

**ORH 1030 (sect. 1717&1974): Plants, Gardening and You**  
**Course Syllabus, Spring 2026**

**PROFESSOR:**

Dr. David Clark  
Environmental Horticulture Department  
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**COURSE MEETING TIME:**

Thurs, Period 4 (10:40AM-11:30AM)  
Thurs. Period 5 (11:45AM-12:35PM)  
L007 Turlington Hall

**Office hours:** By appointment only. Simply email me at [geranium@ufl.edu](mailto:geranium@ufl.edu) – in that message please tell me your schedule of availability and I will look at mine and get back to you promptly with a time to meet.

**Summary of Course:** Plants, Gardening & You is a non-majors course that provides an overview of current trends and opportunities in the field of horticulture and plant science. Emphasis is placed on students gaining an enhanced awareness of the plants around them, where they come from, and why they are important to man.

**Grading scale:**

|         |    |         |    |
|---------|----|---------|----|
| 448-500 | A  | 348-382 | C  |
| 433-447 | B+ | 333-347 | D+ |
| 398-432 | B  | 298-332 | D  |
| 383-397 | C+ | <297    | E  |

**Grading: 500 TOTAL POINTS**

**Quizzes: 400 points** (4 quizzes x 100 points ea.)

**Out of Class Project: 100 points**

**Quizzes:** Each of the four quizzes will consist of 20 multiple choice questions on paper with no outside resources. They will be taken during the last 15 minutes of class after a short lecture – the lecture that day will not be on the quiz. Quiz 1 is on 2/6/2025; Quiz 2 is on 2/27/2025; Quiz 3 is on 3/27/2025; Quiz 4 is on 4/17/2025.

**Makeup Policy:** If you miss a quiz, you will need a valid excuse to be able to take a make-up quiz. If you are out due to illness you will need a medical excuse. If you are out due to an event or task related to another class you will need documentation of participation. All make-up quizzes must be taken within 1 week of the original quiz date. If you have no valid excuse, or fail to take the make-up within 1 week, you will receive a “0”.

**Lectures and Attendance:** This course will be taught live and in-person. **Attendance is neither required nor evaluated, but it is highly encouraged.** If you miss class, you should try and make a friend who is smart and will share their notes.

**Use of Canvas:** Powerpoint slides will be made available on Canvas for Dr. Clark’s lectures, but not for Guest Lectures. It will also be used for students to submit extra credit and out of class assignments, and for posting grades and occasional announcements.

**Materials & Supplies Fees:** There is a \$25 fee for plants and supplies related to this course. Select plants, seeds and supplies will be provided to students throughout the semester.

**Out of Class Project:** The purpose of this assignment is to help you look closely at the plants around you from a creative point of view. Students are advised to begin this project as early as possible in the semester to assure they have enough time to complete it (described below). The project is due on 4/17/2025 at 11:59pm – late submissions will not be accepted – no exceptions.

**Extra Credit:** There will be three opportunities for out of class extra credit throughout the semester. Each extra credit opportunity is optional and is worth 5 points added to your final point total (described below). All extra credits are due on 4/17/2025 at 11:59pm – late submissions will not be accepted – no exceptions.

**Bring a friend to class and raise your final grade:** We encourage you help spread the word about this class. You are welcome to bring a friend to class during any class period except the day of the final exam. If you do, you will receive 10 points added to your final point total. **Students bringing friends are required to come to class early enough to introduce them to Dr. Clark before the start of lecture to obtain credit.** You are only allowed to receive 10 points, but you can bring as many friends as you want.

**Course Decorum:** Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

**Academic Honesty:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which 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 (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scer/process/student-conducthonor-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 or TAs in this class.

#### **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. Such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

#### **Social Media Use:**

I encourage students to discuss class material and share notes through Canvas or other social media platforms (eg. GroupMe, Snapchat etc.). HOWEVER – we have had problems with students using these resources to cheat on class projects and extra credit opportunities. This type of behavior will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action.

**Campus Helping Resources:** Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources.

**Students Requiring Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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.

**Course Evaluation:** 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 [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.aa.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 [ufl.bluer.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

#### **Health and Wellness**

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*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; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

#### **Academic Resources**

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#)

*On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#)

## OUT OF CLASS PROJECT: 100 POINTS

The purpose of this assignment is to help you look closely at plants around you from a creative point of view. For this assignment you will need to create **ONE ORIGINAL CREATIVE PROJECT** using the guidelines from one of the choices below. Your grade is based solely on the requirements outlined. As long as you meet all of the requirements, submit the assignment on time, and do your best you will receive 100 points. Please be as creative as possible and don't be scared to try something new!

### Article/Report

- Write a 1,000+ word article about any topic concerning student-plant interactions for news release
- You MUST conduct interviews and include quotes with names and job titles/majors
  - Interview two people you do not know OR
  - Interview three people that you do know
- Include at least one original photo to complement your article
- Upload to Canvas as a Word document or PDF file

### Video

- Create a video at least 30 seconds in length, but no longer than 2 minutes
- Video must highlight college students and plants in some way
- ONLY original images/video/music/audio or music available under Creative Commons
- Upload to Canvas as a .mp4 file

### Photography

- Take 20 high-quality images of plants or students and plants. Try not to take pictures of individual plants you received in class, unless the picture also includes a student
- Caption each image with the common plant name and a fact about the plant, or create fun captions that could be used on social media. Captions may be in text-boxes in slides, or can be typed into the "Notes" section under each slide
- Images must be of high enough resolution to show important details.
- Upload images to Canvas as a PowerPoint or PDF file – **DO NOT USE .HEIC FILES**

### Art (Painting, sketch, digital graphics, diorama, sculpture, landscape plan, etc.)

- Create an original project that uses one or both of the following phrases as inspiration:
  - People Who Love Plants
  - Plants People Love
- If you have a physical art piece, take a high-quality picture or scan to upload. Please try to take pictures in a well-lit area and keep all of the art in-frame. Multiple angles are appreciated but not required.
- Write a few sentences describing your project and its relevance to students and plants. This description can be in Canvas comments or in an attached file.
- Upload to Canvas as AI, PDF, JPEG, PNG, Word document, or PowerPoint – **DO NOT USE .HEIC FILES**

**DUE ON/BEFORE APRIL 16, 2026 AT 11:59PM.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

## EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

**\*\* YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO ANY OF THESE EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS\*\***

### EXTRA CREDIT 1 – GROW TOMATOES FROM PLANT TO FRUIT

- Obtain a tomato plant in class or from a garden center.
- Grow the plant until you produce one fruit – it can be green or red.
- Take a picture of your red tomato **ON THE PLANT** and identify yourself in the picture.
- Submit the file through Canvas.
- Receive 5 extra credit points.
- **DUE ON/BEFORE APRIL 16, 2026 AT 11:59PM.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

### EXTRA CREDIT 2 – HARVEST SEEDS, MAKE NEW PLANTS

- Obtain a **RIPE** fruit or vegetable from a salad, supermarket, farmer's market or from a plant.
- Harvest the seeds and dry them properly.
- Plant the seeds in potting soil, water them and watch them sprout.
- Take a picture of one or more seedlings and identify yourself in the picture.
- Submit the file through Canvas.
- Receive 5 extra credit points.
- **\*Hint:** Easy ones to use for this project are tomatoes, peppers (red), citrus and melons.
- **DUE ON/BEFORE APRIL 16, 2026 AT 11:59PM.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

### EXTRA CREDIT 3 – CLONE A COLEUS PLANT

- Obtain 1 coleus plant in class or from a landscape.
- Propagate one vegetative cutting to produce roots.
- Take a picture of the cutting with roots and identify yourself in the picture.
- Submit the file through Canvas.
- Receive 5 extra credit points.
- **DUE ON/BEFORE APRIL 16, 2026 AT 11:59PM.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

## **ORH 1030: Plants, Gardening and You**

### **TENTATIVE Lecture Schedule, Spring 2026**

|                    |                                                                                                |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>January 15</b>  | <b>An Introduction to Plants and Gardening</b>                                                 |
| <b>January 22</b>  | <b>Plant Domestication</b>                                                                     |
| <b>January 29</b>  | <b>Plant Propagation</b>                                                                       |
| <b>February 5</b>  | <b>UF Coleus Breeding<br/>QUIZ 1</b>                                                           |
| <b>February 12</b> | <b>Edible Landscapes</b>                                                                       |
| <b>February 19</b> | <b>Home and Sports Turfgrass</b>                                                               |
| <b>February 26</b> | <b>All About Succulents<br/>QUIZ 2</b>                                                         |
| <b>March 5</b>     | <b>All About Strawberries</b>                                                                  |
| <b>March 12</b>    | <b>Caffeine in Plants</b>                                                                      |
| <b>March 26</b>    | <b>Plant Biotechnology<br/>QUIZ 3</b>                                                          |
| <b>April 2</b>     | <b>Viticulture and Enology – All About Grapes and Wine</b>                                     |
| <b>April 9</b>     | <b>Medicinal Plants</b>                                                                        |
| <b>April 16</b>    | <b>All About Orchids<br/>QUIZ 4<br/>Extra Credits and Out of Class Project DUE at midnight</b> |

**\*\*NOTE: ALL QUIZZES WILL BE TAKEN IN CLASS WITH NO OUTSIDE RESOURCES\*\***