

Eco Village at Loy Farm LLC Sample Syllabus 2024 – 2025

LLC Advisor

Jacob Rutz, Lecturer of Agroecology
Dept. of Environmental Studies
Campus Box 2625
336-278-6293
jrutz@elon.edu

Linked Course

COR 4290: Permaculture: Food, Culture, and Sustainability

LLC Description

The LLC provides you the opportunity to consciously engage with the natural world on a daily basis through the unique components of the built/landscaped environment, work opportunities within the wider Environmental Center at Loy Farm, focus on (inter)personal well-being and environmental justice in the community. You will have the opportunity to work weekly within the Environmental Center at Loy Farm and the LLC itself to support sustainable agriculture, green architecture, and edible landscaping initiatives. This work experience will include both the work itself as well as sharing with the wider Elon community through student-hosted workdays and tours. The LLC will focus on socio-cultural dimensions of sustainability in addition to a hands-on focus surrounding the Center. Environmental justice will be a central theme of the LLC, being a through line in the programs, events, and collaborations this LLC initiates. You will engage with cooperative decision making as both models of study and a process you are directly engaged in. Finally, this LLC will focus on wellness through both utilizing the natural environment for which it is embedded as well as through explicit programming to help share wellness opportunities with the wider campus community.

Elon Learning Outcomes for LLCs

Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) provide students with a sense of belonging in a community of their peers united by a common interest. By engaging in this LLC, students will:

1. Participate in intellectual, personal, and social growth activities within a collaborative and integrative (academic, social, and residential) environment.
2. Apply academic, professional, social, cultural, and/or wellness skills/knowledge through experiences, reflection, and synthesis outside of the classroom.
3. Participate in mentoring relationships with faculty, staff, and/or peers outside of the classroom.

Loy Farm LLC Learning Outcomes

Students participating in the Loy Farm LLC will...

1. Develop tangible skillsets in fields related to the crew they are assigned, including farming, carpentry, landscaping, and communications (in the service of building and maintaining sustainable spaces).
2. Engage with a design and systems thinking mindset in approaching environmental problems, solutions and the people impacted by them.
3. Develop problem solving skills and resourcefulness that leads to improved decision making.
4. Engage in interpersonal and communal democratic processes that forefront justice and shared outcomes; recognize individual influence on the community around them (both at Elon and beyond).
5. Develop a deeper sense of connection to the natural world and their place within it.
6. Intentionally collaborate with peers to achieve a common goal; give and receive information in a critical, empathetic, and clear way.

Community Common Reading

24-25 – *The Healing Grounds* by: Liz Carlisle (free ebook from library)

Calendar of Events

August

LLC Meeting - Group hike and swim

September

LLC meeting – Dinner potluck

Common Ground Eco-Village tour and potluck

October

LLC meeting – Dinner potluck

Attend Pumpkin Fest

Sustainability Week/Speaker

November

LLC meeting – Dinner potluck open to the wider Elon community

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Saturday

February

LLC meeting – Dinner potluck

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Saturday

March

LLC meeting – Dinner potluck

Earth Week/Speaker

April

LLC meeting – Dinner potluck

Environmental justice Event – Teaching workshop

Attend Strawberry Fest

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association Farm Tours

May

End of Semester Event

Crew Responsibilities

Each LLC member will be assigned to a work crew for a semester or a year. Each crew will be made up of one crew lead (eventually to be filled by a student in their second year in the LLC) and crew members. Crews have the opportunity to work on a flexible schedule each semester, developing an agreement as a community for hours and times based on the needs of the LLC. Crews will work weekly and report monthly on responsibilities outlined below and in conversation with the faculty and staff advisors.

Farm Crew Opportunities

- Weekday volunteering – Leadership and Educational
 - Two weekday sessions, one focused on leading student volunteers, one focused on education and training with Farm Manager
- Weekend volunteering with Campus Kitchen
- Center tours with Office of Sustainability
- Weekend watering responsibilities
- Harvest for student-CSA
- Winter production planning with faculty advisor and farm manager

Communications Crew Opportunities

- Organize and manage volunteerism on farm (Phoenix serve)
- Organize LLC on-site events
 - Potluck meetings
- Coordinate offsite volunteerism and trips for the LLC
- Develop and facilitate environmental justice workshop (once annually)
- Coordinate and document student-CSA

Landscape Crew Opportunities

- Weekly landscaping scouting and reporting with advisor/farm manager/facilities
- Scheduled seasonal maintenance of plants and pathways within LLC
- Perform building inspections with twice annually with faculty architect