UEP 247
Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Landscape Practicum

Course goals and learning objectives:

- Build technical skills in food production, gardening, and sustainable landscaping principals
- Gain exposure to the innovative urban agriculture and sustainable land use projects in Los Angeles
- Contribute towards local community agriculture and landscaping projects
- Contribute towards the development and improvement of FEAST projects at Oxy

Class Structure:

The course will be a combination of hands-on, outdoor gardening and landscaping, in-class lectures and sharing of student research, and field trips and guest lectures. This class is a Community Based Learning class and will feature a community project as well as visits to local organizations and professionals. The class meets once a week for three hours in order to accommodate hands-on projects and field trips.

Hands-on learning and projects: We will be working in the Bruce Steele garden regularly doing such activities as building compost piles, starting seeds, weeding, planting garden beds, mulching, etc. *Please dress appropriately for these activities.*

Readings: Hands-on doesn't work unless you have some knowledge ahead of time. There will be weekly readings and a brief quiz that you must complete before each class. These readings will be brief and are meant to provide you with essential information so that you can get the most out of class.

Community project: We will be conducting a project on urban forestry for the Highland Park Neighborhood Council--more on that to come! You will need to spend some time outside of class doing data collection and research.

Field trips and guest lectures: We will be going on several field trips and hosting guest speakers in class. Please participate fully and ask questions to our hosts/guest.

MATERIALS FEE

There will be a $10 materials fee for this class. This is to cover the cost of supplies and materials such as seeds, pots, soil, irrigation equipment, etc. which are not covered by normal academic budgets.

Requirements/Expectations

This is a credit/no credit class that is designed to be an enriching supplement to more conventional academic classes. The focus is on practical knowledge and getting students out in

the field rather than on theory or difficult assignments. In other words, this class should be FUN and hopefully something you look forward to waking up early for. There will, however, be strict requirements for getting credit for the class in order to be fair to all students and to the extra work and time that goes into field trips and speakers:

Getting credit for the class:
You start with 100 points. If you attend class and do your assignments you will keep those points and pass the class. I will subtract points for missing class, tardiness, and missing assignments. If you have not retained at least 75 points by the end of the semester you will not pass the class.

Being more than 5 minutes late to class	-5 points
Missing a class	-10 points
Missing a guest speaker lecture	-15 points
Missing a field trip	-20 points
Missing an assignment*	-10 points

*You can make up an assignment and regain your 10 points. However, in general you will not be able to make up a missed class, speaker, or field trip. So don't miss them!

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week	Date	Activity	Assignment (due before following class)
1	1/24	No class	Read overview of urban agriculture and fill out introduction form
2	1/31	First class. Introductions and expectations. Tour of garden space. Introduction to soil texture. Planting seeds.	Read about soil, nutrient cycling. COMPLETE SOILS QUIZ!
3	2/7	Introduction to soil, nutrient cycling, and compost. Start class compost pile.	Read about composting and nutrient management. COMPLETE NUTRIENT CYCLING

			QUIZ
4	2/14	In class research projects on agricultural methods	Read about Norman Borlaug and Fritz Haber, complete QUIZ
5	2/21	Weeds, compost continued, exploration of Fiji Hill, testing of production types.	Reading: Urban Agriculture chapter from “Farming While Black.” QUIZ
6	2/28	Field trip: LA Compost and Proyecto Jardin	Reading: trees in the agroecosystem and urban forestry. QUIZ
7	3/7	Guest speaker: urban forestry with Oxy-alumn Clarissa Boyajian of KYCC, learning how to use itree for tree value assessments. Tree canopy data collection lesson. Overview of client project for Highland Park neighborhood council	CBL PROJECT: Highland Park tree canopy data collection
8	3/14	**Spring Break**	**Tree canopy data collection**
9	3/21	Field Trip: Urban Homestead	CBL project: Highland Park Tree Canopy data collection
10	3/28	Field trip to Grow Good	Reading:seeds and seed saving. QUIZ
11	4/4	David King of SLOLA and The Learning Garden visit and lecture on seed saving and seed libraries	Reading: insects, pests, and beneficials. QUIZ
12	4/11	beekeeping day with Bruce Steele. Other topics: pests and pest management.	Reading: water and irrigation. QUIZ
13	4/18	Water conservation with Max Kanter of Saturate, Irrigation in the FEAST garden	TBD
14	4/25	Field trip to the Audubon Center at Debs Park. Course evaluations and reflection.	Course evaluations and reflection. Make up projects as needed.

All readings and assignments will be in Moodle unless otherwise noted.

Communications

- If you do need to miss or be late for class for any reason please email me at bomba@oxy.edu.
- I don't have regular office hours, but if you need or want to meet for any reason we can make an appointment for a meeting
- I will give updates and reminders about any changes to class meeting time, schedule, or assignments via email, so please check your email regularly. You can expect about one email from me a week.