

ENST 396/590
Supervised Fall PEAS Internship

Instructor: Caroline Stephens

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Office Hours: By appointment, at the farm or in Rankin 102

Farm Staff:

Dave Victor, Farm Director, davevictor@gardencityharvest.org

Peter Wilson, Farm Assistant

Miriam Harris, Caretaker

Sarah Rodgers, Teaching Assistant

Land Acknowledgement:

The PEAS Farm is located in the aboriginal territories of the Séliš-Qłispé (Salish and Kalispel) people, a number of whom are present with us at our University and at our farm. Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.

Course Objective:

During this course, we will learn the skills and science of vegetable and fruit production for the harvest season. While doing so, we will be growing food for the Missoula Food Bank and a 100-member CSA, helping to feed our Missoula community. All the while, we will form a community of our own built around the humble work of farming. The foundation of our food production and community building rests on our ability to observe and be attentive to the natural world and one another. This is the foundational skill we build through this internship: attention, observation, and care for people and for place.

Course Information:

This internship begins on Wednesday, August 19 and continues until Thursday, October 15. Field sections take place at the PEAS Farm, located at 3010 Duncan Drive in the Rattlesnake just north of campus. Wednesday classes will happen virtually via Zoom from 4-4:50 p.m., Wednesdays beginning August 19.

Course Description:

Field Sections

Field sections are the heart of the PEAS Farm experience. This experience is immersive, engaged, and hands-on. As you perform various farm tasks in repetition, your body learns the skill, just as your mind begins to make observations and understand the reasoning behind each task. What we do will not resemble classroom experiences—this is an internship on a farm. The learning at PEAS happens each day, each hour. As such, I ask that during field sections, you be engaged—ask questions, make observations, focus on how you move your body to accomplish a task. This is how the learning happens.

Fall field sections captures the harvest portion of the growing season, from harvesting, curing and storage to cover cropping and composting, to seed saving. Each season at the PEAS Farm has its own unique character. To gain a sense for the full spectrum of the season and all of the requisite skills for spring and summer farming, consider signing up for a spring or summer internship.

Learning to farm and grow food is a lifelong endeavor. The PEAS Farm can be considered the start of that adventure. We also say that good farming is the accumulation of many details related to plant and soil care. You will begin that accumulation of details here, this fall, as you give your attention, energy, and heart to this place.

Wednesday Lectures

On Wednesday afternoons from 4-4:50, all of the students from various field sections will converge virtually via Zoom. The lecture part of the internship functions in support of the field experiences. During lectures, we will discuss topics relevant to the work we are doing that week on the farm. Attendance at these lectures is critical to your understanding of the processes at work in our fields. If there are specific topics you are interested, let me know and I can try to accommodate your interests.

Course Requirements:

Participation (70% of grade):

This internship is an immersive experience. As such, your attendance should be near perfect. Coupled with attendance is showing up ready to work—fed, rested, appropriately clothed, on time, and ready to farm. Punctuality is similarly critical in the smooth running of this student farm. If for some reason you can't make it at your section time, please call or text me. Having a paper/test in another course is not a suitable cause for missing the farm. This farm needs you!

In addition to showing up on time ready to work, I encourage you to notice what's happening around you, keep an open mind, listen, and ask lots of questions. Don't be shy about asking questions. Chances are someone else has the same question as you do.

If you show up on time and are prepared, are committed to learning and performing the work to the best of your ability, you will do well. Engagement is critical—and fun! Come every day and put your heart into the work and you will become an integral part of the farm community.

Clothing and Footwear

We also ask that you wear closed toed shoes—no sandals or flip-flops—as we use digging forks and other implements that like to eat toes. Appropriate clothing for farm work (old, generally) is helpful to those ends. A sun hat and sunglasses can protect you from the scorching Montana sun, as can sunscreen and covering up with long sleeves and long pants. Long sleeves and pants can also make itchy jobs like picking squash, pruning tomatoes, and spreading straw more enjoyable. It's always a good idea to keep a long-sleeved shirt on hand. Likewise, while on the farm, shirts must be worn at all times. Gloves for picking spiny things, pruning, and planting are also critical.

Technology

This is an immersive, intensive experience. Not only are we growing thousands of pounds of produce, but we're also growing an educational experience and a community. All of that takes a lot of attention. In order to do that best, we ask that you leave your cell phones in your car or in your pocket, and that farm work, farm lunch, and field trips be cell phone free. We are happy to make exceptions if you need to make a phone call. And if you want to photograph the farm, feel free to do that after your field section.

Journal (30% of grade):

Get a notebook. In it you will keep a journal. Over the course of the eight weeks we are farming at PEAS, you will write 8 journal entries—roughly one per week. These journal entries are a place for you to reflect on the farm work, lectures, and experiences that you have at the farm. Journals are due the last day of class.

Participation = 70%

Journal = 30%

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, Fail = 59% below

Additional Information:

Garden City Harvest

Garden City Harvest (GCH) is a local nonprofit organization that operates the PEAS Farm, as well as three other community farms in Missoula. GCH holds the lease for the land that we farm at PEAS. GCH buys all the seeds, equipment, tools, and supports the Farm Director, Farm Assistant, and Caretaker positions. They also run a host of other programs on the site, including the Farm to School and Youth Harvest Project. EVST and GCH have worked together for over 20 years to ensure that the PEAS Farm is a vibrant, vital place for our community.

Dave Victor

Dave is GCH's PEAS Farm Director. He directs and manages field production at the farm, ensuring that we meet our production goals of growing roughly 75,000 pounds of produce for our CSA and the Missoula Food Bank. Dave has extensive experience in sustainable agriculture, and is wealth of knowledge about many topics related to farming including native pollinators, seed saving, and soil ecology, among others, and loves sharing his knowledge with students.

Ethan Smith

Ethan is Garden City Harvest's Operations Manager. He watches over the infrastructure at all the neighborhood farms and often works on projects at the PEAS Farm. He has spent over 15 years at the farm, and teaches occasionally at the University. He is a fantastic resource and loves talking shop!

Caretaker – Miriam Harris

Miriam is our caretaker. She lives in the apartment above the barn. The farm is public space, it is ours, yet it is also her home. If an ethic of respect pervades all our actions, we will continue to live in relative harmony. This is Miriam's second year as caretaker, and she formerly was a PEAS intern like yourself. Miriam runs point on all things greenhouse and seed propagation-related.

Farm Assistant – Peter Wilson

Peter is our Farm Assistant and was formerly PEAS Farm Caretaker. He supports the farm's production goals and has several years of farm experience at PEAS. As such, he's a great resource for you during field sections. Peter is our irrigation wizard on the farm.

Jason Mandala and Farm to School

Jason and Garden City Harvest's Farm to School program host field trips for hundreds of Missoula school children. Jason also teaches the course, Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture Education in the fall. Students in this course lead many of the field trips and get the opportunity to learn some hands-on instructional skills. As summer camps and schools are halted this season, Jason has joined our PEAS

crew. He has worked at the farm for over a decade and has a wealth of knowledge to offer—especially on how to engage kids on farms.

Equal Access to Farming at PEAS

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Cultural Leave Policy

Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student's customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or ceremony and the importance of the student's attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean or Provost. The excused absence or leave may not exceed five academic calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor.