

Department: Plant Science

Course number: 2560W

Course title: Written Communication in Horticulture

Credits: 3

Contact Person: George Elliott

Content Area: None

W/Q : W

Current Catalog Copy:

One credit. Open only to Horticulture or Turfgrass Science Majors, others by consent.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800.. Co-Requisite: HORT 2092. *Lubell*

Writing as a component of communicating facts and opinions in the theory and practice of Horticulture. Assignments will reflect forms of writing commonly encountered by professional horticulturists, including descriptive brochures, articles for mass media, extension bulletins, and technical manuals.

Justification:

- a) This course will provide HORT majors with a course that will fulfill the requirement for writing in the major
- b) This course is appropriate for 2000 level because it is intended for students who are beginning the Horticulture major.
- c) The proposed course will be included in the academic plan for the Horticulture major.
- d) no effect on other departments
- e) no overlap with existing courses
- f) no other departments consulted
- g) no effect on regional campus
- h) no specific costs required
- i) no cross-listing

W Criteria:

1. The writing assignments in this course will enhance learning in Horticulture by requiring students to search, retrieve, and read literature related to topics in Horticulture. Information gained from the literature will be incorporated in written assignments. The writing assignments will enhance learning in the co-requisite course HORT 2092, Practicum in Horticultural Staging by requiring students to go into greater depth in exploring the thematic and conceptual basis for their activities, and by providing a structured context for discussion of using text to complement visual communication. Additional topics for written assignments will be selected from a broad range of current and recurring themes in horticulture. The common element for all the

assignments will be communicating about horticulture. The requirement for a minimum of 15 pages will be met by 5 to 8 assignments consisting of 2 to 3 pages of text. Depending on the assignment, the text may be in the form of a single coherent essay, or several shorter components related to a common theme. Written assignments will be the sole graded component of the course.

2. Presentations by faculty and professionals will provide instruction and guidance in specific aspects of written communication. In-class discussion, peer review, individual consultation, and substantive formative commentary by faculty instructors will be included in the process of revision. The process of writing will be addressed for different formats and audiences.

3. Opportunities for revision will be included for each assignment prior to grading. In-class discussion, peer review, individual consultation, and substantive formative commentary by faculty instructors will be included in the process of revision.

4. The syllabus contains the statement "According to university-wide policies for W courses, you cannot pass this course unless you receive a passing grade for its writing components".

Resources: YES

Syllabus:

HORT 2560W

Written Communication in Horticulture

Assignments:

Approximately 5 to 8 assignments consisting of 3 to 5 pages of text will be scheduled during the semester. Each assignment will be reviewed and revised before a grade is awarded. Review prior to revision will be accomplished by instructor review and consultation, and by peer review and discussion. Topics for assignments will be selected to provide a variety of contexts and intended audiences for written communication.

Instruction:

The primary means of learning in this course will be completing the assignments. Some instruction will be provided by means of general class discussion of the elements and process of writing. Additional instruction will be by means of commentary on specific items.

Evaluation:

Grading in this course will be entirely based on written assignments. Primary evaluation of assignments will be based on content, clarity and effectiveness of submissions. Correct grammar, syntax, punctuation and spelling will be required. Progressive improvement of revised drafts will be recognized. Improvement of writing during the semester will be recognized.

According to university-wide policies for W courses, you cannot pass this course unless you receive a passing grade for its writing components.

Writing resources:

All UConn students are invited to visit the University Writing Center for individualized tutorials. The Writing Center staff includes talented and welcoming graduate and undergraduate students from across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. They work with writers at any stage of the writing process, from exploring ideas to polishing final drafts. Their first priority is guiding each student's revisions, so they frequently provide a sounding board for a writer's ideas, arguments, analytical moves, and uses of evidence. They can also work with you on sentence-level concerns, but please note that they will not proofread for you; instead, they will help you become a better editor of your own work. You should come with a copy of the assignment you are working on, a current draft (or notes if you are not yet at the draft stage), and ideas about what you want out of a session. Tutorials run 45 minutes and are free. You can drop in or make an appointment. For hours, locations, and more information, please go to writingcenter.uconn.edu.

Academic Integrity:

In this course we aim to conduct ourselves as a community of scholars, recognizing that academic study is both an intellectual and ethical enterprise. You are encouraged to build on the ideas and texts of others; that is a vital part of academic life. You are also obligated to document every occasion when you use another's ideas, language, or syntax. You are encouraged to study together, discuss readings outside of class, share your drafts during peer review and outside of class, and go to the Writing Center with your drafts. In this course, those activities are well within the bounds of academic honesty. However, when you use another's ideas or language—whether through direct quotation, summary, or paraphrase—you must formally acknowledge that debt by signaling it with a standard form of academic citation. Even one occasion of academic dishonesty, large or small, on any assignment, large or small, will result in failure for the entire course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs. For University policies on academic honesty please see UConn's Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code: http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/student_code.html. Please note that ignorance of prevailing academic conventions or of UConn's policies never excuses a violation. You are encouraged to consult the instructor if you have questions about when and how to cite; you would also encourage to consult a writing handbook.

Students With Disabilities:

Students who think that they may need accommodations because of a disability are encouraged to meet with the instructor privately early in the semester. Students should also contact the Center for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.csd.uconn.edu/>.