

# UEP 246: Sustainable Oxy

Course Topic: Advancing FEAST Sustainability Initiatives

Fall 2021

M 3:00-4:55pm

## INSTRUCTORS

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she/her/hers

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## MOODLE

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All readings and supplemental media will be available on the course Moodle site:

<https://moodle.oxy.edu/course/view.php?id=33809>

## COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

### **Course Summary & Goals:**

The goals of *UEP 246: Sustainable Oxy* are to give students the experience of planning and implementing projects that advance sustainability initiatives on the Occidental campus and surrounding community. The project theme this semester will be “advancing FEAST sustainability initiatives.”

### **Class Structure & Format:**

There are two main components of the UEP 264 class; “garden support” activities and group research projects.

### ***Garden Support Activities:***

Each class, students will participate in a work activity to support a variety of FEAST sustainability initiatives, such as turning compost, weeding, tending chickens, garden signage, “garden box” prep, etc. for approximately 30 minutes. These activities will be

assigned to student teams early in the semester, and occasionally we will do larger “work day” activities with the entire group instead.

### ***Group Research Projects:***

There will be three group research projects for students to choose from which will be the main focus of the semester. These projects include:

#### **1) Outdoor Classroom at FEAST**

FEAST is developing plans for an outdoor classroom in the Bruce Steel Garden. The classroom may include seating, signage, shade structures, writing surfaces (chalk board/white board), electricity, a wifi upgrade, and other elements. This initiative is a cross-campus partnership including UEP/UEPI, the Office of Sustainability, facilities, as well as and other Oxy departments. UEP 246 students will be working collaboratively with project stakeholders to move this initiative forward, building on student research conducted last spring. In addition to planning for physical elements, this group will develop a strategy for coordinating use of the garden space with the Occidental community.

#### **2) “FEAST at Home” Garden Box!**

FEAST is partnering with [Food Finders](#) to provide 10-30 home garden starter kit boxes each month to families impacted by food insecurity in the Los Angeles area. UEP 246 students will support this initiative by developing supplemental materials such as planting instructions and recipe cards, as well as supporting with logistics and box assembly.

#### **3) Beekeeping at Oxy**

FEAST is exploring the possibility of introducing student-led beekeeping at Occidental. This initiative will build on student research, previous beekeeping projects at Oxy, and will draw lessons from successful initiatives at other colleges and universities. The goal is to develop an implementation plan for spring of 2022.

Research groups will be finalized at the second class meeting on September 13th. The second half of each class will be reserved for groups to check in and work on their projects. Everyone is expected to contribute equally to their group project and complete individually assigned tasks.

### ***Assignments & Due Dates:***

Each group will have distinct project milestones and end-products, but will complete the same assignments according to the timeline described below.

**Project Proposal & Work plan:**

For the first two weeks of the semester, groups will develop a “[Project Proposal](#).” This will identify project goals for the semester as well as the milestones to reach these goals that will be accomplished each week.

**Project Milestone Updates:**

Each week, groups will submit a summary of their achievements over the past week along with a report of any unexpected issues that came up, how they were addressed, and if there are any questions for moving forward. These summaries will be discussed with professors during class.

**Midterm Update Presentation:**

Halfway through the course, each team will share an update on their project with the class. These presentations will address accomplishments, as well as goals for the rest of the semester.

**Final Project Presentation:**

On the last day of class, each group will present on their final projects, including accomplishments over the semester,  
(and deliverable, if applicable)

<b>Research Project Assignments</b>	<b>8/30</b>
Project Proposal & Work Plan	9/13
Project Milestone Update #1	9/20
Project Milestone Update #2	9/27
Project Milestone Update #3	10/4
<b>Midterm Presentation</b>	<b>10/18</b>
Project Milestone Update #4	10/25
Project Milestone Update #5	11/1
Project Milestone Update #6	11/8
Project Milestone Update #7	11/15
<b>Final Presentation</b>	<b>11/29</b>

<i>(*and deliverable, if applicable)</i>	
<b>Final Journal Reflection</b>	<b>12/3</b>

## **COURSE/CAMPUS POLICIES & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Learning Environment & Responsibilities**

Professors and students share the responsibility of creating the space and stimulating enthusiasm for learning. Students are responsible for attending and participating in class, completing assignments in a timely manner, and being prepared to discuss readings and material in class. Students are also responsible for engaging in respectful, open, and thoughtful discussion with each other, the professors and community partners. In order to ensure open, honest, thoughtful, and respectful learning, teaching, class and community discussions please:

- Inform the professors when you may have to arrive late or leave early with advanced notice when possible. As this class is community based, all guest lectures are mandatory. If you are absent for these classes, an alternative assignment must be discussed ahead of time.
- Engage in active and courteous listening to other students and community partners and contribute respectfully to class and community discussions.

### **Academic Integrity**

As stated in the Occidental College Student Handbook, intellectual honesty is “essential to the educational purposes and fairness of the academic enterprise. Occidental College assumes that students and faculty will embrace a high ethical standard for academic work. In all work, students shall behave conscientiously, taking and giving credit where credit is due, and when in doubt, consulting the instructor or other knowledgeable persons as to whether particular conduct, collaboration, and/or acknowledgement of sources as appropriate. Academic misconduct occurs when a student misrepresents others’ work as her/his own or otherwise behaves so as to unfairly advantage her/himself or another student academically. Examples of misconduct include cheating and plagiarism. If this or other misconduct occurs to any extent in connection with any academic work, it will be subject to disciplinary action.” For further information, please see the [Occidental Student Handbook](#).

As many of you are learning from home this semester, you may have family around who are willing and able to provide you with support. While general support is necessary and

welcomed by many, in order to protect your academic growth and ensure the integrity of this course, this statement serves as a reminder that your work must be your own. While office hours are always available for students, they will not be available for parents/guardians/family members. As always, if your parent/guardian has concerns, they are welcome to [contact the Dean of Students office](#).

## **Academic Support Resources**

The College has a wide range of [Student Academic Support Resources](#) to support students in learning.

- The **Writing Center** offers opportunities to work on all forms of writing for any class or other writing tasks such as personal statements, senior comprehensives, etc. We offer peer-to-peer consultations with knowledgeable Writing Advisers and sessions with Faculty Writing Specialists. For fall 2020, all of our appointments will be remote: either synchronous virtual meetings or asynchronous writing feedback. See the [Writing Center website](#) for more information about our fall hours and how students can sign up for appointments. We will update our information again for spring 2021. Please contact the Writing Programs-Center Director, Julie Prebel ([jprebel@oxy.edu](mailto:jprebel@oxy.edu); x1307) for more information on how the Center can work with you.
- If you'd like to take advantage of the College's **Academic Coaching** resource, which offers one-on-one sessions focused on supporting your time management skills, online learning strategies, and other study skills, you may schedule an academic coaching meeting by sending an email to [academiccoaching@oxy.edu](mailto:academiccoaching@oxy.edu). Share what you'd like to work on, and an academic coach will schedule an appointment with you within a few days.
- The **Center for Digital Liberal Arts (CDLA)** offers [library research consultations](#) and [discipline-specific peer tutoring for coursework](#) and [language learning](#). We also offer peer-to-peer [support for learning technologies](#) from Moodle and Zoom to Adobe, app making, and ProTools.

## **Intercultural Community Center (ICC)**

The Intercultural Community Center (ICC) seeks to uplift and support the experiences of students who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, low income or first generation college students. The ICC also aims to reduce institutional barriers for minoritized groups through intersectional programming, identity-specific services and structural resources. To learn more, contact [icc@oxy.edu](mailto:icc@oxy.edu), or reach out directly to Chris Arguedas, at [carguedas@oxy.edu](mailto:carguedas@oxy.edu).

## **Emmons/ Student Health**

Your health and well-being has always impacted learning and academic success, and this reality is only heightened as we learn and live through a global pandemic. Symptoms such as anxiety, depression, loss of motivation, difficulty concentrating, and strained relationships can occur. Emmons Counseling staff are committed to supporting the mental health needs of all of our students, regardless of where you're located. Emmons provides virtual walk-ins, crisis support, and consultation to all students, and ongoing individual telecounseling to students residing in California. All students residing outside of California will have access to ongoing telecounseling through a national telecounseling service. Emmons also assists students with finding local therapy referrals. All students continue to have access to the 24/7 confidential hotline at (323) 341-4141. To get connected to any of the free, confidential services at Emmons call (323) 259-2657 or schedule an appointment online at <https://myhealth.oxy.edu> using your Oxy login credentials.

### **Special Accommodations/Learning Differences**

No matter the mode of course instruction, approved academic accommodations remain in effect. Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester, or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who has, or thinks they may have, a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at [accessibility@oxy.edu](mailto:accessibility@oxy.edu) to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

### **Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience**

Consistent with Occidental College's commitment to creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that students should be excused from class for reasons of faith and conscience without academic consequence. While it is not feasible to schedule coursework around all days of conviction for a class as a whole, faculty will honor requests from individual students to reschedule coursework, to be absent from classes that conflict with the identified days. Information about this process is available on the ORSL website: <https://www.oxy.edu/office-religious-spiritual-life>

### **Title IX**

All Occidental faculty are mandatory reporters. In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced sexual or interpersonal violence, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation or any other form of sexual harassment, as designated Responsible Employees, professors must notify the Title IX Office. They will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at Oxy and reporting options both on and off-campus.

If you do not want the Title IX Office notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, either through conversation or a class assignment, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus:

- Marianne Frapwell, Survivor Advocate, Project SAFE ([survivoradvocate@oxy.edu](mailto:survivoradvocate@oxy.edu))
- Emmons Counseling (For appointments, call: 323-259-2657)
- Rev. Dr. Susan Young, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life ([young@oxy.edu](mailto:young@oxy.edu))

The sexual misconduct policy, along with additional resources, can be found at: <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>. If you would like to contact the Title IX Office directly, you can email Title IX Coordinator Alexandra Fulcher at [afulcher@oxy.edu](mailto:afulcher@oxy.edu) or call 323-259-1338.

### **Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Policy:**

We strive to foster an inclusive classroom environment. Consistent with College policy on [discrimination, harassment, and retaliation](#), we seek to maintain an environment of mutual respect among all members of our community. Please come to us with any concerns.

### **Lived Name Policy**

Occidental College seeks to provide an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment by making it possible for students to use [a lived first name](#) and pronouns on college records when a legal name is not required. Students are encouraged to use Zoom to display their lived name and pronouns.

## **EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING**

UEP 246 is a 2-unit course. It is expected that students in this class on average will devote at least six (6) hours a week to class activities (including in-class time). As a CR/NC class, each student will start with 100 points. If you attend class and do your assignments you will keep those points and pass the class. We will subtract points for missing class, tardiness (without prior notice), and missing assignments. If you have not retained at least 75 points by the end of the semester you will not pass the class. Points will be deducted as follows

Missing a class meeting	-10 points
Missing an assignment	-10 points

\*You can make up for a missed class or assignment (up to two times) and regain your 10 points by completing an extra credit assignment. Please let Professors Cech and Romero know ahead of time if you will be missing class, and contact us directly about extra credit assignments.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is the week-by-week schedule for the UEP 246 class. You can also reference [Oxy's 2020-2021 academic calendar](#) for more information on College-wide dates and deadlines.

### Week 1

<b>Mon Aug. 30</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Course Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review syllabus</li> <li>● Introduce group research projects and <a href="#">sign up</a></li> <li>● FEAST Garden Tour</li> </ul>
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### Week 2 — *LABOR DAY: NO CLASS MEETING*

<b>Mon Sep. 6</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Work on " <a href="#">Project Proposal</a> " assignment with your group
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### Week 3

<b>Mon Sep. 13</b>	<b>Topic:</b> LA Compost (background for Outdoor Classroom group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sign up for "garden support activities"</li> <li>● Research topic speaker (TBD)</li> <li>● Discuss Project Proposals with professors</li> </ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Group Project Proposal (<i>due Sunday 9/12 by midnight</i>)</li> </ul>
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## Week 4

<b>Mon Sep. 20</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Bruce Steele (project background for Beekeeping group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Garden support activities</li><li>• Project check-ins</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Milestone Update #1</li></ul>
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## Week 5

<b>Mon Sep. 27</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Project Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Garden support activities</li><li>• Project check-ins</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Milestone Update #2</li></ul>
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## Week 6

<b>Mon Oct. 4</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Diana Lara, Food Finders (project background for FEAST at Home group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Garden support activities</li><li>• Project check-ins</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Milestone Update #3</li></ul>
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## Week 7 — *FALL BREAK: NO CLASS*

<b>Mon Oct. 11</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Work on midterm presentations
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## Week 8

<b>Mon Oct. 18</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Midterm Presentations  <b>Assignments Due:</b>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midterm Presentation</li> </ul>
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## Week 9

<b>Mon Oct. 25</b>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Project Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden support activities</li> <li>• Project check-ins</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments Due:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Milestone Update #4</li> </ul>
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## Week 10

<b>Mon Nov. 1</b>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Project Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden support activities</li> <li>• Project check-ins</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments Due:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Milestone Update #5</li> </ul>
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## Week 11

<b>Mon Nov. 8</b>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Project Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden support activities</li> <li>• Project check-ins</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments Due:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Milestone Update #6</li> </ul>
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## Week 12

<b>Mon Nov. 15</b>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Project Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden support activities</li> <li>• Project check-ins</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments Due:</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Milestone Update #7</li></ul>
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## Week 13

<b>Mon Nov. 22</b>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Project Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Garden support activities</li><li>• Final Project check-ins</li></ul> <p><b>Assignments Due:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete projects and work on final presentations</li></ul>
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## Week 14

<b>Mon Nov. 29</b>	<p><b>Topic:</b> Final Presentations</p> <p><b>Assignments Due:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final Presentation (due 11/28 by midnight)</li><li>• Final journal reflection (due 12/3)</li></ul>
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