

Beginning Floral Design

CRN 32555

ORNH B36 - 3 Units

Lecture: Online - All Assignments are Due, Tuesday before the lab by 11:59PM

Labs: Wednesdays 6-9:10pm

Course Syllabus

I. General Information

Course Title: Floral Design

Room: GS38

Instructor: Jennifer Downs, CCF

Email: jennifer.downs@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Phone #: 559-289-0383

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

II. Course Description: Floral Design

Introduction to the fundamentals of theory, art, history, techniques and skills currently practiced in the floral industry. As part of the Fine Art Requirement, Floral Design will incorporate all but not limited to the following standard areas; tool & material ID, plant physiology, retail floristry, art definitions, elements of design, art history, principles of design, floral design shapes & styles, seasonal flowers, wedding flowers, permanent botanicals, and the focus & purpose of the color wheel, the history of floral arrangement, cut flower care, handling practices, proper use of florist tools and materials, pricing of floral products and modern design techniques. This course also includes the constructing of corsages, floral arrangements, and foliage plant items, which meet floral industry standards.

The Art of Floral Design is intended to introduce the student to theories and principles of artistic design and their influence on floral artistry. The course emphasizes the knowledge and skills needed to understand artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context(s); aesthetic valuing, and practical application of the visual arts. Students will analyze, interpret, create and judge various types of artwork and apply what is learned to floral art. Students will be introduced to the basic elements of visual art such as line, balance, color and form and apply this knowledge to floral designs as well as two dimensional projects using other art media. Through hands-on practice the student will become familiar with material selection, design mechanics, maintenance and design evaluation. Students will achieve this through creating, designing, identifying, explaining and evaluating their own work. Other projects will include two and three dimensional designs that serve to reinforce the students' instruction in historical and cultural influence, color theory and creative expression. Concepts will be reinforced by using appropriate design vocabulary in conjunction with development of technical skills in floral art, cut flower

identification and care and will serve as a foundation for more complex works such as multi-part floral design, design challenges and creating art based on client specifications.

III. Required Items for this Class:

1. Each student will need to come to class with a notebook, pencil, blue or black pen, and eraser.
2. **Tools: Fabric Scissors & Floral Snips/Shears**
3. Have access to a computer, Google Drive and Canvas
4. **Required Textbook: Hunter, Norah. The Art of Floral Design, 3rd, Delmar**

IV. Grading Policies:

All grades will be determined by the instructor of the course. Grades will be percent weighted on the following scales:

ASSIGNMENT CODE	% WEIGHT
Projects Projects	40%
Classwork CLSWRK	30%
Tests/Quizzes TEST	30%
TOTAL 100%	

% RANGE	GRADE
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
50-59	F

Semester Grading	% Weight
Semester Grade	80%
Semester Final	20%

V. Absence Policy:

Any absence is still an absence, excused or not. As each week in class and homework assignments are on the agenda board each week, it is expected that EVERY student will know the work that is assigned and be prepared to turn in that work regardless of an absence. I will not cancel class because you were not there. Students will have the same amount of time that they are absent to complete the assignment from that day. If a student is absent on the day of a test they will be expected to take the exam on the day that they return. Labs are simply too hard to make up. Missing a lab will require you to serve a lunch period in my room studying the key concepts that were presented in the lab.

VI. Late Work:

No Late work is accepted.

VII. Digital Notebooks

Organization is the key to being successful in your education. Your digital notebook will be checked on a regular basis and graded as part of your participation grade. Digital notebooks must contain all floral notes in a proper and organized fashion.

VIII. Cheating Policy:

Cheating will not be tolerated in this class or on the online platform of this course. Any use of another student's thoughts or answers will be considered cheating. Giving your answers to other students will also be considered cheating on both student's parts and assignments for both students will receive a score of zero. Looking at another student's test, copying homework or labs is cheating and will not be tolerated. A student who is caught cheating will be dealt with by the dean and school officials.

IX. Class Expectations:

1. Students must come to class prepared and ready to learn daily.
2. Textbooks must be brought to class each day regardless of its use.
3. Students are to remove all hats upon entering the classroom.
4. No food, drink or chewing gum will be allowed in the classroom.
5. Cell phones are to be off at ALL times.
6. All personal items which become a distraction will be confiscated by the instructor and handed back at the end of class.
7. All students are expected to be respectful to classmates, guests and the instructor at all times.

X. Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives:

1. Apply multiple methods to condition and handle cut flowers, foliage, and live potted plants
2. Identify and select flowers and foliage for use in design applications
3. Explain the influence of historical design eras on contemporary design methods
4. Develop marketing and sales strategies for event work and daily sales
5. Apply traditional and environmentally friendly mechanics in design
6. Describe the cultural associations of flowers with major religious and social holidays worldwide
7. Successfully execute designs for use in sympathy, weddings and event work, and daily deliveries

XI. CSLOs

- 1. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of floral design theory, design principles and the use of color in floral arrangements.**

ISLOs

BC GELO

C.1.2. - Demonstrate the ability to recognize, describe and/or produce various components of an art form or language either visually and/or auditorily

ISLOs

CoreISLOs

Demonstrate competency in a field of knowledge or with job-related skills

Think critically and evaluate sources and information for validity and usefulness

- 2. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to describe floral designs and styles from different historical periods and their influences of the use of flowers and floral designs upon society today.**

ISLOs

BC GELO

C.1.1. - Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to describe the ways in which arts, literature, philosophy or foreign languages reflect historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts, as well as aesthetic tastes

ISLOs

CoreISLOs

Demonstrate competency in a field of knowledge or with job-related skills

- 3. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to construct different kinds of floral arrangements and be able to identify the flowers, greens, and foliage plants used in the arrangements.**

ISLOs

BC GELO

C.1.2. - Demonstrate the ability to recognize, describe and/or produce various components of an art form or language either visually and/or auditorily

ISLOs

CoreISLOs

Communicate effectively in both written and oral forms

Demonstrate competency in a field of knowledge or with job-related skills

Engage productively in all levels of society – interpersonal, community, the state and nation, and the world

Think critically and evaluate sources and information for validity and usefulness

- 4. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to analyze the role of culture and modern society on the wedding and event market, traditional design, and apply elements and principles of design to reflect current design trends.**

XII. Accommodations:

If any student requires assistance per their disability, IEP, or 504 plan, please inform the instructor within the first two weeks of class so that the teacher can make accommodations.

XIII. Detailed Topic Outline:

Week	Lecture Topic	Lab	Date
Week 1	Unit: Intro to the Floral Industry & Safety Section 1 - Chapter 1, 2 & 3 1. Harvest and Distribution 2. Flower Retailing 3. Careers and Continuing Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ID Digital Notebook Set UP Care and handling of cut flowers Safety in the lab Bow Making Floral Taping Ribbon Chart 	Online Assignments Due: Jan. 23, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: Jan. 21, 2026
Week 2	Unit: Flowers & Foliage Section 2 - Chapter 4, 5, 6 1. Nomenclature 2. Postharvest Physiology 3. Care & Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomenclature Sketch Leaf ID Mico Floral Design Flower Pressing (for future design) 	Online Assignments Due: Jan. 27, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: Jan. 28, 2026
Week 3	Unit: Basic Styles & Techniques Section 5 - Chapter 17 1. Flowers to Wear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wiring Techniques Corsages Boutonnieres Composite Design Flower Jewelry Flower Tattoos 	Online Assignments Due: Feb. 3, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: Feb. 4, 2026
Week 4	Unit: Design Principles & Elements Section 3 - Chapter 7 & 8 1. Design, Style, Harmony & Unity 2. Color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Critique Color Wheel Project 	Online Assignments Due: Feb. 10, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: Feb. 11, 2026
Week 5	Unit: Design Principles & Elements Section 3 - Chapter 9 & 10 1. Balance, Proportion and Scale 2. Focal Point & Rhythm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bud Vases Retail Pricing Ethical Foraging of materials Vertical designs 	Online Assignments Due: Feb. 17, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: Feb. 18, 2026
Week 6	Unit: Design Principles & Elements Section 3 - Chapter 11 & 12 1. Line, Form, Space & Depth 2. Texture & Fragrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Ratio inspired design, Hogarth Curve Crescent Design Flower Placement to create: line, 	Online Assignments Due: Feb. 24, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: Feb. 25, 2026

		form, space & depth	
Week 7	Unit: Functional Design Section 4 - Chapter 13 & 14 1. Tools, Containers, and the Mechanics of Arrangement 2. Flower and Foliage Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun with Foliage • Wrapping Bouquets • Preparing Containers for various designs 	Online Assignments Due: March. 3, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: March. 4, 2026
Week 8	Unit: Functional Design Section 4 - Chapter 15 1. Shapes of Floral Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymmetrical Designs • Symmetrical Designs 	Online Assignments Due: March. 10, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: March. 11, 2026
Week 9	Unit: Basic Styles and Techniques Section 5 - Chapter 18 1. Everlasting Flowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dried Flower Arrangements • Everlasting Designs 	Online Assignments Due: March. 17, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: March. 18, 2026
Week 10	Unit: Basic Styles and Techniques Section 5 - Chapter 16 1. Special Occasions and Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal Influence Designs • Using botanicals in design 	Online Assignments Due: March. 24, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: March. 25, 2026
Week 11	Spring Break - No Class		March 28 - April 5, 2026
Week 12	Unit: Classic Floral Design Section 6 - Chapter 19 & 20 1. A History of Floral Design a. Ancient civilizations b. Middle Ages c. Renaissance d. Colonial Period e. Classical Revival f. Victorian Era g. Art Nouveau and Art Deco h. Modern Period i. 1960's - today: post modern, pop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaplet • Developing a period theme event • Oriental Influence Design 	Online Assignments Due: April 7, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: April 8, 2026

	culture, environmentalist 2. Oriental Style of Design		
Week 13	Unit: Advanced Design Section 7 - Chapter 21 1. Contemporary Designs and Techniques	SELF GUIDED LAB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flower Shop Tour (self guided) Designing arrangements with advanced techniques 	Online Assignments Due: April 14, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: April 15, 2026
Week 14	Unit: Advanced Design Section 7 - Chapter 23 1. Sympathy Flowers	SELF GUIDED LAB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sympathy Flower Order Dish Gardens and Terrariums 	Online Assignments Due: April 21, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: April 22, 2026

Week 15	Unit: Advanced Design Section 7 - Chapter 22 1. Wedding Flowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wedding Planning Project Wedding Venues Weddings Party Flowers Ceremony & Reception Arrangements 	Online Assignments Due: April 28, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: April 29, 2026
Week 16	1. Plant, Flower & Tool ID Digital Notebook 2. Professional Floral Portfolio (culmination of work)	1. Creative Expression Arrangement	Online Assignments Due: May 5, 2026 by 11:59pm Lab: May 6, 2026
Week 17	Final Exams		Lab: May 13, 2026

XIV. Methods of Instruction:

- 1. Audiovisual**
- 2. Computational Work**
- 3. Demonstration**
- 4. Discussion**
- 5. Field Trip**
- 6. Group Work**

7. Guest Lecturers
8. Informational Interviews
9. Job Shadowing
10. Laboratory
11. Lecture
12. Outside Reading
13. Problem Solving
14. Written Work

XV. Important Dates:

Saturday, January 17, 2026 - Enrollment Start Date/First Day of Fall Semester

Monday, January 19, 2026 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Sunday, February 1, 2026 - Drop without a “W”

Friday, March 27, 2026 - Drop with “W”

March 29-April 5, 2026 - Spring Break

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - Course Final/End Date

Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) is available to provide accommodations to students with diagnosed learning, mental, physical, and/or other health-related disabilities that are either permanent or temporary. Students with disabilities needing accommodation, including those with an IEP or a 504 plan in high school, should request the DSPS office by using the online application found on the DSPS website, or contacting the office by phone call, email, or by visiting their Virtual Lobby. All requests for accommodation require appropriate advanced notice to avoid a delay in services. After completing the intake process with DSPS, please provide your professors with a copy of your DSPS-approved accommodation letter so that we can work together to ensure your access and success at BC.

For more information, visit the DSPS Website, see us in person at CSS-11, email dspsdesk@bakersfieldcollege.edu, connect to DSPS Virtual Lobby via Zoom, or call (661) 395-4334 option 1 (Panorama Campus) / (661) 720-2000 (Delano Campus). (661) 720-2000 (Delano Campus).

To ensure maximum success for student accommodations, you should submit your DSPS accommodation letter to your professor at least a week before any assignment or test. This provides adequate time to meet your testing and/or assignment needs. Failure to do this could result in the inability of staff to make appropriate arrangements.