

# UEP 247: Urban Agriculture Practicum

Course Topic: Urban Agriculture & FEAST

Spring 2021

R 1:30-4:30pm

## INSTRUCTORS

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Sharon Cech, MA Urban Planning

[cech@oxy.edu](mailto:cech@oxy.edu)

she/her/hers

Office hours: by appointment

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## CLASS ZOOM LINK

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All class instruction will be conducted remotely via Zoom using the following link: <https://occidental.zoom.us/j/83936870891>. The passcode is: **441090**. Classes will be conducted synchronously to maximize opportunities for student engagement and discussion. If you anticipate any issues with synchronous participation, please contact the course instructors directly.

## MOODLE

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All readings and supplemental media will be available on the course Moodle site:

<https://moodle.oxy.edu/course/view.php?id=32532>

## COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

Class summary and goals: This class is a collaboration between the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI) and the FEAST (Food, Energy, and Sustainability Team) student service to enhance student capacity to lead and engage with food and gardening projects both on campus and in the community. Through the implementation of projects in campus garden spaces, participation in community service learning projects, and field trips to innovative food programs in Los Angeles, students will gain hands-on

understanding of food issues and will complete the course with the ability to help in the design, creation, and maintenance of a garden-based food or sustainability project.

**Course goals and learning objectives:**

- Build technical skills in food production, gardening, and sustainable landscaping principals
- Gain exposure to the innovative urban agriculture and sustainable land use projects in Los Angeles
- Contribute towards local community agriculture and landscaping projects
- Contribute towards the development and improvement of FEAST projects at Oxy

**Class structure and format:**

We will be partnering with FEAST to help build their organizational capacity. (For example, conducting projects such as applying to be certified organic, developing a compost program with LA Compost, increasing educational materials and volunteer potential or designing an outdoor classroom space. ). More details to come! You will be in small groups working on a specific project and may need to spend some time outside of class doing research and project development.

**Class expectations:** Everyone must contribute equally to their project. All members of project groups must show up for project team meetings. You must complete your project. You must also complete all assignments.

## **COURSE/CAMPUS POLICIES & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Online Learning Environment & Responsibilities**

Professors and students share the responsibility of creating the space and stimulating enthusiasm for learning, including engagement in an online learning environment. Students are responsible for attending and participating in class, completing assignments in a timely manner, and being prepared to discuss readings and material in class and attending. Students are also responsible for engaging in respectful, open, and thoughtful discussion with each other, the professors and community partners. In order to ensure open, honest, thoughtful, and respectful learning, teaching, class and community discussions please:

- Inform the professors when you may have to arrive late or leave early with advanced notice when possible. As this class is community based, all guest lectures are mandatory. If you are absent for these classes, an alternative assignment must be discussed ahead of time.

- Engage in active and courteous listening to other students and community partners and contribute respectfully to class and community discussions.
- When you're not speaking, mute yourself to avoid background noise for others.
- When possible, keep your camera on. We realize that circumstances may arise where this is not always possible, but encourage students to engage visually to contribute to an engaged and discussion-based atmosphere.
- If issues come up around engaging in remote learning, such as connectivity, timing, or ability to engage, please let us know so that we can work together to find a solution.
- As a student participating in an online learning environment, you must abide by all College rules and regulations including, but not limited to, rules in the applicable course syllabus/outline, the Student Code of Conduct Policy, the Policy on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination, as well as any applicable laws. Any violation of these rules may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the College, and/or legal action.
- Online classes may be recorded by your instructor. This means that the audio-visual and chat portions of each class may be recorded and then stored on the College's servers. Recordings will be made available through Moodle (or another secure platform), but only for the express and sole use of those registered in the course. The recorded material will be removed at the end of the semester. No other recording of classroom instruction is permitted. The sharing, altering, or distorting of any audio-visual capture of a class session is not permitted. All content contained in the records shall be subject to the College's Policy on Intellectual Property.

## **Academic Integrity**

As stated in the Occidental College Student Handbook, intellectual honesty is “essential to the educational purposes and fairness of the academic enterprise. Occidental College assumes that students and faculty will embrace a high ethical standard for academic work. In all work, students shall behave conscientiously, taking and giving credit where credit is due, and when in doubt, consulting the instructor or other knowledgeable persons as to whether particular conduct, collaboration, and/or acknowledgement of sources as appropriate. Academic misconduct occurs when a student misrepresents others’ work as her/his own or otherwise behaves so as to unfairly advantage her/himself or another student academically. Examples of misconduct include cheating and plagiarism. If this or other misconduct occurs to any extent in connection with any academic work, it will be subject to disciplinary action.” For further information, please see the [Occidental Student Handbook](#).

As many of you are learning from home this semester, you may have family around who are willing and able to provide you with support. While general support is necessary and welcomed by many, in order to protect your academic growth and ensure the integrity of this course, this statement serves as a reminder that your work must be your own. While office hours are always available for students, they will not be available for parents/guardians/family members. As always, if your parent/guardian has concerns, they are welcome to [contact the Dean of Students office](#).

## Academic Support Resources

The College has a wide range of [Student Academic Support Resources](#) to support students in learning.

- The **Writing Center** offers opportunities to work on all forms of writing for any class or other writing tasks such as personal statements, senior comprehensives, etc. We offer peer-to-peer consultations with knowledgeable Writing Advisers and sessions with Faculty Writing Specialists. For fall 2020, all of our appointments will be remote: either synchronous virtual meetings or asynchronous writing feedback. See the [Writing Center website](#) for more information about our fall hours and how students can sign up for appointments. We will update our information again for spring 2021. Please contact the Writing Programs-Center Director, Julie Prebel ([jprebel@oxy.edu](mailto:jprebel@oxy.edu); x1307) for more information on how the Center can work with you.
- If you'd like to take advantage of the College's **Academic Coaching** resource, which offers one-on-one sessions focused on supporting your time management skills, online learning strategies, and other study skills, you may schedule an academic coaching meeting by sending an email to [academiccoaching@oxy.edu](mailto:academiccoaching@oxy.edu). Share what you'd like to work on, and an academic coach will schedule an appointment with you within a few days.
- The **Center for Digital Liberal Arts (CDLA)** offers [library research consultations](#) and [discipline-specific peer tutoring for coursework](#) and [language learning](#). We also offer peer-to-peer [support for learning technologies](#) from Moodle and Zoom to Adobe, app making, and ProTools.

## Intercultural Community Center (ICC)

The Intercultural Community Center (ICC) seeks to uplift and support the experiences of students who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, low income or first generation college students. The ICC also aims to reduce institutional barriers for minoritized groups through intersectional programming, identity-specific services and structural resources. To learn more, contact [icc@oxy.edu](mailto:icc@oxy.edu), or reach out directly to Chris Arguedas, at [carguedas@oxy.edu](mailto:carguedas@oxy.edu).

## **Emmons/ Student Health**

Your health and well-being has always impacted learning and academic success, and this reality is only heightened as we learn and live through a global pandemic. Symptoms such as anxiety, depression, loss of motivation, difficulty concentrating, and strained relationships can occur. Emmons Counseling staff are committed to supporting the mental health needs of all of our students, regardless of where you're located. Emmons provides virtual walk-ins, crisis support, and consultation to all students, and ongoing individual telecounseling to students residing in California. All students residing outside of California will have access to ongoing telecounseling through a national telecounseling service. Emmons also assists students with finding local therapy referrals. All students continue to have access to the 24/7 confidential hotline at (323) 341-4141. To get connected to any of the free, confidential services at Emmons call (323) 259-2657 or schedule an appointment online at <https://myhealth.oxy.edu> using your Oxy login credentials.

## **Special Accommodations/Learning Differences**

No matter the mode of course instruction, approved academic accommodations remain in effect. Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester, or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who has, or thinks they may have, a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at [accessibility@oxy.edu](mailto:accessibility@oxy.edu) to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

## **Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience**

Consistent with Occidental College's commitment to creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that students should be excused from class for reasons of faith and conscience without academic consequence. While it is not feasible to schedule coursework around all days of conviction for a class as a whole, faculty will honor requests from individual students to reschedule coursework, to be absent from classes that conflict with the identified days. Information about this process is available on the ORSL website:

<https://www.oxy.edu/office-religious-spiritual-life>

## **Title IX**

All Occidental faculty are mandatory reporters. In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced sexual or interpersonal violence, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation or any other form of sexual harassment, as designated Responsible Employees, professors must notify the Title IX

Office. They will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at Oxy and reporting options both on and off-campus.

If you do not want the Title IX Office notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, either through conversation or a class assignment, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus:

- Marianne Frapwell, Survivor Advocate, Project SAFE ([survivoradvocate@oxy.edu](mailto:survivoradvocate@oxy.edu))
- Emmons Counseling (For appointments, call: 323-259-2657)
- Rev. Dr. Susan Young, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life ([young@oxy.edu](mailto:young@oxy.edu))

The sexual misconduct policy, along with additional resources, can be found at: <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>. If you would like to contact the Title IX Office directly, you can email Title IX Coordinator Alexandra Fulcher at [afulcher@oxy.edu](mailto:afulcher@oxy.edu) or call 323-259-1338.

### **Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Policy:**

We strive to foster an inclusive classroom environment. Consistent with College policy on [discrimination, harassment, and retaliation](#), we seek to maintain an environment of mutual respect among all members of our community. Please come to us with any concerns.

### **Lived Name Policy**

Occidental College seeks to provide an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment by making it possible for students to use [a lived first name](#) and pronouns on college records when a legal name is not required. Students are encouraged to use Zoom to display their lived name and pronouns.

## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

UEP 247 is a 2-unit course. It is expected that students in this class on average will devote at least six(6) hours a week to class activities (including in-class time). As a pass/no pass class, you will start with 100 points. If you attend class and do your assignments you will keep those points and pass the class. We will subtract points for missing class, tardiness (without prior notice), and missing assignments. If you have not retained at least 75 points by the end of the semester you will not pass the class. Points will be deducted as follows.

Missing a class meeting	-10 points
Missing an assignment*	-10 points

\*You can make up an assignment and regain your 10 points, and we will do our best to record guest speakers. However, if you miss a guest speaker, you will have to do an additional makeup assignment (such as a reflection journal) in order to regain the points.

### Assignment Overview:

Each group will select a project (in partnership with FEAST) from those introduced on 1/28. Each project will be unique and have its own milestones, but groups will all complete identified tasks according to the following timeline:

1. Sign up for groups & projects (2/4)
2. Project Proposal & Milestone Timeline (2/18)
3. Project Milestone #1 (3/4)
4. Project Milestone #2 (4/1)
5. Final Project Due & Final Presentation in class (4/22)
6. Final Reflection Journal (4/29)

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is the week-by-week schedule for the UEP 247 class. Please note, class topics may change and Moodle will have the most up to date information. You can also reference [Oxy's 2020-2021 academic calendar](#) for more information on College-wide dates and deadlines.

### Week 1

<b>Th Jan. 21</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> Class Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introductions</li> <li>● Review syllabus and schedule</li> <li>● Introduce class project(s)</li> <li>● Virtual FEAST tour</li> </ul>
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### Week 2

<b>Th Jan. 28</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Urban Ag Overview</li> <li>● Project Options (in partnership with FEAST)</li> <li>● Urban Ag Internship opportunity (Alma video)</li> </ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reading &amp; Media on Moodle</li> </ul>
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## Week 3

<b>Th Feb. 4</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Gardening 101</li><li>● Sign up for groups and projects</li><li>● Introduce project proposal assignment</li><li>● Introduce “What Bugs do in Your Garden” Assignment</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Readings &amp; media on Moodle</li></ul>
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## Week 4

<b>Th Feb. 11</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Soil 101</li><li>● Review draft project proposals</li><li>● Group work on project proposals</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● “What Bugs do in Your Garden” Assignment</li><li>● Draft Project Proposals Due (for review in class)</li></ul>
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## Week 5

<b>Th Feb. 18</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● LA Compost &amp; FEAST Compost Hub</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Final Project Proposals Due</li></ul>
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## Week 6

<b>Th Feb. 25</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Outdoor Education</li><li>● Work on group projects</li></ul>
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	<b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil/Compost Assignment</li> </ul>
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## Week 7

Th Mar. 4	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project updates</li> </ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milestone #1 due (according to project proposal timeline)</li> </ul>
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## Week 8 — *Spring Break: No Class Meeting*

Th Mar. 11	
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## Week 9

Th Mar. 18	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chickens 101</li> <li>• Work on group projects</li> </ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on group projects</li> </ul>
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## Week 10

Th Mar. 25	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Check-ins</li> <li>• In-class movie (tbd)</li> </ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken Assignment</li> <li>• Work on group projects</li> </ul>
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## Week 11

<b>Th Apr. 1</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project updates</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Milestone #2 due (according to project proposal timeline)</li></ul>
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## Week 12

<b>Th Apr. 8</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Check-ins</li><li>• In-class movie (tbd)</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work on group projects</li></ul>
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## Week 13

<b>Th Apr. 15</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project check-ins</li><li>• Guest speaker (tbd)</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work on group projects</li></ul>
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## Week 14

<b>Th Apr. 22</b>	<b>Topic(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final group presentations</li></ul> <b>Assignments Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final projects due</li><li>• Final presentation due (Wed. 4/21 before midnight)</li><li>• Final journal reflection due (Thurs. 4/29)</li></ul>
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