



LA 410/510

web site <https://sites.google.com/site/courthousegarden/>

Spring 2011

Tues/Thurs 4-5:50

Instructor: Lorri Nelson & Robin Selover

4 credits

class meets @ the garden site

courthousegarden@gmail.com

Courthouse Garden

The courthouse garden is a partnership innovatively empowering both former prisoners and university students by planting the seeds of education through stewardship, inspiring sustainability and encouraging team building while transforming the urban environment into a restorative community of beauty.

The garden is a collaboration between the University of Oregon, City of Eugene and Federal Re-entry Program to grow and share food with local non-profits.



The goal of the spring term Courthouse Garden Class is to continue the spatial and programmatic development of the garden while teaching students the strategies and logistics of building and planting an urban garden with a strong social justice mission.

There will be 4 educational components of the class:

1. Hands-on Urban Gardening Skills

Students will learn what, how and when to plant and harvest vegetable crops. We will learn by DOING all of these things: planting seeds and transplants, digging, wheelbarrowing, composting, watering, and caring for vegetable plants. Students will learn about vegetable crops families, their histories and how to identify them.

2. Design Component

The garden is in a very prominent location and provides an opportunity to transform a bare urban lot into a civic amenity. Phase I of the garden has been complete and we now enter the second phase of the garden. We will continue shaping the gathering spaces for both the class and for larger public events. We will also begin developing the northwest corner to enhance our visibility from 6th Ave. Projects will span from spatial design to public art projects and will include a public process to gather feedback from community members.

3. Event Planning

Students will be required to provide leadership in organizing and hosting Saturday work sessions, which are open to the public and often include Re-entry clients and other UO students fulfilling service learning requirements for other classes.

Students will participate in the delivery of harvest to non-profits in Eugene.

Students will work with NALS (National Association of Legal Support Services) on growing, harvesting and delivering cut flowers to elderly housing facilities.

4. Social Justice / Written Assignments

There will be several short journal style written assignments through out the term. The readings will focus on social justice and the social agenda of public / urban gardens.

Format & Evaluation of Work

This is a hands-on class – participation and attendance are required.

The class meets Tues / Thurs from 4:00 to 5:50.

Attendance at 3 Saturday work sessions is required. Saturday work sessions are every Saturday from 10:30 to 12:30. You can attend any 3 Saturday sessions of your choice.

The Tuesday and Thursday classes and Saturday work sessions may include Re-entry clients from the federal program.

Your grade will be based on: 40% - Seminar attendance and participation / 60% - Assignments

Office Hours

I will be available for individual meetings by appointment. Please email to make arrangements to meet.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

Reader / Texts / References

Required readings throughout the term.