelines for Development Agents on Soil Conservation in Ethiopia*, Ethiopian Soil Conservation Research

#### Project.

*Gardening Articles*, Yankee PC Paper 16, reprints, Dan Hemenway

*Articles about Soil*, Yankee PC Paper 30, reprints, Dan Hemenway

## **WEEK 10: Nutrient Cycles - B- Microclimate/Composting Toilets/Seed**

### **Saving/Biological Pest Control**

#### # Feedback and questions

#### # Microclimate; Phenology

#### # Perennial gardening, self-sowing, tree crops, food parks

#### # Composting toilets

#### # Livestock

#### # Seed saving, food storage

#### # Biological pest control

### Reading for Week 10:

#### Required:

\* *PDC Handbook* (pp. 14-16)

\* "The Massachusetts Fruition Program," by Judy Heiman and "Proposed Criteria for Evaluating Plants Suitable for Fruition Projects" by Dan Hemenway, both in TIPS #1.

\* "A Fruition Guide to Design, TIPS #2.

\* "A Plea for Phenology," by James Duke, TIPS I, 1.

\* *Composting Human Wastes*, by Dan Hemenway & David Stephens, Yankee PC Paper 17.

\*"Diversity among Plants," by Dan Hemenway, TIPS Y #1.

\**Rights to Our Genetic Resources* by Sahabat Alam Malaysia.

\*"Humanity at the Crossroads of Biotechnology" by Asia-Pacific People's Network, TIPS I, 2.

\*"Standards vs. Hybrids," by Rob Johnston, TIPS I, 2.

\*"An Integrated Pest Control System for a Rice Paddy," by Lonna Nachtigal & Dan Hemenway, TIPS I,

1.

\**How to Live...*, Chapt. 5, Sections 21 & 22.

### Also Recommended

Seed to Seed by Susan Ashworth (Seed Savers Exchange). (See also SSE reference volumes on available varieties of garden seed, fruit and nut plants, etc.)

For reference: *Cornucopia: A Source Book of Edible Plants* by Stephen Facciola.

*Horticultural Management of Solar Greenhouses*, by Klin

For reference: *Dictionary of Cultivated Plants & Their Regions of Diversity*

For reference: *Plant Propagation*, by Hartmann & Kester

*The Future is Abundant* (TILTH, out of print)

*The Onions*, by Mollison (Yankee PC Paper 1)

"One Man's Search for Biological Control of Poison Ivy," by James Duke. TIPS Y #3.

"Annuals and Perennials in the Permaculture Scenario," by James Duke, TIPS I, 2.

"Collecting Tree and Shrub Seed - Part II" by Michael Pilarski, TIPS Y #3.

"Genetic Design for Permaculture Systems," by Eric van Lennep, TIPS Y #2.

"Index Cards: An Effective Alternative to Computers for Permaculture Species Selection," by Earle Barnhart, TIPS Y #2.

"Collecting Tree & Shrub Seed," by Michael Pilarski, TIPS Y #2.

### WEEK 11: Nutrient Cycles-C-Cultivated Systems/Forests

# Feedback and questions

# Cultivated systems including edible landscapes.

# Tropical reforestation/agroforestry

Reading for Week 11:

Required:

\* **Forests** (*Handbook*, pp. 11-12)

\* *PDC Pamphlets VII & X*

\*"Forests: Green Gifts from Gaia" by Bill Mollison, TIPS Y #3.

\**Designing and Maintaining Your Edible Landscape Naturally*, by Robert Kourik

\**Designers Manual* (Chapter 6)

\**How to Live...*, Chapt 6.

### Also Recommended

*Tree Crops*, by J. Russell Smith

*The Book of Bamboo*, by Farrelly

*Plants for Use in Permaculture in the Tropics* by Frank Martin, Yankee PC Paper 31.

See other articles in TIPS and TIPS Y including materials on oaks, chestnut blight, and specific tree crops, particularly in TIPS Y 3.

### WEEK 12: Design for Health

[More assignments to come]

Required:

\**How to Live...*, Chapt.5, sections 18 & 19.; Chapt 6 (nutrient tables); Chapt 13 (Be Your Own Bush Doctor)

**WEEK 13. Design for Catastrophe**

# Feedback and questions

# Discuss individual design projects.

Reading for Week 13:

**Required**

\* **Design for catastrophe** (*Handbook*, pp. 8-9)

\* *Permaculture for Fire Control* by Bill Mollison, *PDC Pamphlet V.*

\* *How to Live...*, Chaps 11 & 12.

**Also Recommended**

*Design Client Survey* (YPC Paper 21)

**WEEK 14: Teaching Permaculture**

# Feedback and questions

# Teaching permaculture, discuss experiences.

**DEADLINE: STUDENTS EACH REPORT ON A TEACHING EXPERIENCE.** See posts for assignment details.

**WEEK 15 DISCUSS DESIGN PROJECT PROGRESS.**

**DEADLINE.** Submit a report of up to 1,000 words indicating your progress, problems, questions, and plans. The design aspect of this course is now getting into high gear.

**WEEK 16: Water**

# Feedback and questions

# Water

- Aquaculture, Mariculture, etc.

- Discuss design project water treatments.

Reading for Week 16: -

**Required:**

\* **Impoundments** (*Handbook*, pp. 12-14)

\* *PDC Pamphlet XI*

\* *Water for Every Farm*

\* *Permaculture Designers' Manual* (Chapter 13)

\* *TIPSY #4* (Wet environments issue)

\* "Chinampa Agriculture in the Valley of Mexico: Coevolution of Technology and Ecology," by Bill McLarney. *TIPS I*, 3.

**Supplemental Reading:**

*Ponds--Planning, Design, Construction* (SCS)

*Rain Catchment and Water Supply in Rural Africa*

*More Water for Arid Lands* (NAS)

*The Freshwater Aquaculture Book* by Bill McLarney.

*Useful Plants of Wetlands* by Bill Mollison, Yankee PC Paper #6.

"The Farmed Wetland Alternative: Crawfish and Bald Cypress" by Michael Miltner, *TIPS I*, 1.

"T. O. Warren on Mayhaws," TIPS I,3.

## WEEK 17: Buildings

# Feedback and questions

# Student presentations on building experience

# Students present design questions and problems

Reading for Week 17:

Required:

\*Buildings (*Handbook*, pp 9-10)

\**Permaculture Technique*, by Bill Mollison, PDC Pamphlet IX .

\**Outlines for Permaculture Village Development*, by Bill Mollison

\**Introduction to Permaculture* by Bill Mollison, Chapt. 4.

\**How to Live...*, Chapt. 5, Section 12

Supplemental:

All of the Ken Kern books

Cordwood construction books by Rob Roy and/or Jack Henstridge

**YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED THE SECOND SEGMENT OF THE COURSE.** By now, you should have a clear idea of what constitutes a Permaculture Design and be well along on your own design project for the course.

## Week 18: Review/Design Work

This week is set aside for reviewing any areas where students still feel weak and for discussing design issues in the student design projects.

Reading for Week 18:

Required

\*PDC Pamphlets VIII and IX

## WEEK 19: Invisible Structures

# Feedback and questions

# Urban Permaculture

# Bioregionalism

# Alternative Economics

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR A COURSE CERTIFICATE.** If you do not have a form, please ask for one. If you miss this **deadline**, you do not get a certificate.

Reading for Week 19:

Required:

\*Bioregional Organization, by Bill Mollison, Yankee PC Paper 8

\*Introduction to Permaculture, Chapt. 8.

\*Permaculture Designers' Manual Chapt 14.

\*Permaculture for Urban Areas & Urban-Rural Linkages by Bill Mollison, PDC Pamphlet XII.

\*The Permaculture Community by Bill Mollison, PDC Pamphlet XIII.

\*The Permaculture Alternative by Bill Mollison, PDC Pamphlet XIV.

\*Permaculture for Millionaires, by Bill Mollison, PDC Pamphlet XV.



\*TIPSY #1 and TIPSY #2, Urban Permaculture Sections.

\*"Ethics, Environment and Economics -- A Bioregional Perspective" by Dan Hemenway, TIPS I, 1.

\*Kudzu Utilization Concept Paper, by Dan Hemenway, Yankee PC Paper 34.

\*How To Live..., Chapt. 3, Chapt. 4.

## SUPPLEMENTAL

YPC Pamphlet #15: *Outlines for Permaculture Village Development* by Bill Mollison.

Robin (Early issues.)

The Integral Urban House

## WEEK 20: Receive and Discuss Student Design Reports

### **DEADLINE. Students Deliver Their Permaculture Design Report**

[NOTE; Students may submit designs at any time prior to this. The course fee covers up to two readings of the design project by the instructor. After that a design fee may be required. A design is not considered submitted unless it has been received on disk with print out by conventional mail, in addition to email transmission.]

# Feedback and questions

# Design reports

Reading for Week 19:

Required

\**Designing for Permaculture* by Bill Mollison, PDC Pamphlet VIII.

## WEEK 21: What Next? Evaluation.

# Final questions

# Role of Permaculture Trainees

# Advanced training for commercial designers and/or teachers. [NEW]

# Resources and networking for permaculture, worldwide.

# Students individually discuss commitments, networking, plans, etc.

# Evaluation A COURSE EVALUATION COMPLETED ON TIME IS A REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION. Please add comments on areas not covered by the evaluation as well. MONITORS ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT EVALUATIONS. Evaluations are important stimuli to the evolution of the Elfin Permaculture Design Course.

**DEADLINE SECOND REPORT ON PERMACULTURE TEACHING EXPERIENCE. (See posts for details.)**

# Teaching permaculture-- Q & A

## Course ends

### Basic References to Use in the Months and Years Following the Course

TRIP-*The Resources of International Permaculture*, Dan & Cynthia Hemenway, Eds. (A directory of thousands of groups working on issues related to aspects of permaculture. Paper or disk.)

*The Permaculture Resource Directory*, by Richard Webb. A comprehensive listing of reference material for teaching and practicing permaculture. For additional books, check the book review sections of TIPSYs and TIPS for descriptions of hundreds more useful publications.

Yankee Permaculture Paper #27, Special Order List, offers dozens of designs, reports, translations, offprints, etc., on a special order basis.

Elfin Permaculture Press List, Yankee PC Paper #23. Lists hundreds of publications of interest to, and potentially interested in, Permaculture. Available on disk and as special order print out. TRIP is a better primary source, though this list includes many publications not on TRIP.

Permaculture journals and newsletters in various countries carry announcements of courses and sometimes offer lists of national or regional graduates. See TRIP for a list of these publications.

Elfin Permaculture Supplier List (PSL), hundreds of suppliers of seeds, plants, tools, shelter, water, alternative energy, energy conservation, and other products for living lightly and deliberately. Available on disk and as special order print out.

ASSIGNMENT: Students & monitors: Please post your favorite permaculture resources.