GARDEN PRACTICUM
LAS 6930

Instructor: Dr. Richard Stepp
Office Hours: Grinter 337 by appointment
Office phone: 392-0299

Overview:
This practicum examines tropical gardens as an important component in integrated conservation and development. The course will focus on the continued development of a teaching garden at a space on campus near the bat houses. Students will engage in directed individual projects on some aspect of the garden in consultation with the instructor. Examples include the role of homegardens for community subsistence, crop genetic diversity, traditional ecological knowledge maintenance and production and aesthetic and spiritual. The project should integrate the social and biophysical sciences and draws from disciplines such as anthropology, agroecology, crop and soil science, development studies, economics, horticulture, systems ecology, ethnobiology, ethnoecology, geography, history and rural sociology, among others. Students are encouraged to have previously taken either Ethnecology or Tropical Gardens graduate seminars offered by Latin American Studies. Please contact the instructor for more information.

Learning Objectives and Goals

* To develop a holistic and systems-based understanding on how humans interact with the biophysical environment

* Reflect on personal and intellectual connections to ethnoecology gardens

* To understand the inter-relationship between the biophysical environment and human cultures

* To recognize the importance of gardens for human subsistence and survival

* To merge theory, skills and praxis through the creation/development of a garden

* Gain experience in developing goals, communicating ideas, and project planning. Understand the skills needed to develop a teaching garden, and get practice with these skill
Course Requirements and Grading

A significant portion of your grade will be based on participation. Students should plan to devote at least 3 hours a week to working in the garden. Students will work individually to design, create and implement a specific section of the garden. Students must turn in a written plan that includes their goals, project description, timeline, and evaluation plan. You will be required to present an overview of your final paper project. Presentations are concise, in-class summations of your individual project. Your semester grade will be based on the following percentages:

- Participation: 30% (evaluated weekly)
- Preliminary Plan: 10% (due 2/4)
- Garden Project: 50% (must be completed by 4/8)
- Project Presentation: 10% (4/15)

### Grading Scale

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<td>A-</td>
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Attendance and make up policy

Attendance at all times is necessary. No late assignments will be accepted except in extreme cases of documented illness or emergency.
Preliminary Readings


**University of Florida Policies**

**Honesty:**
As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

**UF Counseling Services:**
Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking a clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:
1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling; and
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

**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.

**Disabilities Accommodations:**
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**UF Grading Policy:**
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html