

The Urban Farm in Winter

Dept. of Landscape Architecture
Winter 2018
LA 390 CRN 23939
Monday/Wednesday 10:00 -11:50
Urban Farm / 222 Lawrence 4 Credits
Harper Keeler - hkeeler@uoregon.edu

“A person who undertakes to grow a garden at home, by practices that will preserve rather than exploit the economy of the soil, has his mind precisely against what is wrong with us.... What I am saying is that if we apply our minds directly and competently to the needs of the earth, then we will have begun to make fundamental and necessary changes in our minds. We will begin to understand and to mistrust and to change our wasteful economy, which markets not just the produce of the earth, but also the earth’s ability to produce.”

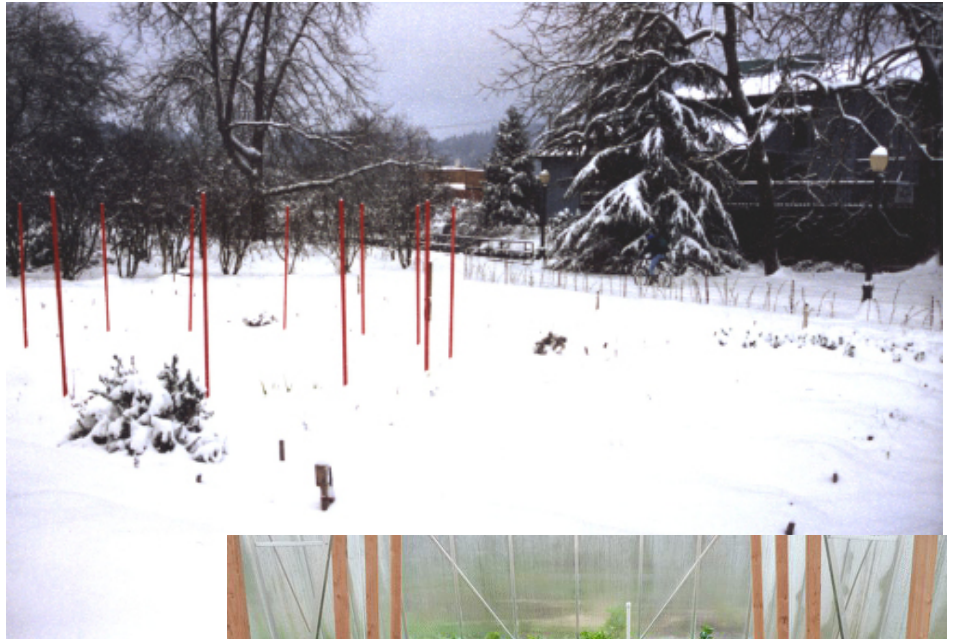
-Wendell Berry, Think Little from A Continuous Harmony: Essays Cultural & Agricultural

At the Urban Farm we also like to quote Berry when we say that eating is an agricultural act. As we become more aware of this intrinsic connection, the necessity of understanding where our food comes from becomes extremely vital. Eating Local has joined Organic as an important criterion for learning how to behave responsibly and sustainably. Consequently, the necessity to preserve vanishing prime agricultural land has become equally important and has the potential to shape how we reassess our Urban Spaces.

The Urban Farm is a model for alternative urban land use where people grow food, work together, take care of the land, and build community. For over 40 years, the Urban Farm has been a place and a process, integrating biological, ecological, economic and social concerns. To compliment working in the soil, students will be afforded opportunities to consider urban agricultural design, contemporary agrarian philosophy and interactive community activism.

The Winter term will focus on overwintering gardening techniques as well as greenhouse food production. Other winter activities include, seed propagation, mushroom cultivation, fruit tree pruning and stewardship, tool repair and lots of seasonal eating.

For further course information, email Harper Keeler: hkeeler@uoregon.edu



Working Thematic Class Calendar

(Subject to change. Final Calendar will be provided at beginning of term)

Week #1

Jan. 8 Introductions / Rules and Regs.
Farm tour
First day group project

Reading: Soil Food Web and Compost (UF Reader, pages 4-19)

Jan 10 Break into two teams / Team builder
Assign Beds and Turf
Fruit tree identification walk. Bed work, harvest

Reading: TBA

Topic: Native Soil / Willamette Valley / Missoula
Assign: "Eat Local Assignment",
"Book Review Assignment"

Jan 13 (Sat.) Composting Workshop

Week #2

Jan. 15 Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop
Tool Introduction Workshop
Work in beds, harvest

Reading: TBA
Plant Family #1, Alliums
NPK (UF Reader)

Jan 17 Travel to Columbia Green
Work in beds

Reading: TBA

Jan 20 (Sat.) Tool Repair

Week #3

Jan. 22 Milagro Bean Field War, part 1

Reading: TBA

Plant Family # 2, Brassicaeae (UF Reader)
Assign: Community interaction assignment

Jan 24 Milagro Bean Field War, part 2

Jan 27(Sat.) Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

Week #4

Jan. 29 Greenhouse Work
Plant Field Walk

Reading: TBA
Plant Family # 3, Solonaceae

Jan 31 Field Trip: TBA
Assign: "Precedent Study Assignment"

Feb 3 (Sat.) Compost / Pruning

Week #5

Feb. 5 Work in Beds / Harvest
Plant Family #4, Chenopodaceae
Reading: TBA

Feb. 7 Garden Development at Columbia Green

Feb. 10 (Sat.) Fertilize Garlic

Week #6

Feb. 12 Work in beds / Pruning
Plant Family # 5 Compositae (Asteraceae)

Feb. 14 Field Trip: Hummingbird Wholesale / Skinner City Farm

Feb. 17 (Sat.) Seed Inventory and Workshop

Week #7

Feb. 19 Work at Farm(s)
Plant Family #6, Cucurbitcae
Reading: TBA

Feb. 12 Review / Adjust Community Interaction assignment
Pin-up Review of Projects

Feb. 24 (Sat.) Seed Sowing Workshop / Make Potting Soil

Week #8

Feb. 26 Work in Beds / Seed Sowing / Harvest
Plant Family #7 Leguminosae (Fabaceae)
Reading: TBA

Feb 28 Work in Beds

Mar. 3 (Sat.) TBA

Week #9

Mar. 5 **Exam**

Mar. 7 Project Review
Class Potluck

Mar. 10 (Sat.) Work at Farm, prepare for spring session
Tool acquisition

Week #10

Mar. 12 Optional work / harvesting.

Mar. 14 Optional work / harvesting.