UC CLIMATE STEWARDS OF THE COAST AND REDWOODS 2025

Instructor
Cathy Johnson

Phone
916-622-3163

Email
cathyconnorjohnson@gmail.com

Course Start and End

9/9-10-28 Discussed at first class meeting.

Fall 2025

Climate Stewards Website

htttp://calnat.ucanr.edu/cs

Canvas Course Website

login.uconline.edu/stewards/

Registration

https://stewardscr.org

Course Fee

$250 general tuition

$175 for current volunteers.

50% due at registration. Full balance due by September 2, 2025

Course Location

Online via zoom; plus, in-person field trips and/or self-guided independent field trips.

Course Schedule

Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Two or Three Weekend days (Sat and/or Sun) TBD, recommended.

Course Overview

The UC Climate Stewards seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteers ready to effectively engage in transformative local solutions to promote community and ecosystem resilience in a changing climate. The UC Climate Stewards course will introduce you to social-emotional learning and trauma-aware practices, climate change communication, climate science, and community resilience planning. The course curriculum will combine themes of communication, community engagement and climate science with guest lecturers, field trips, and project-based learning to immerse you in the dynamics of your local community.

This UC Climate Stewards Course will integrate locally relevant themes of fire, water and stewardship that will translate across the state, national and global climate resilience.

Learning Outcomes

- Increase access to up-to-date and locally relevant climate science to improve climate literacy.
- Improve participants' self-efficacy and agency by fostering climate change communications skills development, civic engagement, and local conservation and community action.
- Establish an inclusive community of practice focused on stewardship, communication, and community solutions to advance resiliency.
- Build statewide support and capacity to effectively advance state and local climate goals.
- Meet all the course requirements.

Course Requirements

- **Contact Time**: Each UC Climate Stewards course consists of a minimum of 43 educational hours (online, classroom, and field time), which includes a minimum of 12 hours in the field.
- **Required Reading and Online Work**: Read the entire *UC Climate Stewards Handbook,* complete six (6) online course modules, and complete assigned homework.
  - **Class Attendance and Field Trips**: Participants must attend all Tuesday evening classes. If an evening class is missed, the participant will be expected to complete make-up activities on their own time at the direction of the instructor. Please talk to Cathy if you are going to miss a class. **Only one evening class can be missed.** Participants will attend an engage in a minimum of 3 field trips – tentatively 2 guided field trips will be offered and one independent field trip. The guided group field trips are recommended and not required. If you prefer, you can do all three required field

trips as independent self-guided field trips. All independent field trips will be completed by providing a brief write up. Please talk with the instructor about guidelines on independent field trips. We will be discussing this on the first day of class and revisiting throughout the course.

- **Stewardship Project**: Participants are required to complete a Stewardship Project in one of six areas: Community Resilience and Adaptation, Environmental and Climate Justice, Conservation/Restoration (Stewardship), Participatory Science, Education/Interpretation, or Program Support. The Stewardship Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their own personal interests with the in-class material toward the development of an applied work project done in conjunction with a community organization. Participants must get pre-approval for Stewardship Projects in the first 3 weeks of the course. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will deliver an individual or group Stewardship presentation (5-10 minutes long per person). Participants are expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours on the Stewardship project. Participants are required to add hours spent on the Stewardship Project into the volunteer California Naturalist Volunteer Portal https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr. Participants will be sent an invitation to the volunteer portal the second week of class. and will add hours spent on the Stewardship Project into the volunteer management system. Further guidance on the Stewardship Project will be discussed during class time and office hours will be available for further guidance.

- **Class Participatory Science Project**: Each participant must contribute to the participatory science project adopted by the class. Our class participatory science project is (iSeeChange.org or volunteer science project with Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods)

  - **Evaluation**: Completion of the online post-course evaluation survey is critical for the ongoing success and improvement of the course. You will be provided with a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course.

  - **California Naturalist Program Volunteer Portal:** Participants will be provided with an online account to track their volunteer hours as a certified UC Climate Steward. Participants are required to enter the 8 volunteer hours spent on their Stewardship project into the UC Volunteer Portal https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr. Tracking volunteer hours is an essential way to prove need and impact of UC Climate Stewards.

Required Text

- Climate Stewardship: Taking Collective Action to Protect California, *Adina Merenlender with Brendan Buhler.* (Must be purchased by participants.)

Recommended supplemental reading.

- The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change, *Robert Henson.*
- Saving Us *Katharine Hayhoe*
- All We Can Save *Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, Katharine Wilkinson, et al.*
- Tending the Wild *M. Kat Anderson*
- Taking the War Out of Words *Sharon Strand Allison*
- Intersectional Environmentalist

A couple of recommended books on framing:

University *of* California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Don't Think of An Elephant, *George Lakoff*
- The Culture Code, *Clotaire Rapaille*

Course Materials

- **Required:** Access to an internet connected computer or phone and an email account for communication, online course materials, and Volunteer Management System access. *Please notify the instructor immediately if you do not have an e-mail account.*
- Course content is accessed through the Canvas Learning Management System https://login.uconline.edu/stewards/.
- If class is attended virtually an internet connected device with video camera and microphone are required to participate in zoom based virtual class meetings.

Recommended Resources

- **CalNat YouTube Channel:** View videos from UC Climate Stewards conferences, meetings, and more.
  Url: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg
- **CalNat Mapping Tool:** UC California Naturalist Program provides a GIS-based map-producing tool you can use for both content delivery and logistics. Choose from multiple base maps and layers to explore bioregions, compare and contrast filed sites, create maps to field trips and Stewardship projects and more.
  Url: http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/CalNat_Maps/

Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal

Volunteering: Participants are encouraged to complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service each year and add it on the UC volunteer portal. Pins are awarded each year for participants who meet this goal, and the pin designs differ from year to year.

- Volunteer activities must relate to climate communication, education, interpretation, mitigation, adaptation, or community or ecosystem resilience, occur in California, be sponsored by an organization, and be unpaid or part of a subsidized workforce development program (e.g., CCC, NFF, AmeriCorps).
- Your 8-hour Stewardship project will count toward your first year's volunteer hours recorded in the UC Volunteer Portal. A welcome e-mail will be sent to you after instructors add your information to the volunteer portal. You will be provided with a username and password in the introductory e-mail after the start of the class. Notify your instructor if you do not receive that e-mail by the 2nd week of class.
- The volunteer management system website is https://vms4.ucanr.edu/.
- The UC Volunteer Portal website is https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr.
- Online help with the UC volunteer portal and commonly used features can be found. here: Volunteer Portal Help - UC California Naturalist (ucanr.edu)
  Url: http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/VP_Help/

Course Credit

Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for academic credits through UC Davis Continuing and Professional Education for an additional nominal fee. Graduates who expressed interest in this opportunity with their instructor will receive a

communication from the UC California Naturalist Program post-course with information on how to obtain the optional credits.

Homework Policy

All homework assignments are due according to the date posted in Canvas. Each homework unit is due prior to the start of our class discussion for that unit (by midnight the night before our Saturday class). All homework should be submitted through Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to complete all assignments on time. If there are extenuating circumstances, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to make individual arrangements. If students have difficulty using the Canvas portal or submitting homework, contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy

Participants must complete 40 hours of instruction during the class. Participants must attend all Tuesday evening classes. If an evening class is missed, the participant will be expected to complete make-up activities on their own time at the direction of the instructor. Please talk to Cathy if you are going to miss a class. Only one or 2 evening class sessions can be missed if arrangements are made to make up the missed sessions. Participants that miss more than 2 classes are not eligible for the UC Climate Stewards certificate.

Cancellation Policy

Registrants may cancel up to two weeks before the first day of instruction for a full refund. *All refunds are subject to a 10% processing fee.*

Instructional Methods

The course will integrate a range of instructional methods including online modules, presentations, peer-to-peer discussion, small group activities, hands-on and inquiry-based activities, and experimental learning. Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please make such requests as early as possible by contacting Cathy.

Statement on Inclusion and Accommodations

If you have a learning or physical need that will require special accommodation in this class, you will need to notify your instructor in writing of your accommodation needs. Please notify me at least 30 days prior to the first class if you require any special accommodation. This will allow us ample opportunity to provide suitable accommodation. We make reasonable accommodation for people with documented disabilities. Materials will be available in alternate formats (Braille, audio, electronic format, or large print) upon request.

Statement on Financial Accessibility Cost

Students are responsible for course fees and the purchase of suggested books. Students are also responsible for costs associated with any travel, meals, and equipment. Scholarships to reduce the cost of course program fees will be available on a limited basis depending upon need.

University *of* California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Course Schedule

Meeting Date & Number	Topic/Subject (instructional activity) (Reading/Assignments)	Assignments Due and Notes
9/9/2025 **Class 1**	Introductory Class Meeting – Welcome and Introductions We will be going over the course and expectations. Discussion on class content, stewardship project, field trips, and coursework.	No assignments due at this class meeting Note: Each module takes about 3 to 3.5 hours to complete.
	Before 9/14/25 class, go over Module Unit 1: Community Connections and become familiar with the Unit 1 reading material. Come to class prepared to discuss Unit 1 readings.	Unit 1 will be due 9/14/25
9/14/2025 **Class 2**	Zoom In-person Component Unit I – Community Connections Class Meeting. Assignments and breakout rooms will focus on: ● Personal Goals ● Experience and Perceptions of Climate Change ● Personal Relationships with Life in Your Local Ecosystem	Guest Speaker: Justin and Hollis: Overview of Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and Programs Unit 1 assignments are due.
	Before **9/23/2025** class complete Module Unit 2: Communication, Interpretation, and Education and become familiar with the Unit 2 reading material. Be prepared to discuss Unit 2 in class.	

9/23/2025 **Class 3**	Zoom In-person Component Unit II – Interpretation/Communication/Education. Assignments and discussions will focus on: ● How Language Matters in Forming and Keeping Community ● Yale Climate Opinion Maps and Factsheets ● The Secret to Talking About Climate Change ● Six Principles of Stickiness	Unit 2 assignments are due. .
	Before **9/30/25** class complete Unit 3: Climate in Context Pt. 1 and become familiar with the Unit 3 reading material. Be prepared to discuss Unit 3 in class.	
9/30/2025 **Class 4**	Zoom Online Component Unit III – Climate in Context ● Explore Local Climate with Cal-Adapt	Unit 3 assignments are due. .
	Before **10/7/2025** class complete Unit 4: Climate in Context Pt. 2 and become familiar with the Unit 4 reading material. Be prepared to discuss Unit 4 in class. It is optional to start Unit 4 assignments before 6/6/25 because we will work on them in class.	
10/7/25 **Class 5**	Zoom In-person Unit IV – Climate in Context ● Handbook Assignment: Biodiversity and Community of Life ● Handbook Assignment: Fire ● Monitoring Resilience Over Time ● iSeeChange Participatory Science Project (on	Unit 4 assignments are due. Class Discussion on Stewardship Project and Volunteer Portal.

University *of* California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

	your own time)	
	Before **10/14/2025** class complete Module Unit 5: Community Resilience and become familiar with the Unit 5 reading material. Be prepared to discuss Unit 5 in class.	

10/14/2025 **Class 6**	Zoom In-person Unit V – Community Resilience ● Course Evaluation ● Review Stewardship Assignment	Unit 5 assignments are due.
	Before **10/21/2025** class complete Module Unit 6: Community Engagement and become familiar with the Unit 6 reading material. Be prepared to discuss Unit 6 in class.	
10/21/2025 **Class 7**	Zoom In-person Component Unit VI – Community Engagement ● End-of-Course Units Review (20 questions from the previous five units) ● Review Personal Goals for UC Climate Steward Course ● Presentation Practice ● Climate Stewards Community of Practice	Unit 6 assignments are due.

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

	Before **10/28/2025** class, Module Unit 6: Community Engagement assignments should be completed. Finish your UC Climate Stewardship Presentation.	All modules should be complete. You should be prepared to present your Stewardship project on **10/28/2025 or TBD.** **Note: The presentation date will be determined at the first class meeting.**
10/28/2025 **Class 8**	Zoom In-person Unit VI - Stewardship Presentations Session ● Volunteer Portal Hours Entry ● Stewardship Presentation Note: We will be entering the hours into the volunteer portal together.	All assignments, comments, and field experiences are to be completed in Canvas.

Field Trip Schedule: (Detailed schedules provided the week prior to each field trip.) We will be planning 2 in-person field trips, and you will be expected to complete independent field trips. If you do not attend in-person field trips you will be expected to complete a summary of your field trip. Dates, topic, location subject to change. This will be discussed in class.

University *of* California
Agriculture and Natural Resources