

## What Do Gardens Mean?

Gardens in culture and society, an examination of their essential role in human history

<b>Course #</b>	19FWA
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Moderator(s):</b>	Ellen Kosmer
<b>Co-Moderator:</b>	Betsy Siersma
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 10 weeks, starting September 25
<b>Location:</b>	UMass University without Walls, Hadley
<b>Maximum number of participants:</b>	16
<b>Auditors accepted:</b>	Yes, up to 2

**Purpose:** From the Garden of Eden to our own backyard garden, this seminar will explore the way gardens express the needs and interests of the societies that create them.

**Description:** Though many gardens are functional in purpose – to grow food – throughout the ages people have created gardens with much effort and expense that have no practical function but clearly have purposes that satisfy a variety of cultural, social, political and esthetic needs and desires. The seminar is organized thematically not historically, so although we will look at a variety of gardens from the past as well as the present, they will be in the context of a particular type of garden. We will consider, for example, imaginary gardens in art and literature, Japanese gardens, gardens as political statements such as the Boboli gardens in Florence, gardens created by artists including Frida Kahlo's, the garden as retreat, the Persian garden, and idiosyncratic gardens such as Mary Mattingly's garden on a barge in NY.

**Role of participants:** Each participant will make an approximately 30-minute visual presentation and lead the discussion that follows. There will be a project at the end of the seminar and a garden visit.

**Resources:** *The Meaning of Gardens: Idea, Place, and Action*, ed. Mark Francis and Randolph T. Hester, Jr. Recommended, not required. Used copies are available from online sources.

**About the Moderator:** Ellen Kosmer is an art historian and a gardener. Betsy Siersma is a curator of modern and contemporary art.