

**ORH 4905 Independent Study in Environmental Horticulture Fall 2023**

Credits: 1

West Florida Research and Education Center, Milton, FL

1. Instructor's name and contact information including office location, telephone number, email address and office hours; include similar TA contact information if applicable.

Instructor Office:

Mack Thetford

4921 PSC/UF Milton Campus

[Thetford@ufl.edu](mailto:Thetford@ufl.edu)

(850) 983-7130

Teaching Assistant Office:

Megan Hammond

4803 PSC/UF Milton Campus

[MeganHammond@ufl.edu](mailto:MeganHammond@ufl.edu)

(850) 983-7142

Office Hours by appointment at the office, greenhouse, via phone, or online.

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

2. Course description.

This course allows students to complete a supervised project in a specific area of interest to supplement the Plant Science curriculum. The project primarily requires independent study but also includes supervision from a faculty member or other professional who has expertise in the field and availability in their teaching schedule; its purpose is to meet individual student needs by providing an opportunity to study subject matter that is not covered in any regularly offered courses.

3. Course learning objectives.

1. Develop a working knowledge of the facilities and equipment utilized for the greenhouse and field production systems of WFREC. Includes a working knowledge of irrigation and plant propagation equipment, and liquid and granular fertilization application procedures in greenhouse and field production systems.
2. Develop a working knowledge of common scouting practices and techniques utilized in greenhouse, field production and teaching garden areas of the Milton Campus. Includes participation in plant disease, weed and insect scouting activities.
3. Implement aspects of public garden plant collection curation. May include participation in accession of new collections (database management, garden mapping, and label/signage installation) or collections management (propagation, production, or planting) within the Milton Gardens.
4. Develop a working knowledge of tools and maintenance practices while participating in plant management activities such as deadheading, pruning, and mulching of collections within the Milton Gardens.
5. Utilize various equipment or standardized criteria for evaluation of plant growth (or similar data) and demonstrate proper data collection techniques by participating in ongoing greenhouse or field research data collection.

The practicum, or independent study, connects ‘theory’ and ‘practice.’ By participating in aspects of ongoing teaching or research projects on the Milton Campus, you demonstrate the ability to apply concepts and ideas from your introduction to the facilities and equipment of the teaching and research facilities.

An independent study puts much of the responsibility for learning on the student’s shoulders. Your instructor or other mentors will give you direction on project needs once you become familiar with facilities and equipment. and you may need to ask questions to gain a full understanding of the importance of these opportunities to the overall program it is part of. Do seek advice and ask many questions. If you find yourself lost in the material or at a loss for how to proceed with a task, don’t be afraid to say so.

4. Critical dates.

Evaluations (9 total @ 10 points each) will be conducted within 2 weeks of activity completion. The integration of activities with ongoing programs and projects precludes exact dates, however, students will have two weeks to provide the described evaluation. A final summary discussion or paper will be due the week prior to reading days (10 points).

5. Textbook. None required. All course materials will be provided in class.

6. Grading.

9 topic summaries @ 10 points each	90 points
------------------------------------	-----------

1 final summary discussion or paper	10 points
-------------------------------------	-----------

---

Total course points	100
---------------------	-----

Grading follows University standards and will be based on the following scale: 94-100% A  
90-93% A- 87-89% B+ 83-86% B 80-82% B- 77-79% C+ 73-76% C 70-72% C- 67-69% D+  
63-66% D 60-62% D- < 59% E

7. Course schedule of topics and assignments.

Topic	Evaluation activity
<b>Module 1. Greenhouse and Field Production Systems.</b> (Complete review of the topics with instructor/mentor by end of week 2)	
facilities and equipment utilized for the greenhouse and field production systems	Practical exam – identification of greenhouse system components
liquid and granular fertilization application procedures	Calculation of fertilizer for injection system.
common disease, weed and insect scouting techniques	Practical exam – Participation in weekly scouting.
irrigation and plant propagation equipment	Propagation, potting and irrigation scheduling of a crop during the semester.
<b>Module 2. Public Gardens and Plant Collections Management</b> (Complete review of the topics with instructor/mentor by end of Week 4)	
accession of new collections via database management, garden mapping, and label/signage installation	Practical – Confirmation of plant collections within two areas (planting beds) of the Milton Gardens.
Cultural practice implementation. propagation, production, or planting	Practical - propagation, production, or planting of new garden accessions.
the proper use of cultural practices - pruning equipment identification and participation in plant management activities such as deadheading, pruning, fertilization and mulching.	Identification of tools and appropriate types of cuts to achieve needed pruning of garden plants.  Demonstration of plant gardening and cultural skills in the Milton Gardens.
<b>Module 3. Data Collection and Management.</b> (Complete review of the topics with instructor/mentor by end of Week 5)	
Evaluation criteria, measurement, and data collection techniques	Preparation of data sheet, evaluation criteria and recording of data for class project or participation in data collection for mentor’s ongoing research project.

## **Standard Syllabus Statements**

Listed below are standard syllabus statements that meet CALS and UF requirements for undergraduate and graduate courses. All of these topics must be included in the syllabus. These cover the minimum requirements.

### **Grades and Grade Points**

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

### **Attendance and Make-Up Work**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

For online course with recorded materials a statement informing students of privacy related issues such as:

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image agree to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### **Online Course Evaluation Process**

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at: <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from

GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Academic Honesty**

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following 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."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scsr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

### **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.

### **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. 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

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

### **Campus Helping Resources**

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing 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](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu)*
  - Counseling Services
  - Groups and Workshops
  - Outreach and Consultation
  - Self-Help Library
  - Wellness Coaching
- U Matter We Care, [www.umatter.ufl.edu/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/)
- *Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.*
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>.

Student Complaints:

- Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>.
- Online Course: <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>



**The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has an embedded counselor to support you.**

You can contact **Dr. Philip Daniels** at 352-392-1575 and inform the support staff that you are a student within CALS, you will then be directed to Dr. Daniels phone/voicemail. Dr. Daniels will meet with you through a tele- health platform.

If you are a student on Gainesville campus you may be seen by any available clinician or request to be seen by Dr. Daniels. If you are a student at a UF/IFAS Research and Education Center, you will be directed to Dr. Daniels for consultation and referral services. *Email communication has limited confidentiality and is reserved for scheduling, [pdaniels@ufl.edu](mailto:pdaniels@ufl.edu)*

Urgent services are available 24/7 to students who need immediate attention. If the urgent need is happening after- hours or during weekends, support is available via phone at 352-392-1575. From 8am to 5pm, the Counseling and Wellness Center is open for appointments or walk-ins from 9am – 4pm.

## CRISIS

If there is an immediate threat to self or others, you are strongly encouraged to contact [911](#) or get to the nearest [Emergency Room](#).

- If the person in crisis is not you, please do not leave the student alone.
- If on campus, contact an administrator, faculty member or staff member to assist you.
- If off campus, after the event, consider notifying a Student Affairs team member so appropriate and confidential follow-up and support can be offered.

## URGENT

How “crisis” and “urgent” is defined may be different for every individual.

Examples of urgent needs may include:

- If you are not feeling safe.
- If you have been sexually assaulted recently.
- If you have recently experienced the death of someone close to you.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Lifeline Crisis Chat (<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>) is a national chat network that can provide online emotional support, crisis intervention, and suicide prevention services.

Students can always call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988.

The Crisis Text Line (<https://www.crisistextline.org/>) is a platform for immediate response. It allows you to text a trained professional 24/7 and have them respond. To access this service simply text “HOME” to 741741.

For non-urgent assistance, UF has a directory of suggested apps to help students with various wellness topics <https://counseling.ufl.edu/resources/online/apps/>.

[U Matter, We Care](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/) (<http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>) is another great on campus resource. When you’re worried about a student or classmate, also consider calling 352-294-CARE (2273) or email [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu).

## CONTACT:

Dr. Philip Daniels,  
LMHC, NCC, BC-TMH  
[pdaniels@ufl.edu](mailto:pdaniels@ufl.edu) / 352-  
392-1575