



VEGETABLE GARDENING

HOS1014 - 1 CREDIT

FALL 2020

COURSE FORMAT

This course combines online lectures and hands-on gardening to provide an engaging academic experience. Lectures will be released every Monday at 9:00 AM. You must watch the lecture videos and read the instructions in the gardening manual before you start gardening each week. Gardening will take place at home. You will need to have access to a 2.5 ft x 2.5 ft garden or five 5-gallon pots. Additionally, you will need some space (under 1 ft²) in a well-lit counter or windowsill. All other gardening supplies will be mailed to you during week 2 of the semester.

INSTRUCTOR

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Fifield Hall 1113

(352) 273 - 4765

Office hours: Tuesdays 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM via Zoom

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to teach students from all majors how to grow vegetables, fruits, and herbs in a home garden. Basic principles of gardening and agriculture are presented in the lectures. Then, students apply these principles in their gardens.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Design and start their own garden
- Explain in general terms how irrigation, fertilization, pruning, weed management, pest control, disease management in a home garden work
- Water, fertilize, prune, maintain, and harvest produce from their home garden
- Document their individual gardening experience through written and multimedia product

COURSE MATERIALS

Course website

This course has a comprehensive mini-site in Canvas. Take time to familiarize yourself with the “Start Here”, “Syllabus”, “Course Materials”, and “Assignments” tabs in the navigation menu. Lecture videos, digital copies of this syllabus, and other learning materials can be found there.

- *E-Learning in Canvas*, www.elearning.ufl.edu

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. However, UF IFAS Extension has developed a multitude of publications to help gardeners and backyard growers. These publications are excellent reference materials for this course, and they are available for free here:

- *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*, <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Technology

This is an online course. So, access to reliable technology is paramount to student success. You will need to have access to a personal computer and broadband internet to watch lectures and complete weekly assessments. Additionally, you will need to have access to a photo and video camera to complete the media posts. Most cellular phone cameras are adequate for this task.

COURSE GRADE

1. Weekly quizzes

39 points

Every Monday at 9:00 AM, a 10-question multiple choice quiz will become available in Canvas. Each quiz will be worth 3 points. There will be 14 quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will be timed to 10 minutes, and it can only be taken once. You can refer to personal notes, websites, or any reference materials to complete the quiz. However, you must work individually. Quizzes will be available until the following Sunday at midnight. Make up quizzes will be provided in accordance with the policy described below. There will not be a quiz during Thanksgiving week. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped when calculating your quiz grade.

2. Gardening Blog

39 points

You will create and maintain a gardening blog. Your blog must be publicly available (no password required to see it), and it can be hosted in any blogging network. I strongly encourage you to use *Wordpress* or *Wix*, as other blogging networks have compatibility issues with canvas (for example: blogger and tumblr). You must publish a new blog post each week of the semester. Every post must include 200-500 words and one multi-media item (picture, video, audio recording, etc.) where you show the word of the week (WoW). Each blog post will be worth 3 points. You must submit a link to your blog post via Canvas before Sunday at midnight. Topical guidelines for your posts will be provided through Canvas. There will not be a blog post due during first week of the semester or during Thanksgiving week.

3. Regrow project

12 points

Several vegetables and fruits can be re-grown from food scraps. In this project, you will upcycle food-grade plant materials to grow a new generation of vegetables or fruits for your garden. You will receive detailed instructions for conducting your re-grow project. You can select the crop and the week of the semester when you want to start this project (Weeks 2 to 10). Your plants will take approximately 4 weeks to re-grow. Thus, you are expected to complete 4 weekly project updates. Each weekly update will be worth 3 points. Each update will include measurements and pictures of your plants. Additionally, you will answer general questions about your regrow process.

4. Reaction Videos

10 points

You must record and upload two 2-minute reaction videos. The topics for your reaction videos are germination and harvest. In each reaction video, you should record yourself talking about how you felt about successful germination or harvest in your garden. Each video will be worth 5 points. Germination and harvest will likely take different time for different people, but you must submit your germination reaction video by week 7 and your harvest video by week 15 of the semester.

GRADING SCALE

A	=	95 - 100 points	C	=	< 77 - 73 points
A-	=	< 95 - 90 points	C-	=	< 73 - 70 points
B+	=	< 90 - 87 points	D+	=	< 70 - 67 points
B	=	< 87 - 83 points	D	=	< 67 - 63 points
B-	=	< 83 - 80 points	D-	=	< 63 - 60 points
C+	=	< 80 - 77 points	E	=	<60 points

Additional information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here:

- *Grading policy*, www.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Make-up Policy

Late assignments will be graded only for documented emergencies as per UF's attendance policy. The only way to document a technical difficulty is a UF Help Desk ticket number (see below). Absent a documented emergency, late assignments will receive a grade of zero. Additional information about what constitutes a documented emergency can be found here:

- Attendance policy, <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Technical Difficulties

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with Canvas or MediaSite, you should immediately contact the UF Help Desk. This will generate a ticket number, which documents the date and time of your technical difficulty. Then, you must email me with a detailed explanation of your technical issue and this ticket number. Please notice that the UF Help Desk cannot document technical issues when students use mobile devices to take quizzes or submit assignments. Thus, I strongly encourage you to use a computer (instead of a phone) when submitting any assessments.

- UF Help Desk, HUB 132, (352) - 392 - 4357, helpdesk.ufl.edu

Email

Email will be the main means of communication between us. Hence, it is critical that all course-related emails are polite, professional, and as different from a text message as possible. You must use your Gator Link email; Canvas messages will not be answered. I will reply to all emails within 2 business days of receiving them. For additional recommendations, consult:

- *Email etiquette*, <https://www.inc.com/business-insider/email-etiquette-rules.html>

Written Communication

Effective written communication is essential for student and professional success. Whether you go on to become a horticulturist, an accountant, or a CEO, written communication will be a critical skill in your toolbox. Thus, I place great emphasis on coaching and participating in professional, context-specific written communication. Proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation are expected in all course assignments. You are encouraged to use the resources provided by the UF Writing Studio to develop or enhance your writing skills. Free one-on-one tutoring (live and on-line) is available to enrolled students.

- *UF Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138, www.writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: **“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”**

The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see:

- *UF Honor Code*, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken when appropriate.

Campus Resources

If you are experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with your general wellbeing, I encourage you to utilize the university's counseling resources. The UF Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled. Additionally, resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *Counseling and Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu
- *Career Connections Center*, CR-100 Reitz Union, 392-1601, www.career.ufl.edu
- *U Matter We Care*, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- *Student Success Initiative*, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>

Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues.

If you would like to request classroom accommodations, you must first register with the DRC. The DRC will provide you with documentation that you must deliver to the instructor when requesting accommodations.

- *Disability Resource Center*, 0020 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.disability.ufl.edu

Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of the effort to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, you are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available here:

- Providing professional and respectful feedback, <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and they can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via:

- Course evaluations, <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>

Student Complaints

You can file and resolve any complaints about your experience in this course in the following site:

- *Student complaints in online courses*, www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process

Diversity

The University of Florida and I place great emphasis on affirming the diversity of the student body. Student, faculty, and staff interactions with others from varied backgrounds and experiences foster a superior educational environment and nurture a healthier, more accurate understanding of how our increasingly global and multicultural society operates.

I encourage you to engage in meaningful intra- and inter-culture dialogue and support a climate that is grounded in respect and inclusion for individuals of all of races, ethnic backgrounds, genders, and sexual orientations.

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Week of	Weekly topic
Aug 31	Week 1: Introduction to the course and parts of a plant
Sep 7	Week 2: Containers and indoor gardens
Sep 14	Week 3: Propagation and transplanting
Sep 21	Week 4: Seasons and gardening choices
Sep 28	Week 5: Watering and mulching your plants
Oct 5	Week 6: Light, shade, and garden location
Oct 12	Week 7: Fertilizing your plants
Oct 19	Week 8: Hydroponic gardens
Oct 26	Week 9: Garden diseases
Nov 2	Week 10: Garden pests
Nov 9	Week 11: Organic gardens
Nov 16	Week 12: Season extension
Nov 23	Week 13: Thanksgiving. (No new learning materials)
Nov 30	Week 14: Harvesting
Dec 7	Week 15: Succulents and cacti