

Horticulture 4050 (Tentative Syllabus)
Fall 2003
Department of Horticulture
College of Agriculture L.S.U. A & M – Baton Rouge

Course Title and Description: **Horticulture Science Education (3)**

This is a *service-learning* course designed for undergraduates and graduate students to discuss and implement enquiry-based horticultural science teaching methods. The methodology and principles of horticultural science education will be presented weekly through required articles and discussions and required service-learning projects will be conducted through structured formal weekly hands-on exercises at local public elementary schools.

Instructor: Dr. Carl E. Motsenbocker
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Office hours: Tuesday 10 to noon, and by appointment.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required text: Greening School Grounds: Creating Habitats for Learning (T. Grant and G. Littlejohn eds.) New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, BC. ISBN:0-86571-436-3

Course Objectives: The general objectives of the course include:

1. To discuss and implement inquiry-based horticultural science teaching methods with elementary school students.
2. To gain an appreciation of yourself and the learning process and to strengthen personal skills (listening, speaking, assertiveness etc.)
3. Develop cross-cultural communication skills and a sense of appreciation for the needs of the Baton Rouge community.
4. Determine how to apply one's professional skills to the betterment of society.

Course Format (3 credits):

Lecture/discussion Schedule (2 hrs per week). Tuesday: 8:10 to 9:00 at 225 Julian Miller Hall
Readings will be posted on Blackboard or from your textbook that are required for discussion during the lecture period. It is suggested that students read the articles in advance of class and be prepared for discussion.

Laboratory Schedule (2 hrs per week). The lab schedule will be determined after the first week of school. This is a service-learning class where the principles learned through readings, lecture, and discussion are practiced during the lab each week. LSU service-learning students will be assisting elementary school teachers (working with East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardeners) in the implementation of a formal garden curriculum (Junior Master Gardener Program (JMG)) in schools in East Baton Rouge Parish. The school sites will be using garden plots as well as indoor classroom exercises following the JMG curriculum schedule. It is suggested that LSU students become familiar with service-learning at the following website: <http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/cas.nsf/index>.

The course will be taught with the teaching software Blackboard at blackboard.lsu.edu. The course materials ie. syllabus, required readings, class assignments and information, additional reference materials, and PowerPoint slides, will be available on Blackboard.

GRADING:

Grading is based on a combination of a midterm (15 %) and final exam (15 %), journal reports (15 %), lab participation (25 %), classroom discussion/participation (10%), service-learning paper (10 %), and school presentations (10 %).

- A ≥ 90 %
- B ≥ 80 % and < 90 %
- C ≥ 70 % and < 80 %
- D ≥ 60 % and < 70 %
- F < 60 %

To maintain continuity in the program, students are expected to attend class lectures and labs ie. participation is mandatory. Please notify the instructor (ie. via email, phone etc.) in advance if you have an excused absence.

HORT 4050: Horticulture Science Education

Service-Learning

This course is a service-learning course. Service-learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students fulfill the learning goals of their academic courses while serving the community. Service-learning, as a method of teaching and learning, emphasizes hands-on experiences that address real world concerns as a venue for educational growth. The service experience provides a context for testing, observing, or trying out discipline-based theories, concepts, or skills. In addition, there is community learning etc.

To access more information concerning service-learning access the LSU website. At the LSU web page enter **Students**, then **Student Life**, then the **Center for Academic Success** (<http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/cas.nsf/index>) and then there is a link to **Service-Learning**.

Journal Reports

Each of the LSU students will be required to keep a weekly journal concerning their service-learning activities. Please submit journal entries via email attachment in Word format *electronically* before Monday morning at 8 am. You must attach a title page or use your last name as a header. The file name of each assignment should be created according to the following convention: Last Name + Week Number. The journals will assist students with the reflection activities as well as to reduce/eliminate any problems at the worksite. (To insure that your journals are not lost, I would suggest that you save all of your journals after they are submitted.)

We will have two types of journals during the semester. The first journal type entry is outlined below. In the syllabus the journal entry format required for each week is listed.

Type 1. Students are requested to use the following general guidelines with four areas (where applicable) when completing journal entries.

- 1) **Objective.** What did the students do, observe, and hear? Who was involved, what was said? What happened as a result of their work?
- 2) **Reflective.** How did the experiences feel? What did it remind you of? Did your apprehension change or your confidence grow? Did you feel successful, effective, and knowledgeable?
- 3) **Interpretive.** What did the experience make you think? How did it change your thinking about gardening or elementary education? What did the students learn? What worked?
- 4) **Decisional.** What will you do differently next time? What opinions were formed? How will the experiences affect your career path, your personal life choices, or use of new information, skills etc?

In addition to the above, any relevant incidents/experiences in the schools with students, teachers or

Master Gardeners and problems encountered should be included in the journals.

Type 2. This format will be provided by the instructor prior to the lab section.

Class Presentations

Students will make individual presentations (PowerPoint) to the class at the end of the semester describing their service-learning experiences, evaluating them, integrating them with the course topics as well as an assessment of the community needs. Community partners (teachers, Master Gardeners) may be invited for the presentation. The presentations will take place the last two weeks of class.

General Information

- As a courtesy to your colleagues, beepers and phones must be turned off during class and lab. Please excuse yourself, if necessary, to obtain your messages.
- Students are requested to sign a service-learning contract with the instructor.
- Students will be surveyed at the beginning and the end of the semester. The results of the surveys, journals and other materials are for educational and research purposes and are considered confidential.
- Students are required to follow an acceptable dress code (this will be covered in the first week of class).
- Students should familiarize themselves with proper discipline procedures in schools. If there are any questions, concerns, or problems, please contact the Community Partner or course instructor.
- Students are requested to be prompt and on time at the individual schools for the labs.
- Students are expected to have read the appropriate materials for labs and be prepared at the beginning of the lab period. Students, however, may supplement a lesson with additional materials or information.
- It is suggested, if possible, that students carpool together to the school.
- Each time they visit a school, students are required to sign in/sign out in the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) book in the school's front office or hallway.
- Students are required to wear name tags to identify them as visitors (these are available at the schools).
- Students are requested to follow the guidelines of the teacher (Community Partner). The teacher is in charge, Master Gardeners will be providing assistance, and LSU students will assist both teachers and Master Gardeners.
- Notify the instructor in case of absence (prior to the lab period)
- Students need prior permission from the teacher to bring anything on campus to share with the students
- A record of students' volunteer hours is to be kept (using Service-Learning form)
- Students are requested to register on-line (if they are interested in letters of recommendation from the LSU Service-Learning office).
- The last week of class, students are requested to complete the service-learning assessment form.
- End of the semester celebration participation is required.

HORT 4050 Course Content and Tentative Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required reading</u>	<u>Journal</u>
1	8/26	Lec.: Syllabus, Survey, Contract, Introduction Lab: optional lab Friday to make garden/box beds	N/A	N/A
2	9/2	Lec: Introduction to service-learning, orientation Lab: Orientation and visit schools - JMG Program	N/A	2
3	9/9	Lec.: Basic Gardening Practices , journal entries and article Lab: Begin JMG Program	Lohr and Relf	1
4	9/16	Lec.: Journal entries and article Lab: JMG Program	DeMarco et al.	2
5	9/23	Lec.: Journal entries and article Lab: JMG Program	Mohrmann	1
6	9/30	Lec.: Journal entries and article Lab: JMG Program	Chiappetta	2
7	10/7	Lec.: Journal entries and article	Lineberger and Zajicek	
10/10-11 FALL HOLIDAY (no lab if lab on Thursday or Friday)				
8	10/14	MIDTERM EXAM Lab: JMG Program	N/A	1
9	10/21	Lec.: Journal entries and articles Lab: JMG Program	Meyer et al. / Coffee and Rivkin	2
10	10/28	Lec.: Journal entries and article Lab: JMG Program	Bradley	1
11	11/4	Lec.: Journal entries and article Lab: JMG Program	Culin	2
12	11/11	Lec.: Journal entries and articles Lab: JMG Program	Nelson 1988 / Culin 2002	1
13	11/18	Lec.: Journal entries and articles Lab: JMG Program	Pivnick 1994 / Skelly and Zajicek	2
14	11/25	Lec.: School Presentations Lab: JMG Program	N/A	1
TH/F 11/27 - 11/28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY				
15	12/2	Lec.: School Presentations Lab: JMG Program	N/A	2
	12/10	FINAL EXAM (12:30 2:30 pm)		

