**Utility Vegetation Management (55430)**

**NR-23 – Spring 2023**

**Instructor:**

Joey Medina

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**Office hours:**

By appointment only, please see me during class or email me to set up a time

**Lectures:**

Friday’s 1:00 PM – 2:50 PM, Room: FNR8

**Labs:**

Friday’s 3:00 PM – 5:50 PM, Room: FNR8

**Course Overview:**

This course will introduce students to the discipline of utility vegetation management. It is intended for those who wish to explore career opportunities in utility vegetation management and develop skills necessary to become utility arborists. The topics of tree risk assessment, common tree growth rates, tree biology and physiology, federal regulations and electrical systems, stakeholders and communications, and utility pruning will be covered.

**Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives:**

*The primary student learning outcomes for this course are:*

* **NR-23 SLO1: Understand the need for utility vegetation management**
* **NR-23 SLO2: Explain the identification and growth rates of common ornamental trees.**
* **NR-23 SLO3: Distinguish between different utility trimming types and tree reactionary growth.**

*The primary objectives will be:*

* Identify common ornamental trees by foliage, bark, flowers and fruit.
* Determine tree risk management by analysis of tree and site characteristics.
* Learn the different trimming styles associated with utility pruning.
* Understand the federal and state regulations related to utility vegetation management.
* Recognize how to identify different electrical systems (i.e. transmission and distribution).
* Perform job hazard analysis covering safety standards and safe work practices.

**Text and References:**

• *Recommended (not required):*

* [Trees](https://www.amazon.com/Introduction-Forestry-Natural-Resources-Grebner-dp-0128190027/dp/0128190027/ref%3Dmt_other?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=) of the California Landscape: A Photographic Manual of Native and Ornamental Trees (<https://www.amazon.com/Trees-California-Landscape-Photographic-Ornamental/dp/0520251245>)
* Arborists’ Certification Study Guide (<https://wwv.isa-arbor.com/store/product/7/>)
* Utility Arboriculture: The Utility Specialist Certification Study Guide (<https://wwv.isa-arbor.com/store/product/4397/>)
* Handouts and supplemental reading made available on Canvas or in class

**Attendance**

You should come to every assigned class whether face-to-face on virtual- and be there on time. Arrival after roll is taken will be considered a tardy. Three tardies will count as one absence. *The success of this or any other course depends on the presence and active participation from each student.* It is the responsibility of the student to check on class meeting changes for the following week if a class session is missed. Contact the instructor in the event of an absence.

The responsibility to drop the course for any reason, including lack of attendance, lies with the student. Late work should be made up within one week.

**Homework and Lab Handouts**

There will be a total of 12 graded homework / lab assignments this semester, each worth 30 points. Your success in the class depends on being present to complete and turn in lab assignments which will be due by the end of the lab period. Homework assignments will be due 1 week from the assigned day, details will be given during class and posted on Canvas.

**Canceled Class Policy**

If classes must be canceled, the instructor will attempt to post the announcement on Canvas. A notice will be posted on the door of the classroom. Be aware that schedule modifications and field trips may be announced in class by the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to be present during class meetings and pay attention to such announcements and to check announcements on Canvas daily.

**Important Dates:**

**January 20** – Last day to drop full-term class for a full refund.

**January 27** – Last day to register for a full-term class in person.

**January 27** – Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” in person

**January 29** – Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” on WebAdvisor

**February 10** – Last day to change class to/from Pass/No Pass grading basis

**February 17** – **Lincoln Day observance** **(NO CLASSES HELD, campus closed)**

**March 10** – Last day to drop a full-term class (letter grade after this date)

**April 3-6** – **Spring Break (NO CLASSES HELD, campus open)**

**April 7** – **Good Friday observance (NO CLASSES HELD, campus closed)**

**May 15-19** – Finals week

**Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism and Cheating:**

Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly obtained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences. Refer to the college catalog for further details surrounding actions that will be implemented regarding academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism is the adoption or reproduction of the ideas or words or statements of another person without due acknowledgment. Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating can take the form of the storing of information in graphing calculators, cell phones, and other electronic devices. Therefore, no items of any kind may be on the desktop, including water bottles, during testing. Students may not wear hats/caps during testing. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course at the discretion of the instructor and depending upon the severity and frequency of the incidents.

**Accommodations for Students With Disabilities:**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (e.g., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act please contact me as soon as possible. A formal counseling assessment to determine the appropriate accommodation is required before any accommodation(s) can be made. The counseling center facilitates the process.

**Student Required PPE for Labs / Field Trips:**

Each student must have the following items during each class in order to be allowed to participate in certain labs / field trips.

- Hardhat

- Safety glasses (must be ANSI Z87.1 rated)

- Boots (minimum 8” high uppers, nonskid soles preferably Vibram, no steel toe)

- Long pants

- Long sleeve cotton work shirt

- Work gloves (leather)

- Hearing protection

- Food / snacks, and water

- Backpack of sufficient size to carry PPE

\*\*\* Details will be given during the first class meeting\*\*\*

**COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative)**

**Notes:**

1. ***This schedule is tentative***. Poor weather or conditions (i.e. high winds, heavy rain, wildfires) may cause safety concerns and rescheduling to different days. Also, sometimes logistics for getting access to different sites will cause changes in the schedule. This is a brand new class, so I will be doing my best to coordinate lab activities as we progress through the semester. There are a lot of moving parts with this, so I will ask ahead of time for your flexibility and understanding when / if changes arise!

2. Field labs require walking in sometimes rough terrain and being near water bodies.

Trails may have heavy brush. Weather may include high winds, rain, or heat on

some specific cases. Dress appropriately for forecasted weather conditions please.

3. Attendance for field trips is required. If you cannot make it, you should acquire field trip information because test materials are often given during labs and participation is graded.

**Student Evaluation:**

Students will need to spend time outside of class to review course materials, complete lab assignments, and to prepare for exams and presentations. All assignments and lab reports must be submitted one week after being assigned unless otherwise agreed upon. Late assignments and reports will receive a full grade-mark reduction per week and assignments more than 3 weeks late will be given a zero mark. Reasons other than bereavement or authenticated illness are normally not admissible justification for missing scheduled exams. **Should a student miss an exam, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor as soon as possible.**

**Grading Scale:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Participation | 200 |  |
| Assignments | 360 |  |
| Presentation | 100 |  |
| Midterm | 170 |  |
| Final | 170 |  |
| **Total** | 1000 |  |

A = 900-1000

B = 800-899

C = 700-799

D = 600-699

F = 0-599

***Please communicate with me if you will be late, absent, or have issues regarding class attendance. We can work something out, but only if you allow me to help you. Please meet me halfway this semester*. *If you have questions regarding grading, class content, or simply are having any trouble understanding something, please come talk to me. We are all here to learn and I am here to help!***