

UEP 247: Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Landscape Practicum

Course Topic: Urban Agriculture Practicum

Spring 2026

R 1:30-4:30pm

INSTRUCTORS

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CANVAS

All readings and supplemental media will be available on the course Canvas site:
<https://oxy.instructure.com/courses/7357>

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

Class summary and goals: The Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Landscape Practicum is an introduction to principles of sustainable and regenerative agriculture and landscapes in an urban environment. The course will cover basic growing techniques and introduce students to innovative projects throughout the local community. As a community-based learning class, UEP 247 students will work alongside a local community partner to learn hands-on aspects of urban agriculture and native landscape projects, which may include composting, planting, harvesting, pruning, mulching, etc. Through classroom instruction, learning projects in campus garden spaces, participation in community service learning projects, and field trips to innovative urban agriculture projects in Los Angeles, students will gain a hands-on understanding of urban agriculture techniques and related food systems and community food security issues.

This semester, this course will focus on native landscaping, with an emphasis on the Native Garden Restoration Project at the UEPI office at 1541 Campus Rd. (owned by Oxy). Students will learn from and work alongside our community partners such as The Urban Homestead, LA Compost, and the Tongva Conservancy. For the primary class project, students will develop plant identification and educational materials for the [2026 Theodore Payne Native Garden Tour](#), where community members will tour the 1541 Campus Rd garden.

learning objectives:

- Build technical skills in, gardening, and sustainable landscaping principals
- Gain exposure to the innovative urban agriculture and sustainable land use projects in Los Angeles
- Develop in-depth knowledge of select native plants and discover best practices for presenting information via educational signage

Class structure and format:

Classes will be a mixture of in-class lectures, local field trips, garden work days, and small group project work. An overview schedule is below, but please see Canvas for the most up to date details for each class, including specific assignments and readings.

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 both professors if you 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.

Credit Hour Policy.

UEP 247 is a 2-unit course. It is expected that students will devote at approximately (6) hours per week (including in-class time) on average.

Class expectations: As a credit/no credit course, participation in UEP 247 is key. We expect that you show up to class prepared, having done all readings and assignments, 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. We also encourage you to bring a water bottle on hot days. During the first half of the semester, students may need a laptop for some of the in-class activities. We will let you know ahead of time.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

UEP 247 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 community-based learning course, participation in UEP 247 is key. We expect that you show up to class prepared, having done all readings or assignments, 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. We also encourage you to bring a water bottle on hot days. Letter grades for the course are assigned according to the following table.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
93-100	90-93	87-90	83-87	80-83	77-80	73-77	70-73	67-70	63-67	0-63

Grades for the course will be determined according to the following criteria.

1. Class Participation – 45%

As a community based learning course, class participation is a primary focus of the class. The participation grade is based on class engagement and attendance. Students are responsible for attending and participating in class, being prepared to discuss readings and materials with the group, and having questions prepared for guest speakers and field trip hosts . Students are also responsible for engaging in respectful, open, and thoughtful discussion with each other, the professors, and community partners.

Please let both professors know as soon as possible if you will need to miss a class. We may be able to provide a makeup assignment. Throughout the semester, we will also offer several opportunities for extra credit assignments.

2. Journal Reflections – 20%

There will be five journal assignments over the course of the semester to reflect on your experiences on field trips, learning from guest speakers, or other in-class experiences or projects. All prompts will be posted on Canvas.

3. Native Plant Community Education Project — 30%

For this year's class project, students will develop plant identification and educational materials for the [2026 Theodore Payne Native Garden Tour](#), where community members will tour the 1541 Campus Rd garden. Each student will select 2-3 plants in the garden or sustainability features and will create educational materials that are designed to engage community members through a combination of signage and storytelling. These materials will highlight plants' identification features, key facts, indigenous names/uses, maintenance best practices, and will also include descriptive images.

3. Final Presentation – 15%

The final presentation will take place in the 1541 Campus Road Native Plant Garden. Each student will present the educational materials they have developed highlighting their plants and/or sustainable landscaping techniques.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is the week-by-week schedule for the UEP 247 class. Please note, class topics and activities may change due to weather. Moodle will have the most up to date information. All readings and assignments will also be posted on Moodle. You can reference Oxy's 2025-26 academic calendar for more information on College-wide dates and deadlines.

UEP 247 — 2026		Location	Class Topic / Activity
Week 1	Thu 1/22	UEP Classroom 1882 Campus Rd	Class Intro + Native Landscaping 101
Week 2	Thu 1/29	Native Garden 1541 Campus Rd	Plant Identification + Weed Suppression <u>Guest Speaker:</u> Lake Sharp
Week 3	Thu 2/5	Between Norris + AGC	Oxy Micro-Forest <u>Guest Speaker:</u> TBD
Week 4	Thu 2/12	Facilities	Field Trip: Urban Homestead

Week 5	Thu 2/19	Native Garden 1541 Campus Rd	1541: The Importance of Mulch <u>Guest Speaker:</u> Justin Jervais, Urban Homestead
Week 6	Thu 2/26	FEAST 1882 Campus Rd	Compost 101 <u>Guest Speaker:</u> Maggie Smart McCabe, LA Compost
Week 7	Thu 3/5	FEAST 1882 Campus Rd	Intro to Earthworks
Week 8	Thu 3/12	_____	SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS
Week 9	Thu 3/19	Facilities	Field Trip: Evolve Altadena Field Trip • Leana Adams
Week 10	Thu 3/26	Native Garden 1541 Campus Rd	Pollinators
Week 11	Thu 4/2	Native Garden 1541 Campus Rd	1541: Earth Month + Sharing Knowledge
Week 12	Thu 4/9	Native Garden 1541 Campus Rd	1541: "Garden Tour" Final Presentations
	Sat 4/11	Native Garden 1541 Campus Rd	Theodore Payne Event!!!
Week 13	Thu 4/16		No Class Meeting / choose your own native plant adventure
Week 14	Thu 4/23	FEAST 1882 Campus Rd	Earth Day Speaker Series: • Jess Gudel, Bats • Aaron Tupoc, Mycology • Maggie Smart-McCabe, LA Compost