

UEP 120: Food, Energy, and Sustainability Team (FEAST) Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR

Rosa Romero, MEd
FEAST Faculty Advisor
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she/her/hers

Office Hours: by appointment

Canvas

All readings and supplemental media will be available on the course Moodle site:
<https://oxy.instructure.com/courses/5994>

Reference Materials

We will use the [Vegetable Gardening Handbook for Beginners](#) created by the Los Angeles County Master Gardeners, University of California Cooperative Extension and the [Southern California Native Plant Guide](#) developed by Tree People as our primary reference books. All readings from the handbook and other assignments will be posted on Canvas.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

Class summary and goals:

The FEAST Garden Practicum is a hands-on introductory class designed for students with an interest in learning about and applying sustainable agriculture and landscape techniques. Students will gain a deeper understanding of agricultural management and small-scale farming. With leadership provided by the FEAST Faculty Advisor and FEAST Student Managers, students will engage in seasonal farming activities with a focus on edible and medicinal plants, native habitat and pollinator gardens, resource and water management, chicken stewardship, the basics of soil health and compost, as well as how to organize and host community events. Graded on a Credit/No Credit basis only.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

The objective of this course is to utilize Occidental's FEAST gardens as a living laboratory, offering real-world opportunities for observation, skill-building, and stewardship. At the end of this course, students will better understand plant and animal lifecycles, habitats, soils, climate, and resource management.

Class structure and format:

Each student will devote 2-3 learning hours a week to a specific FEAST project with a FEAST garden team. The three FEAST garden teams are the Bruce Steele Garden Team which includes Chicken care, Native Garden Restoration Team and Cafeteria to Compost Team. Teams will be self chosen based on interest and availability. The Instructor or FEAST Director will sign off on your learning hours. You may work on multiple teams.

As a class, we will meet during the semester to check in and give updates on specific FEAST projects and learning hours.

Occasionally, Oxy will host related guest speakers or workshops that can be attended in lieu of some weekly learning hours but will need to be approved ahead of time by the instructor. For example when the local non profit, LA Compost, conducts a compost workshop, you may attend it to count towards your weekly hourly minimum.

Class expectations: As a credit/no credit course, participation in UEP 120 is key. You are expected to show up to your scheduled learning hours on time and ready to get your hands dirty! This means wearing appropriate clothing for the garden such as closed toe shoes, clothes that you don't mind getting dirty, and sun protection such a hat, long sleeves, and/or sunscreen. I also encourage you to bring a water bottle on hot days.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

UEP 120 is a 1-unit course. It is expected that students in this class on average will devote at least two to four (2-4) learning hours a week to class activities (including in-class meeting time). You must complete 25-40 leaning hours this semester to pass this class.

*Note — If you miss your scheduled time you will first need to notify your FEAST team leader so they can plan accordingly and you can make up the learning hours the following week. I will also offer extra credit assignments throughout the semester for additional opportunities to earn hours.

CLASS SCHEDULE

In addition to your dedicated 2-3 learning hours a week with a FEAST garden team, during the semester you can meet with the instructor to discuss your hours or other matters during select Lunch Hours on Tuesdays.

Class Meeting: Sept 2nd 12:15-1pm	Optional Office Hours: Oct 14th 12:15-1pm
Class Meeting: Sept 16th 12:15-1pm	Optional Office Hours: Oct 28 th 12:15-1pm
Optional Office Hours: Sept 30th 12:15-1pm	Optional Office Hours: Nov 11th 12:15-1pm

Our first class meeting will be Tuesday September 2nd at 12:15pm at the [FEAST Bruce Steele Garden](#), just below UEP. Please come prepared with your [weekly schedule](#)* so we can collectively find times for class meetings and discuss the various FEAST teams and available blocks of time. More detailed information will be posted on Moodle as the class progresses.

**The weekly schedule is a read-only file. You can create a copy and save it with your name and share it with me or print a hard copy and turn it into me.*

FEAST DROP IN HOURS FALL 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00am				Native Gardens Restoration	
9:30am				9-10am	
10:00am					Bruce Steele
10:30am					10am-noon
11:00am					
11:30am					
Noon					
12:30 pm					
1:00pm		Native Gardens Restoration			
1:30pm		1:00-3:00pm			
2:00pm					
2:30pm					
3:00 pm	Compost Team				
3:30 pm	3pm- 5pm				
4:00pm				Compost Team	
4:30pm				4pm-6pm	
5:00pm	Bruce Steele				
5:30pm	4pm-6pm				
6:00pm					
6:30pm					
7:00pm					

Compost Team

Mondays 3:00-5:00pm
Thursday 4pm-6pm

* please note foods scraps are pick up at 4pm and 4:30pm and composting at FEAST compost corner usually begins about 15-20mins into the hour (Mon/Tues 4:15-ish Wed 4:45-ish)

Bruce Steele Team (Edible Garden)

Mondays 4-6pm
Fridays 10am-2pm

Toolshed lock code: **2285**
Chicken coop lock code: **1841**

Native Gardens Restoration Team

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm
Thursdays 9-10am

* Usually will meet at the main FEAST Garden but occasionally will meet at other native gardens around campus. Please communicate with FEAST staff

Let us know when you spend time with FEAST!

(this is how you get credit for the class)

Please include your Chicken Tendering hours here too



to log your learning hours, scan this QR code to access the [learning hour log](#)

Civil Rights & Title IX statement, and statement of role of faculty member as a responsible employee

In the event that you write or speak about having experienced discrimination or harassment on the basis of a protected characteristic or sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation or any other form of sexual and/or gender-based harassment), as a designated Responsible Employee, I must inform the [Civil Rights & Title IX Office](#). They will contact you to let you know about resources and support services at Oxy, as well as reporting options both on and off-campus. You have no obligation to respond to the Civil Rights & Title IX Office or to meet with them to discuss support services and reporting options.

If you do not want the Civil Rights & Title IX Office contacted, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, either through conversation or a class assignment, you can speak confidentially with:

- Oxy's Survivor Advocate, Project SAFE (survivoradvocate@oxy.edu)
- Emmons Counseling (For appointments, call: 323-259-2657)
- Rev. Dr. Susan Young, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (young@oxy.edu)
- Oxy 24/7 Confidential Hotline (323-341-4141)

The College's civil rights policies, along with additional resources, can be found at: <https://www.oxy.edu/civil-rights-title-ix>. If you would like to contact the Civil Rights & Title IX Office directly, you may email Civil Rights & Title IX Coordinator Alexandra Fulcher at afulcher@oxy.edu or call 323-259-1338.

Special Accommodations/Learning Differences

Occidental College (Oxy) complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and other applicable state and federal law prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

- All accommodation requests including academic, housing (ESA & Services Animal) and temporary accommodations are managed by the Disability Services Office. It is a student's responsibility to request accommodations via the [Disability Services](#) website. For information about additional accommodations and support services, students can email accessibility@oxy.edu.
- **Oxy's Psychological Testing Program:** We offer low cost psychological testing for students who qualify. Any student who thinks they may have a learning, or psychological disability may complete [Oxy's Psych Testing Application](#) to be

added to the waitlist.

- **Academic Success Coaching:** Our Academic Success Coach assists students in developing skills and strategies to enhance their academic performance. They provide personalized guidance on time management, organization, study techniques, goal setting, and self-regulation. By collaborating with students, our coach helps identify and overcome obstacles to academic success, fostering a supportive environment that promotes personal and educational growth. Contact: academiccoaching@oxy.edu
- **Learning Disability Specialist:** Our Learning Disability Specialist evaluates and supports students with (diagnosed or suspected) learning disabilities. They also provide counseling and resources to help students develop effective learning strategies. By collaborating with students, our Learning Disability Specialist helps identify and overcome obstacles to academic success, fostering a supportive environment that promotes personal and educational growth. Please contact: accessibility@oxy.edu.

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 policy](#) is available on the [ORSL website](#).