

ORH 4905: Independent Study in Horticultural Therapy

Credits: 1-3

Environmental Horticulture Department

Instructors:

Elizabeth (Leah) Diehl, HTM, RLA

leahdiehl@ufl.edu or via Canvas email

(352) 294-5003

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

Course Description:

This course allows students to complete a supervised project in a specific area of interest to supplement the horticultural therapy 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.

The practicum, or independent study, connects ‘theory’ and ‘practice.’ By conducting a practicum project, you demonstrate the ability to apply concepts and ideas from your study of horticultural therapy to a specific demographic population or environmental or institutional setting. The practicum project will focus on an important aspect of HT that is of interest to you.

As the name implies, an independent study puts much of the responsibility for learning on the student’s shoulders. Don’t wait around for your advisor or other mentors you might include to tell you what to do. Do seek advice, though. If you find yourself lost in the material or at a loss for how to proceed, don’t be afraid to say so.

General Course Activities:

- Create a project description
- Write a goal statement
- List course learning objectives
- Develop an initial bibliography
- Develop a timetable and plan
- Describe the learning documents you will provide
- Execute project deliverables

Expected Work Hours

Students are expected to devote **a minimum of three hours per week of actual work in this class for each credit hour** in which they are enrolled. Students should carefully discuss with their faculty adviser the time expectations for completion of the requirements of the class, and these expectations should be clearly articulated in the Undergraduate Research Form.

Course Website:

This course is conducted online. Assignments and activities can be accessed in Canvas, at UF e-learning (elearning.ufl.edu). Students should check the site regularly to keep up with any

information, announcements, or discussions taking place. The student's UF Gatorlink username and password are necessary to log into the system.

Course Communications:

All class members are expected to follow the rules of common courtesy in all communications, written and verbal. Guidelines for these rules are available through the course Canvas site and can also be accessed at <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

General questions of relevance to the whole class should be posted to the course's discussion board or Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section. Please check for answers there before emailing the instructor. Private questions should be sent to the instructor via Canvas mail.

Attendance Policy:

Students conducting independent study are expected to exercise a significant degree of autonomy in their work, completing tasks with relatively little direct oversight from their adviser. Nevertheless, the student should dedicate a minimum number of hours on their project that is consistent with the total credit hours sought for the experience. Besides the minimum expectations outlined in this section of this syllabus, the faculty adviser may also have additional expectations for participation, including attendance at group meetings, individual meetings, etc.

The policies for allowable absences and make-up work follow the university attendance policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Assessment:

- 75% Degree to which student meets expectations.** Expectations are to be established by the adviser and student prior to the student's enrollment in this course. The agreed-upon expectations will be reflected on the Independent Study Contract signed by both the student and adviser. The following is a minimum set of expectations for every student enrolled in this class for credit: i.) develop a goal statement and project plan, ii.) create a timeline for work deadlines and deliverables, iii.) submit final project documents. In the case that the independent study is research-based, the minimum set of expectations would be: i.) develop a project plan, ii.) perform experimental work or applied experimental work, iii.) write a research report. These minimum expectations as well as additional expectations (e.g., attendance at departmental research seminars, participation in research group meetings, etc.) are to be clearly established and articulated to the student by the research adviser prior to commencement of the research project.
- 25% Quality of the final report.** The faculty adviser and student will determine the expectations of the desired format, content, and deadlines of the final report or deliverable together. A final oral report may also be required. The faculty adviser will grade the final report.

You will receive a final grade of satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U) in this course. A grade of S will be assigned if you achieve a cumulative score of 70% on the assessments above.

For more information on grades and grading policies, please visit: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Academic Honesty Policy:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students 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.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Online Course Evaluation Process:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). 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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Services for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>, or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> or 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

University Police Department: Visit <https://police.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) - Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; or visit their website: <https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>