

UEP 247: Urban Agriculture Practicum

Course Topic: Urban Agriculture Practicum

Spring 2023

R 1:30-4:30pm

INSTRUCTORS

Sharon Cech, MA Urban Planning

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she/her/hers

Office hours: by appointment

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she/her/hers

Office Hours: by appointment

MOODLE

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

<https://moodle.oxy.edu/course/view.php?id=34678>

Text Book

We will use the [Vegetable Gardening Handbook for Beginners](#) created by the Los Angeles County Master Gardeners, University of California Cooperative Extension as our primary text book. All readings from the handbook and other assignments will be posted on Moodle.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

Class summary and goals: The Urban Agriculture Practicum is an introduction to urban agriculture that 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 support nonprofit partners in Northeast Los Angeles with various aspects of their urban agriculture 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.

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

Class structure and format:

For the first half of the semester, each class will include a classroom component (in the UEP/UEPI conference room) along with hands-on garden activities (at the FEAST garden). After spring break, once students have gained an understanding of core topics in urban food production, we will go on field trips to active urban agriculture projectects in the community and apply these skills through a variety of service learning activities.

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 will 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 pass/no pass class, you 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 a class or missing an assignment. If you have not retained at least 70 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

*Note — You will be able to make up late assignments for partial credit. If you miss a guest speaker or field trip, you will have to do an additional makeup assignment (such as a reflection journal) in order to regain the points. We will also offer extra credit assignments throughout the semester for additional opportunities to earn points.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is the week-by-week schedule for the UEP 247 class. Please note, class topics may change and Moodle will have the most up to date information. You can also reference [Oxy's 2021-2022 academic calendar](#) for more information on College-wide dates and deadlines.

Week 1

Th Jan. 26	<p>Topic(s): Class Overview/ Intro to Urban Agriculture & Sustainable Landscaping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review Syllabus ● Text book: Vegetable Gardening Handbook for Beginners, Los Angeles County Master Gardeners University of California Cooperative Extension
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Week 2

Th Feb. 2	<p>Topic(s): Gardening 101</p> <p>Readings & Assignments Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vegetable Gardening Handbook, p. 1-12 ● Additional reading & media on Moodle ● Garden plan assignment
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Week 3

Th Feb. 9	<p>Topic(s): Soil & Compost</p> <p>Readings & Assignments Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vegetable Gardening Handbook, P. 20-21 and 38-39 ● Additional reading & media on Moodle ● Soil Activity
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Week 4

Th Feb. 16	Topic(s): Native Plants Readings & Assignments Due: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• About California Native Plants• NELA area Native Plants (North East Trees)
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Week 5

Th Feb. 23	Topic(s): Pests, Weeds, & Diseases Readings & Assignments Due: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vegetable Gardening Handbook, p. 28-33• “What Bugs do in Your Garden” Assignment
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Week 6

Th Mar. 2	Topic(s): Urban Trees Guest Speaker: Gama Vargas from North East Trees Readings & Assignments Due: Review the following resources from North East Trees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree Planting Guidelines• Care for Street Trees• How to Water a Tree
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Week 7

Th Mar. 9	Topic(s): Native Gardens & Landscaping — Arlington Gardens Field Trip <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest speaker/Arlington Gardens employee Levi Brewster
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Week 8 — *Spring Break: No Class Meeting*

Th Mar. 16	No Class Meeting
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Week 9

Th Mar. 23	<p>Topic(s): Tree People</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Jack Smith</p> <p>Readings & Assignments Due: Reading & media on Moodle</p>
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Week 10

Th Mar. 30	<p>Topic(s): LA Mycological Society: The Mycorrhizal Connections of the Underworld- Aaron Tupoc</p> <p>Readings & Assignments Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading & media on Moodle
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Week 11

Th Apr. 6	<p>Topic(s): Edible PLANTS</p> <p>Readings & Assignments Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading & media on Moodle
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Week 12

Th Apr. 13	<p>Topic(s): Field Trip: Urban Homestead</p> <p>Readings & Assignments Due: Reading & media on Moodle</p>
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Week 13

Th Apr. 20	<p>Topic(s): LA Compost</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Michael Martinez</p> <p>Readings & Assignments Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & media on Moodle
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Week 14

Th Apr. 27	<p>Topic(s): Harvest & Pollinators Celebration!</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Bruce Steele</p> <p>Readings & Assignments Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Gardener's Guide to Pollinators • Additional reading & media on Moodle • Pollinator assignment <p>Readings & Assignments Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final journal reflection (prompt on Moodle) due Fri. 4/28
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COURSE/CAMPUS POLICIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

Statement of the Shared Academic Integrity Commitment

- Academic Integrity is a shared community value. It is built around trust and respect between members of the Occidental Community, and embodies a commitment to honesty and integrity in every aspect of one's academic life.

All members of the Occidental community are committed to uphold the highest degree of academic integrity. Unless stipulated otherwise, the academic work done for all assignments is expected to be the student's own, and students give proper credit to the ideas and work of others.

Signing the Academic Integrity Commitment at matriculation and at the beginning of every semester represents a student's affirmation to uphold the shared values of honesty and integrity. When signing the Integrity Commitment associated with work in a course, students are affirming that they have not cheated, plagiarized, fabricated, or falsified information; nor assisted others in these actions.

[Link](#) to Student Handbook (which includes the framing of the commitment, definitions of Academic Ethics, and Process for alleged violations of the commitment)

- Title IX statement, and statement of role of faculty member as a mandatory reporter ([Link](#) to Title IX)
 - In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation or any other form of sexual and/or gender-based harassment, as a designated Responsible Employee, I 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. You have no obligation to respond to the Title IX Office or to meet with them to discuss support services and reporting options.

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:

- 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)

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 fulcher@oxy.edu or call 323-259-1338.

- **Language on Special Accommodations/Learning Differences** ([Link to Disability Services](#))
 - 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 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** ([Link to the policy in Catalog](#))

- 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>

- **Equity & Justice in an Inclusive Learning Environment.**

This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, national origins, political affiliations, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, abilities, and other visible and nonvisible identities. The wide array of perspectives that each of us contributes to this class is a resource that will strengthen and enhance our intellectual community. All members of this class are expected to co-create and engage in a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. In this context, we may speak as individuals or we may choose to represent ourselves as a member of a group. You need not represent any group, only yourself, though you may choose to represent a group, if you wish. Additionally, part of equity & justice work is to dismantle barriers to success for all people, particularly those who belong to groups that have been marginalized and minoritized. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your success or accurate assessment of achievement, or if there are ways we can improve the effectiveness of this course for you personally or for other students or student groups, please let me know. Your suggestions about how to improve the value of justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity in this course are encouraged and appreciated.

- **COVID-Specific Policy on Masks.** Faculty have the option of stipulating that masks are required for a given course, even if local and College regulations at the time change as to no longer require universal indoor masking.

Students are expected to wear masks at all times during all indoor classroom activities. Students should not eat or drink in class; please step outside if you need to remove your mask for even a brief period of time.

- **Week by Week or class-by-class calendar** (See <http://wcaleb.rice.edu/syllabusmaker/generic/> for a website that will generate selected calendar dates). Here are [Fall 2021 MWF](#) and [Fall 2021 TR](#) schedules. Here are the [Spring 2022 MWF](#) and [Spring 2022 TR](#) schedules.
[Oxy's 2021-2022 academic calendar information](#)
- **Links to Student Academic Support Resources** (faculty should include the ones that apply to their courses)

The College has a wide range of [Student Academic Support Resources](#).

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. Share what you'd like to work on, and an academic coach will schedule an appointment with you within a few days.

The Library's Teaching, Learning, and Research Support (TLRS) offers [library research consultations](#). We also offer peer-to-peer support for learning technologies in the Critical Making Studio on the ground floor of the library (contact dcoaguila@oxy.edu for more information).

Peer Tutors are available to assist students on [discipline-specific peer tutoring for coursework](#), and content review and study skills support in a variety of academic departments. Information about tutoring for all subject, including languages, can found at: <https://www.oxy.edu/academics/student-success/peer-learning>

The Writing Center offers opportunities to work on all forms of writing for any class or other writing tasks such as personal statements, proposals, senior comprehensives, etc. We offer peer-to-peer consultations with knowledgeable Writing Advisers and sessions with Faculty Writing Specialists. For Fall 2021, most of our appointments will be synchronous in-person sessions, with some availability for Zoom virtual meetings and asynchronous feedback. We are located on the ground floor of the Academic Commons. See the [Writing Center website](#) for more information about our hours and how to sign up for appointments. Please contact the Writing Center Director, Prof. Prebel (jprebel@oxy.edu; x1307) for more information on how the Writing Center can work with you.

The [Academic Mastery Program](#) provides challenging workshops for students enrolled in general chemistry, organic chemistry, introductory physics, cellular biology and molecular biology. These workshops are led by upper-level students and provide an opportunity to test knowledge and skills in the context of new and challenging problems. The workshops provide a time to work intensively and collaboratively with other committed students in an atmosphere that is demanding yet relaxed.

The [Scientific Scholars Achievement Program \(SSAP\)](#) is a student-initiated, student-led academic support program that supports the development of a diverse body of individuals who will advance and enhance STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) professional fields in an endeavor to meet the complex and

evolving demands of a culturally heterogeneous society. SSAP provides tutoring in introductory and gateway STEM courses and encourages collaboration among classmates. All questions and learning styles from students are welcomed and encouraged. Through educational and social events, SSAP aims to build community between faculty and students studying math and science at Occidental.

- **Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation policy:**

<https://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/general-college-policies/discrimination-harassment-and-retaliation>

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

- **Land Acknowledgement.**

Occidental College occupies the traditional territory and homelands of the Tongva people. Please click through to read more about the [Gabrielino-Tongva tribe](#) and about the practice of [land acknowledgement](#).

- **Intercultural Community Center**

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, or reach out directly to Chris Arguedas, at carguedas@oxy.edu.

- **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. These can be set at <https://occidental.zoom.us/profile>.

- **Emmons/ Student health**

Your health and well-being has always impacted learning and academic success, and this reality is only heightened as we enter a new season of the pandemic and transition back to campus. Symptoms such as anxiety, depression, loss of motivation, difficulty concentrating, strained relationships, and feelings of not belonging can occur. Emmons Counseling staff are committed to supporting the mental health needs of our students. Due to the nature of our work and the safety for all, Emmons counseling services will continue via teletherapy. Emmons will provide ongoing individual therapy, walk-ins, support groups and consultations through a virtual platform. Emmons staff will also support students with finding local therapy referrals. In case of an emergency or a crisis, there will be counselors onsite to assist the Oxy community. 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.

- **Recordings**

Classes may be recorded by your instructor. This means that some or all portions of the class may be recorded and then stored on the College's servers. Recordings will be made available through Moodle (or another secure platform), but only for the express and sole use of those registered in the course. No other recording of classroom instruction is permitted. The sharing, altering, or distorting of any audio-visual capture of a class session is not permitted. All content contained in the records shall be subject to the College's Policy on Intellectual Property.

- **Reminder that things can change.** Whether due to COVID-19 or other circumstances, faculty may find it appropriate to update their syllabi. A statement indicating that the syllabus may change can be useful. If you do end up changing your syllabus, marking the change and the date of the change can be a best practice. It is possible that, during the semester, there may need to be updates to how the course is taught. I will keep you apprised of any changes to the syllabus.