

Note: Schedule & Weekly Topics subject to change

**UEP 247**  
**Spring 2020**  
**01:30pm-04:25pm**

**Sustainable Oxy: Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Landscape Practicum**

This class is a collaboration between the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI) and the FEAST (Food, Energy, and Sustainability Team) student service to enhance student capacity to lead and engage with food and gardening projects both on campus and in the community. Through the implementation of projects in campus garden spaces, participation in community service learning projects, and field trips to innovative food programs in Los Angeles, students will gain hands-on understanding of food issues and will complete the course with the ability to help in the design, creation, and maintenance of a garden-based food or sustainability project.

**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. 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 partnering with FEAST to help build their organizational capacity. (For example, conducting projects such as applying to be certified organic, developing a compost program with LA Compost, and increasing educational materials and potential in the garden). More details to come! You will be in small groups working on a specific project and may need to spend some time outside of class doing research and project development.

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**Field trips and guest lectures:** We will be going on field trips and hosting guest speakers in class to better understand urban agriculture in Los Angeles. Please participate fully and ask questions to our hosts/guests.

### **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.

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)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Assignment (due before following class)</b>
1	1/23	No class	
2	1/30	First class. Introductions and expectations. Tour of FEAST.	Read overview of urban agriculture and fill out introduction form
3	2/6	Gardening 101- overview. Planting seeds and seedlings.	Check Moodle for readings

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4	2/13	Guest Lecturer: soil, nutrient cycling, and compost. Sandra Luna In class research projects on agricultural methods	Check Moodle for readings
5	2/20	FEAST and small group Work Day  Community Based Learning Reflection	<b>Small Group Project workplan Due</b>
6	2/27	Field trip: <a href="#">LA Compost- Audubon Center at Debs Park</a> , Loreto Elementary School Garden	Check Moodle for readings <b>Journal Reflection Due</b>
7	3/5	Field trip: <a href="#">Community Services Unlimited</a>	Check Moodle for readings <b>Journal Reflection Due</b>
8	3/12	<b>Spring Break</b>	
9	3/19	Field Trip: <a href="#">Urban Homestead</a>	Check Moodle for readings <b>Journal Reflection Due</b>
10	3/26	FEAST and small group Work Day	<b>Small Group Project Update DUE</b>
11	4/2	Urban Teaching Gardens: Community engagement through Learning, Playing and Cooking in the Garden GUEST: Raquel Galarza	Check Moodle for readings
12	4/9	Beekeeping day with Bruce Steele.  Pollinator Planting with Mud Baron <del>Water conservation with Max Kanter of <a href="#">Saturate</a>;</del> Irrigation in the FEAST garden	Check Moodle for readings
13	4/16	Last Day of Class: Final presentations and potluck	Final Group Project DUE
14	4/23	No Class. Course evaluations and reflection due.	Course evaluations and reflection. Make up assignments as needed.

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

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### **Communications**

- If you do need to miss or be late for class for any reason please email me at [rromero@oxy.edu](mailto:rromero@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.