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ENST 590.00: Supervised Summer PEAS Internship

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ENST 396/590
Supervised Summer PEAS Internship
Fall 2021

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February 2, 1968

*In the dark of the moon, in flying snow, in the dead of winter,
war spreading, families dying, the world in danger,
I walk the rocky hillside, sowing clover.*

-Wendell Berry

"Down where we are, food is used as a political weapon. But if you have a pig in your backyard, if you have some vegetables in your garden, you can feed yourself and your family, and nobody can push you around."

-Fannie Lou Hamer

Farm Staff

Dave Victor, Farm Director: dave@gardencityharvest.org
Peter Wilson, Farm Assistant: peter@gardencityharvest.org
Miriam Harris, Caretaker: miriam@gardencityharvest.org
Sarah Rodgers, Crew Leader: sarah.rodgers@umontana.edu
Brittan Janssen, Crew Leader: britta.janssen@umontana.edu

Land Acknowledgement

The PEAS Farm is located in the ancestral homelands of the Séliš-Qłispé (Salish and Kalispel) people who have lived in this landscape since time immemorial. We acknowledge and honor their history and continued presence in this place.

Course Objective

During this course, you will learn the science and practice of vegetable and fruit production relevant to the fall season. As you build these skills, you will also be growing food for the Missoula Food Bank and a 100-member CSA. Throughout this process, we will form a community of our own built around the humble work of farming. The foundation of our food production and our community building rests on our ability to observe and be attentive to the natural world and one another. This is the foundational skill you build through this internship: attention, observation, and care for people and for place.

From there, you will hone physical skills related to food production, which for the fall course includes harvest and distribution, curing and storage, season extension, seed saving, soil management, and.

Course Goals

1. To gain skills and understanding in sustainable production of fruits and vegetables.
2. To grow healthy, fresh food for the greater Missoula community.
3. To practice observation and foster understanding of plant and soil processes and characteristics.
4. To gain understanding and perspective on Missoula's food system by becoming part of it.
5. To build connections to people and to place through farming.

Course Information

This internship runs for eight weeks, from Monday, August 30 to Thursday, October 21. All field sections take place at the PEAS Farm, located at 3010 Duncan Drive in the Rattlesnake just north of campus. Wednesday classes will also happen at the farm from 4-4:50 p.m. starting September 1.

Course Description

Field Sections

Learning by doing is the heart of the PEAS Farm experience. This experience is immersive, hands-on, and transformative. 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 capture the harvest portion of the growing season, from harvesting, curing, and storage, to soil management and cover cropping, to seed saving and wildlife management. You will spend the next eight weeks embedding yourself in this farm and this community. In addition to learning the work of harvesting and fall farm management, you will learn skills and knowledge related to plant biology, soil ecology, weed and pest management, field irrigation, as well as the particular culture for the various vegetable crops we grow.

Learning to farm and grow food well is a lifelong endeavor. In fact, the USDA considers beginning farmers to be those in their *first ten years* of production. The PEAS Farm can be considered the start of that adventure. We often 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 spring, as you give your attention, energy, and heart to this place.

Wednesday Class

On Wednesday afternoons from 4-4:50, all of the students from various field sections will converge at the farm. This formal class part of the internship allows us to dive deep into topics relevant to sustainable agriculture. Sometimes we will meet with an expert, take a field trip, or go on a field walk. Each of these classes has its own character. If there are specific topics you are interested, let me know and I will do my best to accommodate your interests.

Course Requirements:

Participation (60% of grade):

This internship is an immersive experience. As such, your attendance should be near perfect. Coupled with attendance is showing up ready to farm—fed, rested, appropriately clothed, on time, and ready to farm. If meeting these basic needs is challenging for whatever reason, please let me know and I can direct you to resources on campus. I'm here to help. 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. This farm and our community 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. This approach applies both on the farm and during Wednesday lectures.

If you show up on time and are prepared, are committed to learning and completing 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. Be prepared for cold, wind, rain, snow—any weather common in Montana spring. 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.

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. We are happy to make exceptions if you need to make a phone call. And if you want to photograph the farm, please do so in a way that doesn't interrupt farm work.

Readings and Reading Questions (10% of grade)

Note that for each lecture, there is an assigned reading. Come prepared to the lecture having read the reading ahead of time. Likewise, **come to the lecture with a question prepared from the reading, which you'll turn in to me in hard copy.** This question should demonstrate that you've read and engaged with the reading, and are prepared to learn during class. We'll use these questions to guide our class, and these reading-generated questions will comprise 10% of your grade. These readings are also helpful fodder for your journals—read on!

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. **All journals will be turned in via printed hard copy.**

Journals are due on Mondays or Tuesdays of the following weeks:

- **9/13**
- **9/27**
- **10/11**
- **10/25**

Participation = 60%	A = 90-100%
Journal = 30%	B = 80-89%
Reading Qs = 10%	C = 70-79%
	D = 60-69%
	Fail = 59% below

Additional Information:

COVID Protocol in the Classroom

- Mask use is required in enclosed structures such as the hoopouses, greenhouse, barn, workshop, or office.
- Mask use is also required during those outdoor tasks when physical distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained, such as: while washing produce; while working in close proximity during harvest.
- Always have a mask in your pocket or available at all times while on the farm.
- Practice good handwashing after using the restroom or eating while at the farm.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to the farm and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, send me an email so that your absence can be excused.
 - To keep up with course work, continue with course readings.
 - If you miss a Wednesday lecture, please send me your reading questions via email.
 - If you miss more than two field sections due to COVID or any other illness, you will be asked to make up missed time.
- UM recommends students get the COVID vaccine. Please direct questions about vaccines to Curry Health Center.

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 Applied Ecology 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.

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 occasionally will join 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 a 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.