VEGETABLE GARDENING

HOS1014 - 1 CREDIT

SUMMER 2020

Fruits and vegetables for Florida and beyond

COURSE FORMAT

This course combines online lectures and hands-on gardening to provide an engaging academic experience. Lectures will be released every Monday at 9:00AM. You are expected to watch the lectures and read the instructions in the gardening manual before you start gardening each week. Gardening will take place at home. Students must have access to a 2.5 ft x 2.5 ft garden or five 5-gallon pots. Additionally, students must have access to a well-lit counter, window sill, or similar space inside their home.

INSTRUCTOR

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Fifield Hall 1113

(352) 273 – 4765

Office hours: Wednesday 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM via Zoom

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- Design and build their own garden keeping in mind how location impacts sun exposure in a garden
- Irrigate and fertilize their garden applying the 4Rs of plant nutrition
- Prevent, identify, and treat pests and diseases in their garden using common household supplies
- Document their individual gardening experience through written and multimedia products

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. Digital copies of this syllabus, and other learning materials can be found there.

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

Gardening supplies

Seeds, plants, fertilizers, organic pest and disease control, and germination supplies will be shipped to you during the second week of the semester. Please, verify that the contents of your garden kit match the packing list.

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, http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

Slideshows

All slideshows used in this class are made available to students. However, these slideshows cannot replace the lecture, because they have blank spaces, exercises, diagrams, and flowcharts that you have to individually complete. Only after you have interacted with these slideshows will they become good reference materials.

Technology

Students will need to have access to a personal computer (desktop is fine) to complete the weekly blog post. Additionally, students will need to have access to a picture/video camera to document growth in their gardens. While cellular phone cameras are perfectly adequate for capturing videos and images, their use to take quizzes or submit assignments is discouraged.

COURSE GRADE

1. Weekly quizzes   **36 points**

Every Monday at 9:00am, a 10-question multiple choice quiz will become available in Canvas. Each quiz will be worth 3 points, and there will be 12 quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will be timed to 10 minutes, and it can only be taken once. Students can refer to personal notes, websites, or any reference materials to complete the quiz. However, each student 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. The lowest quiz score will be dropped when computing final grades.

2. Garden blog   **36 points**

Each student will create and maintain a garden 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 are expected to publish at least one new post each week. 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). 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. Each blog post will be worth 3 points.

3. Regrow project   **16 points**

Did you know that a lot of 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. You can select the crop and the week of the semester when you want to start this project (Weeks 2 to 9). 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 4 points. Each update will include measurements and pictures of your plants. Additionally, you will answer general questions about your regrow process.

4. Reaction Videos   **12 points**

You are expected to 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 and harvest. Each video will be worth 6 points. Germination and harvest will likely take different time for different people, but you must submit your germination reaction video by week 6 and your harvest video by week 12. I encourage you to prepare a scrip before you record your video.

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

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 as an emergency 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:

- UF Attendance policy, www.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

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. Requests to make-up late work due to technical difficulties must be accompanied by this ticket number. Unfortunately, at this time, 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, www.lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

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 repertoire. Thus, the instructor places great emphasis on coaching and participating in professional, context-specific written communication.

All course-related email communication should be polite, professional, and as different from a text message as possible. For additional recommendations, consult:

- *Email etiquette*, www.advising.ufl.edu/docs/ProfessionalEtiquette.pdf

In addition to content, all written assignments will be evaluated with respect to proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, word usage, clarity, coherence, and organization. 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

In 1995, the UF student body enacted a new honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to this standard.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"**On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.**"

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior. Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court.

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course. Additionally, all work submitted for credit by students will be analyzed with originality-checking software to detect any academic misconduct.

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 a wealth of confidential, free counseling services to enrolled students.

• Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575**,** www.counseling.ufl.edu

• U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu

Additionally, if you would like orientation on choosing a major, finding an internship, or planning your career, I encourage you to use the university's on-campus resources.

• Career Connections Center, CR-100 Reitz Union, 392-1601, www.career.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.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

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.

SOME THOUGHTS ON GARDENING

1. **Gardening can be relaxing, creative, and even therapeutic**
    I encourage you to think about this class as an experience –rather than a course. Each week, the lecture is intended to teach you an aspect of gardening that will make your garden time more enjoyable and less intimidating.

2. **Your garden is yours**
    After week 2 of the semester, you will be growing your own garden. Make this space your own! You can spend as much time as you would like working on your garden. Also, you can grow anything you would like in your garden in addition to the provided crops.

3. **We will grow together**
    The TA and I will tend to our gardens this summer. We will take care of our plants, worry about the weather, pull weeds, and –hopefully– harvest at the same time you do. We do not just teach this course, we enjoy gardening!

4. **There is a career for you out there.**
    Gardening is just the tip of the iceberg. Agriculture happens in many settings and at many levels. If you are curious about how a passion for plants can be turned into a well-paid, fulfilling career, do not hesitate to ask me.

5. **Your harvest is edible.**
    You will likely harvest some fruits, vegetables, and herbs from your garden during the semester. Eating your harvest is optional (but I will eat everything that I harvest). Personal safety should be your number one priority when deciding whether or not to eat the produce you grow.

6. **Feel free to show off.**
    Your blog and your garden are available around the clock. Feel free to show off your gardening skills with your roommates, loved ones, and relatives.

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Week of	Weekly topic
May 11th	Week 1: Introduction to the course and plant anatomy
May 18th	Week 2: Seeds, seedlings, and transplants
May 25th	Week 3: Container and indoor gardening
June 1st	Week 4: Seasons and gardening choices
June 8th	Week 5: Water and irrigation
June 15th	Week 6: Photosynthesis and pruning
June 22nd	Summer Break
June 29th	Week 7: Plant nutrition
July 6th	Week 8: Hydroponic gardens
July 13th	Week 9: Garden diseases
July 20th	Week 10: Garden pests
July 27th	Week 11: Organic gardening
Aug 3rd	Week 12: Harvesting