

ORH 2752: Sensory Gardening

Spring 2015; 3 Credits

T 10:40 – 12:35, TH 10:40 – 11:30

PSF 5

Instructor: Dr. John C. Peterson
Visiting Professor of Environmental Horticulture
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2550 Hull Road
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Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Description: A hands-on, multidisciplinary approach to environmental horticulture delivered through the context of the human senses. Class activities, assignments, and projects are designed to enhance students' awareness and understanding of how horticulture relates to the natural and built world, as well as the ways in which people perceive those worlds.

Justification: This course provides an introduction to environmental horticulture with emphasis on the relationship between plants and the human sensory experience and the impact of plant sciences on the daily lives of humans. To be responsible and effective practitioners of environmental horticulture, students should understand not only the environment and the plants used in landscapes, but also the ways in which humans use, experience, and are affected by plants. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of people-plant interactions that they may not obtain from courses where primary emphasis is on identification, use, or management of plants and landscapes.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the basic biological functions of the human sensory organs
- Assess uses of plants and explain how they relate to sensory perception
- Demonstrate ways in which plants affect the sensory experience
- Analyze the relationships between people and plants from biological and social perspectives
- Interpret the effects of plant blindness on individuals and cultures
- Evaluate roles of plants and human senses on adaptation and global distribution of people and plants

Recommended Text: Pollan, M. (2002). *The Botany of Desire*. Random House. ISBN: 0375760393

Read this even if you saw the movie. Used and new copies are widely available at local bookstores and online.

Grading*:

Quizzes (5): 40%
Projects (4): 40%
Assignments: 10%
Participation: 10%

**Late submissions will be reduced by one letter grade for each day past due, including weekends.*

Grading Scale:

A 90-100%
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
E <60

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given at the end of each module. They will be based primarily on content from that module, but may include content from previous modules where appropriate. The format will vary, but they should take less than one half of a class period to complete.

Projects:

Projects will be completed in groups or individually, depending on the project assignment. Students will present their projects to the class at the end of each module. Each project should *build upon information learned in class* for an in-depth look at a specific part of each module's subject matter. Details and examples will be given in class. Formats will vary. Creativity required.

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Assignments: Assignments will typically be given and turned in during the same class period. In the event that an assignment is not completed in class, it will be due at the beginning of the next class.

Participation: Information in this course is delivered via in-class activities, discussions, and presentations. Your active participation is expected, and is impossible when you are absent from class. If you must miss class, please let me know as soon as possible. Only documented doctor's excuses or UF-approved activities will be excused. Students who are late for in-class assignments or projects will have points deducted from the assignment. **In-class assignments and participation cannot be made up.**

Electronic Devices: Students are required to silence cell phones and other electronic devices before class. Unauthorized use of cell phones (including incoming calls with audible rings) or other devices during class will result in the administration of an unannounced quiz.

Garden Days: Occasional field trips to gardens and other sites will be arranged. Transportation will be provided as necessary, and students will be notified at least two weeks in advance of trips. If you miss class, you are responsible for catching up on announcements regarding meeting locations or field trips.

Class info: Official course information will be delivered via UF email and other electronic avenues as designated by the course instructor. We have a Facebook group named UF Sensory Gardening 2015-please join! This will only be used for supplemental information and ease of communication, not for official class announcements.

Lecture Schedule:

Module 1: Sight

Week 1	T: Introductions, Sight observation report	TH: Tour Fifield Greenhouses & Gardens
Week 2	T: Plant Blindness, Psychology and nature	TH: How human vision works
Week 3	T: Container Design and Planting	TH: Color theory and emotion
Week 4	T: Projects Due, In-class group presentations	TH: Visual evaluation of fruit and flowers

Module 2: Touch

Week 5	T: Site Visit; On campus – to be designated	TH: Sight quiz, The somatosensory system
Week 6	T: Plants, emotion, and physical sensation	TH: Plants to alter perception, -tropisms
Week 7	T: Projects Due, In-class group presentations	TH: Touch quiz, blind smell test

Module 3: Smell

Week 8	T: Site Visit off campus - to be designated	TH: How the olfactory system works
Week 9	T: Fragrance, preference, and breeding	TH: How plants produce fragrance, VOCs
Week 10	T: Projects Due, In-class group presentations	TH: Smell quiz, blind taste test

Module 4: Taste

Week 11	T: Site Visit: On campus - to be designated	TH: How humans taste, Coffee and chocolate
Week 12	T: Herbs, spices, and plant exploration	TH: Taste preferences and plant breeding
Week 13	T: Projects Due, In-class group presentations	TH: Taste quiz, Sound observation report

Module 5: Sound

Week 14	T: How humans hear, Sounds plants produce	TH: Use of plants to produce or affect sound
Week 15	T: The 6 th Sense – The Collective Experience	Wed: Projects Due by 3 PM, Reading Day on TH

Academic Honesty, Software Use, Campus Helping Resources, Services for Students with Disabilities

Academic Honesty

In 1995 the UF student body enacted an [honor code](#) and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: **"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."**

Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean, Student Honor Council, or Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in the Dean of Students Office. (Source: 2011-2012 Undergraduate Catalog)

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor.

This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

Counseling Services

Groups and Workshops

Outreach and Consultation

Self-Help Library

Training Programs

Community Provider Database

Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues.

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/