The Urban Farm in Winter

Dept. of Landscape Architecture
Winter 2016
LA 390  CRN
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. Throughout its 37-year history, 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
**Week #1**
Jan. 4  Introductions / Rules and Regs.
         Farm tour
         First day group project

         Reading: Soil Food Web and Compost (UF Reader)

Jan 6  Break into two teams / Team builder
         Assign beds / Turf
         Fruit tree identification walk. Bed work, harvest

         Reading: Wendell Berry “Home Economics”
         Topic: Native Soil / Willamette Valley / Missoula
         Assign: “Eat Local Assignment”,
                “Book Review Assignment”

Jan 9 (Sat.)  Composting Workshop

**Week #2**
Jan. 11 Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop
         Tool Introduction Workshop
         Work in beds, harvest

         Reading: Gregory Smith, “Place-Based Education,
                Learning to be where we are”.
                Plant Family # 1, Alliums,
                NPK (UF Reader)

Jan 13 Travel to Columbia Green
         Work in beds

         Reading: Michael Pollan, Gardening is War;

Jan 16 (Sat.)  Tool Repair

**Week #3**
Jan. 18  Work in beds

         Reading: Selection from Wes Jackson
         Plant Family # 2, Brassicaeae (UF Reader)
         Assign: Community interaction assignment

Jan 20  Guest Lecture Panel:
        TBA

Jan 23(Sat.)  Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

**Week #4**
Jan. 25  Greenhouse Work
         Plant Field Walk

         Reading: Steve Solomon, Carol Deppe
                Plant Family # 3, Solonaceae

Jan 27  Field Trip: TBA
         Assign: “Precedent Study Assignment”

Jan 30 (Sat.)  Compost / Pruning

**Week #5**
Feb. 1  Midterm Examination
         Work in Beds / Harvest
         Plant Family #4, Chenopodiaceae
         Reading: Selection from Gary Paul Nabham

Feb. 3  Garden Development at Columbia Green

Feb. 6 (Sat.)  Fertilize Garlic

**Week #6**
Feb. 8  Milagro Bean Field War, part 1 Work in beds / Pruning

Feb. 10 Milagro Bean Field War, part 2
         Field Trip: Hummingbird Wholesale / Skinner City Farm

Feb. 13 (Sat.)  Seed Inventory and Workshop

**Week #7**
Feb. 15 Field Trip: Hummingbird Wholesale / Skinner City Farm
         Plant Family #5, Cucurbitcae

         Reading: Tal Alon- Mozes, Landscape Architecture
                and Agriculture: Common Seeds and Diverging
                Sprigs in Israeli Practice,

         Reading: Wright, D. Wynne. “Civic Engagement
                Through Civic Agriculture: Using Food to link
                Classroom and Community.”

Feb. 17 Review / Adjust Community Interaction assignment
         Pin-up Review of Projects

Feb. 20 (Sat.)  Seed Sowing Workshop / Make Potting Soil
Week #8
Feb. 22  Work in Beds / Seed Sowing / Harvest

   Reading: Selection from Barbara Kingsolver

Feb. 24  Field Trip: FFLC

Feb. 27 (Sat.)  TBA

Week #9
Mar. 29  Work at Farm(s) as required
   Exit Interviews / ‘Where to now’ discussions, advice

Mar. 2  Project Review
   Class Potluck

Mar. 5 (Sat.)  Work at Farm, prepare for spring session
   Tool acquisition

Week #10
Mar. 7  Optional work / harvesting.
Mar. 9  Optional work / harvesting.