Course Information

Meets from 9:30-11:30am on Tuesdays in Science Hall, room 175. Some class periods will be held in Southwest Madison; transportation will be provided.

Instructors

J. Ashleigh Ross, jaross@wisc.edu
Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Sam Dennis, sfdennis@wisc.edu
Teaching Assistant
Allison Mitchel

Community Partners

Front Yard Gardens
Lincoln Elementary
Meadowood Community Garden
Madison Area GROW Coalition

Office hours are by appointment

Course Background and Overview

This is a community-based course, which means that all of the course material and assignments will be geared toward making you, the student, an effective and efficient partner to community projects. The projects and partners that you will be working with are people who are trying to make their community a better place, one garden at a time. It is very important for you to enter into this course with the goal of learning from, and cooperating with, each other - and see this experience as an exchange of knowledge and ideas. Our community partners are Toki Middle School, Front Yard Gardens, Meadowood Neighborhood Center, and Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ.

This course is designed to expose you to a broad range of experiences with, and perspectives about, community and school gardens. The course content and community projects are broad, and allow for you to bring your own experience and expertise to bear by working on specific projects that are interesting to you and provide tangible benefits for our partners. In addition to course readings and class time, we will attend community meetings, read over meeting minutes, and collaborate on projects ranging from faith-based food pantries to violence prevention programs. Ideally, this course will encourage you to synthesize academic knowledge, community development experience, and urban agriculture methods, to create products and solutions that assist the community in their goals. Our ultimate goal is to help you develop a diverse set of skills and experiences that you can apply directly to future work in environmental conservation, education, community development,
and a host of other fields that require an interdisciplinary approach to project design and implementation.

**Course Format**

This course is a service-learning course and requires at least 25 hours of service for our community partners. The 25 hours will be a combination of meetings, workdays, and presentations with Toki and Southwest Madison community members. Failure to fulfill the 25 hour requirement will result in a maximum grade of a C for the class. There will be times that you will need to attend evening meetings or weekend workdays. Please allow some flexibility in your schedules, as we will need to accommodate many people with differing availabilities. Contact the instructors immediately if you foresee a problem in meeting the 25 hour service requirement.

The course will include a mixture of individual and group projects that are all directed toward providing services or information to community partners. Students are expected to complete a final project that documents our work with Front Yard Gardens that will be turned over to the community partner.

**Attendance:** Attendance and participation are crucial to the success of this class. Students are expected to be on time and present to classroom lectures and community meetings. Each student is allowed to miss one class with no penalty. Additional missed classes will reduce students grade by one letter grade for each missed class.

**Required Course Materials**

All other readings will be found on the Learn@UW site.

**Assignments**

Students will be responsible for aiding their community partner with the planning and implementation of a garden-related project. Participation in, and documentation of, this project will be turned in at the end of the semester. Additionally, each student will participate in the design process for the Front Yard Gardens and are required to produce a final report.

**Grading**

- **30 pts**- Class participation, in-class assignments
- **3 pts**- Resume
- **3 pts**- Lead class discussion
- **7 pts**- Mid semester reflection
- **7 pts**- End of semester reflection with time log of service hours
- **10 pts**- Community-based participation and final report (afterschool garden club, grant writing, budgeting, etc.)
- **30 pts**- Final Project- As a class, document planning, design, implementation and use of Front Yard Garden beds
- **10 pts**- Final presentation

Grades will be assigned based on the percentage of the total points earned for this course:

- A >90%
- AB > 85%
- B > 80 %
- BC > 75%
- C > 70%
- D > 60%
- F < 60%
Disabilities
Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, or hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor and the McBurney Disability Resource Center (702 W. Johnson Street, Suite 2104) at the beginning of the semester.

Bottom line
We are looking forward to sharing a truly interesting and engaging learning experience with you and all of our community partners in Southwest Madison this semester. Working with the community can be incredibly rewarding, but requires a continual commitment to open-mindedness and a willingness to adapt schedules, plans, and goals when necessary. We ask that you keep this in mind throughout the semester, and that you keep us informed of both successes and frustrations you encounter during this course.

Course Schedule

June 11, 2013- Week 1- Course Introduction and Overview
- Introduce class to community projects, reason and scope of class
- Turn in Background checks

June 18, - Week 2- Community-based Learning and Participatory Planning
Reading Topic: Southwest Madison and Participatory Garden Planning
Due: Resume

June 25, - Week 3- Garden Elements, Conduct Participatory Planning exercise with Clean and Freshies
Reading Topic: Community-based learning

July 2, Week 4- Garden Elements, Visit Eagle Heights
Reading Topic: Community Development and Gardening
Assignment: Mid-semester reflection

July 9, Week 5- Plan Community Participatory data gathering
Reading Topic: Community Food Security

July 16- Week 6- Front Yard Gardens design and planning and community planning debriefing, go over MOUs in class
Reading Topic: Public Health
Due: Mid-semester reflection

July 23- Week 7- Finalize FYG design, develop material list and master plan
Reading Topic: Environmental Justice

July 30- Week 8- Build gardens
Assignment: End of semester Reflection

August 6- Week 9- Build Gardens

August 13 Week 10, LAST CLASS- Build Gardens
Due: End of Semester Reflection

August 18-
Due: Final Front Yard Gardens group report AND Community-based project report