

ENST 123: Permaculture Principles & Applications

Fall 2018



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Office Hours: By appointment

Class Days / Times: Tuesdays, 3 - 4:50pm

Classroom: Campus Center for Appropriate Technology (CCAT)

Course Description:

This course will provide a basic understanding of permaculture designs, principles, and applications towards many aspects of living sustainably, in different living situations. Students will examine permaculture principles and explore different applications on the CCAT grounds, as well as partake in group discussions, and participate in hands-on activities. Guest speakers and field trips will be tentative and announced if and when approved.

Each student will complete a design or project based off the topics discussed each week. After completing the course, students will have a grasp of what it takes to implement permaculture towards many applications, and may go on to pursue a certification in permaculture design.

Suggested Texts / Readings:

Suggested readings will be provided via email and Canvas attachments. CCAT has a library space which you are encouraged to explore.

Course Objectives:

Through this course, you will:

- Participate in interesting discussions about permaculture and sustainability
- Learn about permaculture principles
- Work in consensus-based groups
- Explore alternative approaches to agriculture & resource use
- Participate in hands-on activities
- Be able to take the knowledge of this course and apply it through internships, your home, or future coursework
- Be able to increase awareness within the community and encourage others to think "outside the box"

Humboldt State University Learning Outcomes:

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

- Effective communication through written and oral modes.
- Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues
- 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:

- Succeed in their chosen careers.
- 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:

- 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: some portions will be comprised discussion and lecture, and others will allow students to perform hands-on tasks pertaining to the course.

Course Materials:

While this course is not taught in a standard classroom, there will be required assignments that students are encouraged to complete in order to fully participate in class discussions. All readings and multimedia materials will be available via email. No book is required.

Course Requirements:

Projects will be completed during class time only. As a final project, students are to complete a permaculture design, or small scale personal/group project encompassing sustainability. Presentations will be posted through Canvas around the Fall break. Students must peer-review fellow classmates' work to receive credit for the assignment.

Attendance / Grading:

This one-unit course will be graded on a credit/no-credit 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 (2 hours) and have their time signed off by a designated CCAT employee or Co-Director.

Two assignments are required for this class which will be graded on a credit/no-credit basis. Participation in both assignments is required to receive credit for the course. Students who do not receive credit for this course are still encouraged to attend and participate in class.

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Class Schedule
(Subject to change with fair notice)

| Date | Topic | Activity |
|-------------|--|---|
| 9/25 | Introduction to Permaculture principles & design | Introductions, overview of permaculture, tour CCAT Grounds, design examples. |
| 10/2 | Soil & Compost | Building soil, cover cropping & mulch, self-sustaining nutrient cycling, compost system. |
| 10/9 | Water | How to read flow on a property, rain catchment, grey water system, natural water filtration. |
| 10/16 | Earthworking | Introduction to earthwork, lawn conversion collaboration project with Green Building. |
| 10/23 | Plants & Fungi | Plant & fungi features and uses, staple herbs and trees, medicinal uses and food. Mycelium cardboard inoculation project. |
| 10/30 | Greenhouse | Seed starting, transplantation, propagation, hydroponics & aquaponics, |
| 11/6 | Gardening | Garden beds, herb spirals, zoning, food forest, plant guilds, keyhole garden bed. |
| 11/13 | Homesteading | How to off-grid, preserving harvests (drying, fermentation, pickling, etc), shelter, tools. |
| 11/20 | Fall Break | No Class |
| 11/27 | Community & Final Thoughts | Solutions for community transformations. Destress before finals week! |

Inclusivity:

Students in this class are encouraged to speak up and participate in-class. Each of us must show respect for each other because our class represents a diversity of beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences. We believe that this is what will enrich all of our experiences together. We recognize that our individual differences can deepen our understanding of one another and the world around us, rather than divide us. In this class, people of all ethnicities, genders and gender identities, religions, ages, sexual orientations, disabilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, and nationalities are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. If you feel your differences may in some way isolate you from our classroom community or if you have a specific need, please speak with us early in the semester so that we can work together to help you become an active and engaged member of our class and community. (Adapted from HSU, CSU Chico, and Winona State University)

Students with Disabilities:

Students who wish to request disability-related accommodations must contact the Student Disability Resource Center in the Lower Library at 826-4678 (voice) or 826-5392 (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

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-addendum-campus-resources-policies>.