



## **VEGETABLE GARDENING**

HOS1014 - 1 CREDIT

FALL 2018

### **MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION**

Lecture	Before Nov 4 <sup>th</sup> : Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> period After Nov 4 <sup>th</sup> : Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> period Fifield Hall room 2316
Garden	Before Nov 4 <sup>th</sup> : Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> period After Nov 4 <sup>th</sup> : Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> period Horticultural Sciences Teaching Garden

### **INSTRUCTOR**

Gerardo Nunez, Ph.D.	<a href="mailto:g.nunez@ufl.edu">g.nunez@ufl.edu</a> Fifield Hall 1113 (352) 273 - 4765 Tuesdays 2:00PM to 4:00PM
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to teach students from all majors how to sustainably grow a vegetable garden. Whether you are green thumb or a black thumb, this course will teach you how –and why- to grow tasty and nutritious vegetables. The basic principles of gardening and agriculture will be covered in the lectures. Then, each student will apply what they learned in their individual garden. Seeds, transplants, tools, and know-how will be provided by the instructor and the teaching assistants.

### **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, weed management, pest control, disease management, and crop timing work

- Describe the culinary vegetables in the plant families Asteraceae, Brassicaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, and Solanaceae
- Create written and multimedia materials that document their experience as gardeners

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### **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](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.

### **Course website**

This course has a comprehensive mini-site in the Canvas platform. Take time to familiarize yourself with the “Start Here”, “Syllabus”, “Course Materials”, and “Grades” 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](http://www.elearning.ufl.edu)

### **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 camera to complete the media posts. Most cellular phone cameras are adequate for this task. However, students can borrow a picture camera from the instructor for use during the gardening hours.

## **ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP POLICY**

You are encouraged to attend every lecture and every garden session. Attendance will be taken based on a sign-in sheet. Absences will be excused, late assignments will be graded, and make up-quizzes will be provided only for documented emergencies as per UF’s attendance policy.

However, I am aware that sometimes life throws you a *curve ball*. Thus, you are allowed one no-questions-asked absence per semester. Subsequent unexcused absences will result in the loss of 50% of your quiz points for the week in which the absence occurred.

Additional information about UF’s attendance policy can be found here:

- Attendance policy, [www.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](http://www.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)

## **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 permanently assigned to your garden space. Make this space your own! You can spend as much time as you would like working on your garden (the Teaching Garden is open between dawn and dusk) Also, you can grow anything you would like in your garden in addition to the provided vegetables.

### **3. We will grow together**

The TA's and I will have our own gardens next to yours. 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 believe in the benefits of 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 the instructor.

### **5. Your harvest is edible.**

You will likely harvest some vegetables from your garden during the semester. Eating your vegetables 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 vegetables you grow. Any vegetables left behind at the end of the semester will be harvested and donated to the Field and Fork Food Pantry.

### **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.

## **COURSE GRADE**

### **1. Weekly quizzes**

**28 points**

Every Monday at 9:00AM, a 10-question multiple choice quiz will become available in Canvas. Each quiz will be worth 2 points. There will be 15 quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will be timed to 10 minutes, and it can only be taken once. Students can refer to class handouts, 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. Students are responsible for taking the weekly quiz even if they miss the

lecture. Make up quizzes will be provided in accordance with the policy described above. There will not be a quiz during Thanksgiving week.

## 2. Gardening Blog

28 points

Each student will be responsible for designing, creating, and maintaining 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 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. There will not be a blog post due during Thanksgiving week.

## 3. Garden

20 points

Each student will be assigned to their own garden and provided with seed, transplants, fertilizers, tools, and pest control implements to grow their plants. You do not need to worry about watering; irrigation will be automatic. However, you will be responsible for all other aspects of maintaining your garden. This garden will be your muse (for the blog), your task (for 20 points), and your trophy (for bragging!). We will use the allotted class time to demonstrate how to keep up with your garden, but you are free to come work on your garden as much as you want. Your garden will be evaluated twice in the semester (weeks 7 and 14) using a rubric that matches the progress made in the TA's garden.

## 4. Reaction Videos

24 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 or harvest. Each video will be worth 12 points. Germination and harvest will likely take different time for different people. Thus, these assignments will be open for student submission since the first day of the semester. Both reaction videos must be completed by 12/02/18.

### 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](http://www.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to be respectful learners. As such, you should arrive to and leave from class on time. Additionally, you should refrain from using electronic devices (laptops, tablets, and cellular phones) during class time, unless invited by the instructor. Activities such as talking, sleeping, eating, and studying for other classes should also be avoided. Students who repeatedly engage in disruptive behavior during a class period will be marked absent and/or asked to leave the room.

### 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](http://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/](http://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](http://www.counseling.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 Resource Center*, CR-100 Reitz Union, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.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/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

### 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.

### **ONLINE 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 feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at:

- *Course evaluations*, [www.evaluations.ufl.edu](http://www.evaluations.ufl.edu)

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. You will be notified of the specific times when evaluations for this course are open.

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<b>Week of</b>	<b>Weekly topic</b>
Aug 28 <sup>th</sup>	Week 1: Introduction to the course
Sep 4 <sup>th</sup>	Week 2: Plant anatomy and vegetable anatomy
Sep 11 <sup>th</sup>	Week 3: Seeds, cuttings, stolons, and transplants
Sep 18 <sup>th</sup>	Week 4: Seasons and gardening choices
Sep 25 <sup>th</sup>	Week 5: Water and irrigation
Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Week 6: Photosynthesis and pruning
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Week 7: Plant nutrition
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	Week 8: Hydroponics and harvesting
Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Week 9: Garden diseases
Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	Week 10: Garden pests
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Week 11: Past, present, and future of organic agriculture
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	Week 12: Compost and succulents
Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>	Week 13: Container and indoor gardening
Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>	Week 14: Greenhouse and protected agriculture
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Week 15: Plant domestication and breeding