

Kresge Garden, Kresge-63

Course Syllabus



Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:00am-12:30pm in the Kresge Garden

Instructor: David Shaw, daveshaw@ucsc.edu
Office Kresge 170, Office hours by appointment

Summer Kresge Garden Co-op Members & Garden Hours

Sat & Sun 9am-12pm, Tue & Thu 8-11am, Sun 9am-12pm & Tue 8-11am

Group work day Fri 8-11am

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

Course Expectations

You are expected to devote 12 hours per week to this 2-credit course:

- 4 hours/week in class
- 2 hours/week out of class time at garden hours
- 6 hours/week out of class at your sit spot, reading, and writing

Course Outline – Subject to Change

Week 1	6/27 & 28	Garden Tour, Soils & Cultivation
Week 2	7/5	Plant Propagation
Week 3	7/11 & 12	Irrigation & Weeding
Week 4	7/18 & 19	Crop Planning, Botany, and Flowers
Week 5	7/25 & 26	Fruit Trees, Garden Herbalism, Final Project Presentations

Drop and Withdraw Deadlines

Drop deadline for this course – July 2 | Withdraw deadline for this course - July 13

Assignments - Grades and evaluation will be based on:

- **50% - Attendance and participation in class.** Because of the experiential nature of this course, showing up fully and giving it your best is a big part of your grade. There are 5 total class meetings. Each class earns the student 10 points towards their overall grade. If a student misses one class they will go down a letter grade. If a student comes to class more than 5 minutes late they will only earn a maximum of 8 points.
- **20% - Attendance and participation in Garden Hours.** Complete 10 hours working alongside student staff at the Kresge Garden during their walk in “garden hours.” Each hour is worth 2 points. Please log these in the Google spreadsheet provided.
- **10% - Sit Spot and Garden Journal.**
 - **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. The primary goals of this activity are to pique your curiosity for the natural world, give you time to quiet your mind and observe, and to strengthen your connection with nature.
 - **Garden Journal. Due in class July 25/26th.** Keep a journal starting now, and please always bring it with you to the garden. 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 write notes, questions, and reflections each week pertaining to lectures, readings, garden hours and your sit spot. You are free to type or handwrite your entries. I am evaluating the *quality* of your engagement with the course themes, not the quantity of your writing. That said, there should be at least 5 entries of at least 500 words per week (approx. one page, size 12, Times, single spaced).
- **20% - Creative Final Project and Final Reflective Paper.**
 - **Creative Final Project. Due in class July 25/26th.** Find what motivates you in the garden, and what you observe is needed, and partake in an individual or group final project that contributes to the ecological and/or social sustainability of the Kresge Garden. Previous projects have included building a bench, constructing the tool racks in the shed, plant guides for edible flowers and herbs found in the garden, and creating Kresge Garden videos. Your imagination is your only limit.
 - **Project Proposal. Due in class July 11/12th.** I ask each student or group to submit a written project proposal midway through the quarter. Proposals will then be reviewed by the Kresge Garden Coop, approved / denied, and given feedback. Then, once your project has been decided, go for it. All in all the final project and paper should take about 12 hours of your time.
 - **Final Reflective Paper. Due in class July 25/26th.** Turn in a 500 word or more written reflection on your overall experience with the class this quarter. What did you learn or unlearn? How did you contribute to the betterment of the garden and community? What did you do for your final project? What worked well, and how might we get more of that for the future?

Recommended Reading

There is an eReader for this class containing articles from the UCSC Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) and other insights about gardening and community. Recommended readings will be given on a week by week basis to augment class lectures.

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 five weeks from now, but by the quality of your life and what you accomplish in the years ahead.

The invitation when reading is not the usual understanding or remembering of the material. It is *to read each reading 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.

Weeks 1 & 2 - Soils and Propagation

This week's readings are a double dose to cover soils & cultivation (our week 1 topic) as well as our Chadwick Garden tour and plant propagation (our week 2 topics).

The Goals of Soil Cultivation, pp 5-8
Building Fertile Soil, pp 20-23
Soil Tillage and Cultivation Lecture Notes, pp 93-112

Propagating Crops by Seed, pp 113-134
Transplanting and Direct Seeding, pp 135-141
Seed Sources, p 89
Alan Chadwick Garden, pp 207-228

Week 3 - Irrigation

Irrigation, pp 142-152
Critical Periods for Soil Water Stress, p 205
Irrigation Cheat Sheet, p 206
Water Conservation Tips, p 91

Week 4 - Crop Planning

CSA Crop Planning, pp 175-188

Week 5 - Fruit Trees

Apple Trees for Every Garden, pp 9-14
Apple Varieties of the UCSC Farm Orchard, pp 15-16
Choosing and Growing Stone Fruits, pp 24-28
Citrus Offers Year Round Options, pp 29-34