

Intro to Permaculture Week 2 Overview Video Transcript

Music

Hello and welcome back to week 2 of Intro to Permaculture massive open online course brought to you by Oregon State University. Again, I am Andrew Millison. So far we have gone through week 1, we have looked at the definition of permaculture, we talked about the permaculture ethics, we have talked about the design process, we have looked at scales of systems, and now here for week 2 really we are here to answer this one fundamental question. The question is - Where am I? We can't really figure out how to design a place before we understand where we are and what the major forces are that are working on that place.

This week we are going to work on understanding the patterns of nature so we can interpret our place in the greater ecosystem. What makes a climate zone? Why is the climate that we live in the way it is? We are going to address that question. We are going to talk about landforms, and we are going to look at watersheds, and we are going to understand how land is shaped and how that influences the conditions on our site. And from there we are really going to look at what we call "site analysis." What are the strategies, techniques and tools that we employ to analyze and really understand and quantify the conditions on our site. From this we are going to be looking at some particular tools to accomplish this. One is the sector compass, we are going to learn how to do that, and we are really going to see how the design is a response to the site conditions.

The main takeaway point from this whole week is that observation and analysis are key to do up front in the permaculture design process to come out with the most intelligent and regenerative design that we can for our sites. So I am going to end it here with a quote by Bill Mollison: "We are only truly secure when we look out our kitchen windows and we see our own food growing and our friends working nearby." So enjoy the week, and I am looking forward to it. Thank you.