

# ENST 123: Organic Gardening Fall 2016

**Facilitator: Ashlen Weddington**

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**Class Time: Wednesday 9am-10:50am**

## **Course Description:**

This course is intended to create a foundation that enables each student to successfully plan, plant and harvest an organic garden of their own. Once the basic skills are acquired, growing our own food is one of the most empowering things we can do. It is simultaneously a way to save money, eat healthy, create community and live sustainably. While lectures have been prepared to address specific topics, the class will be very open to discussions or any questions that students may have. Each student will gain hands on experience starting seeds, making compost, building fertile soil, planting, transplanting, cover crops, mulching, seed saving and harvesting.

## **Required Course Materials:**

Each student is required to have their own Organic Gardening journal to keep track of their gardening progress. "The Humboldt Kitchen Gardener", by Eddie Tanner, is a required book. Please bring both of these items to class.

## **Course Objectives:**

Through this course, you will: **1.** Develop your ability to apply practical knowledge for growing food **2.** Learn to build and improve soil and make compost **3.** Plant and harvest organic produce **4.** understand the basic biological, chemical, physical and philosophical processes associated with the production of organic food. **5.** Become empowered to take knowledge of Organic Gardening further – through internships, home gardens, or further coursework **6.** Students will be able to critically discuss the social, economic and political perspectives surrounding food systems, security and sustainability.

## **Humboldt State University Learning Outcomes:**

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

- Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues
- Competence in a major area of study.

- Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities and viewpoints.

**HSU graduates will be prepared to:**

- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.
- Pursue social justice, promote environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in their workplaces and communities.

**Environmental Studies Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students completing this program will have demonstrated the ability to:

- analyze the interrelationships among social, political, geographic, economic, and cultural aspects of environmental issues and determine the effects of power and privilege on these relationships
- describe ecological systems
- apply knowledge of environmental systems to practical problems
- demonstrate competence in a skill that complements environmental studies knowledge.

**Course Format:**

This is a dual format class: the first 30-50 minutes will be comprised of dialogue regarding the suggested readings, and the remaining hour will allow students to perform hands on tasks pertaining to the course building materials. As students work with these materials, both students and instructors will maintain a dialogue that explores the purpose and viability of the task, which enables students to ask questions and receive feedback as they work.

***Note: Reading & Assignments subject to change***

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
9/26	Intro & Sowing	Read intro, Pg 18-25
10/3	Soil Health	Pg 6-7
10/10	Composting	Pg 12, reading on canvas.

## Composting assignment

10/17	Raised Garden Bed	TBD, pgs 26-31
10/24	Guest Speaker	Discussion question on Canvas
10/31	Natural Pest Control	Pg 32
11/7	Weeds & Cover Crops	Pg 13, Pg 39
11/14	Biodynamic & Permaculture	Reading on canvas, bring discussion point to class
11/21	Break	TBD
11/28	Harvesting & Seed Saving	Pg 48-59

### **Course Requirements:**

Several assignments will be given during the course. Everyone will be required to start seeds, water them and transplant them. The “final project” will be checking to make sure students have kept a neat, detailed organic gardening book, and have successfully started a plant from seed. Students will be expected to participate in hands-on activities such as weeding, digging, planting, harvesting etc. Please let me know if you have any physical limitations. Students should expect to spend at least one hour outside of class each week, watering their seeds.

### **Attendance / Grading:**

This one unit course will be graded on a pass/no pass basis. Attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences WILL result in a non-passing grade.

There are opportunities for students to make up an absence. Students can attend Volunteer Fridays at CCAT for the duration of the class session (1.5 hours) and have their time signed off by a designated CCAT employee or Co-Director.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Students who wish to request disability-related accommodations must contact the Student Disability Resource Center in the Lower Library at 8264678 (voice) or 8265392

(TDD). More information is available at <http://www.humboldt.edu/disability/>. I will make every effort to accommodate students of all abilities.

#### Emergency Evacuation Plan:

Please review the evacuation plans for the lecture room (posted in the rooms). For information on campus emergency procedures, see the following website:  
[http://www2.humboldt.edu/businessservices/sites/default/files/images/Emergency-Procedures\\_1.pdf](http://www2.humboldt.edu/businessservices/sites/default/files/images/Emergency-Procedures_1.pdf)

#### University Policies and Procedures:

Please find relevant university policies and procedures such as Add/Drop Policy, Resources for Students with Disabilities, Academic Honesty Policy, Attendance and Disruptive Behavior Policy, Financial Aid, Emergency Procedures, and Counseling and Psychological Services at <http://www2.humboldt.edu/academicprograms/syllabus-addendumcampusresourcespolicies>.