

Kresge Garden, Kresge-63

Course Syllabus

Thursdays 1:00-5:00pm in the Kresge Garden
Instructor: David Shaw, daveshaw@ucsc.edu
Office Kresge 170, Office hours by appointment
Summer Kresge Garden Co-op Members:
Mason Scharer, mscharer@ucsc.edu, (415) 847-4897
Tess Kremer, tkremer@ucsc.edu
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Course description:

The focus of this course is learning and practicing basic ecological horticulture skills through work at the Kresge Garden. This quarter we pay special attention to bed digging, propagating crops by seed, transplanting, irrigation, fruit trees and community gardening. In addition to getting the garden growing for the season, we emphasize building and maintaining the Kresge Community Gardening Cooperative through refining and documenting the process by which gardeners communicate, cooperate, and share resources.

Learning Outcomes:

By successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand how to interpret a crop plan and sowing schedule
- Assess soil texture and moisture by feel
- Implement hand cultivation and weeding techniques
- Propagate plants by seed in greenhouse and field situations
- Install and maintain drip irrigation systems
- Identify five common garden based medicinal herbs
- Care for temperate zone deciduous fruit trees throughout the year
- Consider effective communication processes in school garden settings

Required readings:

There is an eReader for this class. It is a compilation of readings from the UCSC Farm and Garden Apprenticeship Program, poetry, and insights about gardening and community. Readings will be assigned in class on a week by week basis, and it is your responsibility to check with your peers for the assignments if you miss class.

Course Expectations

You are expected to devote six hours per week to this two credit course:

- 4 hours/week in class

2 hours/week out of class time at your sit spot, reading, and writing, and back in the garden working with Garden Co-op members

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Course Outline – Subject to Change

Week 1	6/23	Garden Tour, Soils & Cultivation
Week 2	6/30	Plant Propagation
Week 3	7/7	Irrigation & Weeding
Week 4	7/14	Crop Planning, Botany, and Flowers
Week 5	7/21	Fruit Trees, Garden Herbalism, Final Project Presentations

Grading and Evaluation:

- Attendance and participation in class: 50%
- Attendance and participation in garden hours: 20%
- Journal and journaling assignments: 10%
- Final project and paper: 20%

Drop and Withdraw Deadlines:

Drop deadline for this course - June 27

Withdraw deadline for this course - July 8



Kresge 63, Assignments, Will Be Introduced as We Go Along

1. Show up on time to class. Give it your best.
2. Read and understand the syllabus from start to finish. Ask and answer any questions you have at the second class meeting.
3. Learn the name of everyone in the class.
4. Garden Hours. Complete 10 hours working alongside student staff at the Kresge Garden.
5. Go to your sit spot. Pick a "sit spot" in or around the Kresge Garden where you feel comfortable sitting for 30 minutes. Sit there and quietly observe what you see, smell, feel, hear, taste and intuit. Write down your observations in your journal. Return to this place and sit for 30 minutes *at least once a week*. Please turn this into a daily routine if you can.
6. Journaling. See page 4 for my approach to journaling in this class. Keep a journal starting now, and please always bring it to class. It should contain all writings pertaining to this course. The assignment is to journal often, and to turn in your journalings during our last class. I authentically value you and what you have to say, and have found that this assignment is one of the best ways for you and I to track your learning process.
7. Final Reflection. Turn in a 500 word or more written reflection on your overall experience with the class this quarter. What did you learn? What did you unlearn? How did you contribute to and participate in the betterment of the garden and cooperative? What worked well, and how do we get more of that for the future?
8. Creative final project and story. Find what motivates you, and partake in an individual or group final project that contributes to the ecological and/or social sustainability of the Kresge Garden. Tap into your creativity, and come up with a unique gift you wish to share with the world, such as making Kresge Garden Coop T-shirts, patches, buttons, installing a sundial, designing a new bench, creating a garden video, hosting an Edible UCSC Bike Tour of the campus gardens, or a CD of hip hop songs you wrote about nature. Your imagination is your only limit.



We ask each student or group to submit a written project proposal midway through the quarter (due date TBA). Proposals will then be reviewed by the Garden Coop, approved / denied, and given feedback. Then, once your project has been decided, go for it. As you do, document your process and creatively write the story of how it all came to be. This can be as a 500 word or more essay, collection of haiku, research paper, etc or video. Again, be imaginative. Our goal is to get something along with your project so we've got a collection of these stories for the future. All in all the final project and paper should take about 12 hours of your time.



***General Philosophy:** If this course leaves you with the habit of self-examination about your life, sense of place and community, health, creativity, and gives you tools for that examination, it will have proved to be one of your most valuable classes. Use all the work in the garden, the readings, whatever happens in class, how you respond to anything in your life throughout the term, as grist for the mill of the course. The responsibility for the outcome is yours. Learn from whatever happens and share.

***Reading:** Readings are in the course reader. Be sure to read them before class so you get the most out of the time we are together in the garden. We could build a whole course around any one of the readings, and most of the ideas and practices take effect only after months and years of practice. Remember that the value of this experience is not measured by where you are ten weeks from now, but by the quality of your life and what you accomplish in the years ahead.

The assignment when reading is not the usual understanding or remembering of the material. It is to *read each reading by the due date with the strong aim to get what you can from it*. Learn more than just from the content of the readings – learn about yourself from your response to the readings.

***Journal:** Great numbers of people have found that keeping a self-reflexive journal is, by itself, a way to transform their life. The journal you keep for the course is an important part of the experience. *Write almost every day- by doing so create a relationship with your journaling that is far more powerful than what you would get from, say, weekly journaling.*



***What to write?** The first rule is to write anything, *but write*. The journal should be a complete record of your work and written reflections arising out of the course experience both in- and out- of class. Please begin keeping it immediately. We wish for you to write notes/questions/reflections each week pertaining to 1) the readings, and 2) your sit spot. This can be the same journal you use for taking notes on lectures in class. There is no minimum length; we are evaluating the *quality* of your engagement with the course themes, not the quantity of your writing.

** Statements adapted from Frank Andrews' Personal Empowerment syllabus.*