Learn about tree care
with an introduction to arboriculture, tree climbing, and pruning
offered through the Falk School of Sustainability at Chatham University

Course objectives
After you take this course, you should be able to:

Understand the biological and cultural needs of trees in an agro-ecosystem
Engage in tree identification, climbing, and pruning
Know how to tie knots and use arboricultural tools for climbing
Safely use pruning tools

Acquire the skills for proper climbing and pruning through classroom and field work

Understanding and being able to carry out proper tree care is an important part of arboriculture. Pruning helps keep trees growing in a healthy manner while the correct climbing techniques keep you safe. With the Falk School of Sustainability class FST 528 Tree Care with instructor Nadine Lehrer, you’ll learn the right way to care for trees in a dynamic, positive environment.

The focus of the class will be on tree climbing and pruning skills, as well as an understanding of tree biology and the role of trees in agricultural systems. You will get insight into proper tree pruning, basics of climbing, introductory equipment safety, and role of trees in agro-ecosystems. Key course themes include: tree and soil biology, knots and ropes, safe climbing techniques, proper pruning techniques, tool safety, and roles of trees in agro-ecosystems. While taking the course will not qualify participants to work as arborists, it is a good introduction to the career.
course goals

Goals for the Tree Care course include understanding tree biology and methods used to identify trees and assess tree health; learning how to care for trees, especially focusing on pruning; developing hands-on capacity in climbing trees for pruning access; and becoming familiar with equipment used in arboriculture and its care.

class schedule

You’ll have both classroom and on-site meetings for this class. Outdoor sessions will focus on hands-on experience climbing and pruning. The readings and experiential components will work together to form the basis for our discussions and written work. Readings and resources will be available online.

Classes will be held May 5-23, 2014 on Mondays and Wednesdays the first two weeks and Wednesday and Friday the final week from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Chatham’s Eden Hall Campus.

May 5:  Introduction
        Tying knots, throwing lines into a tree

May 7:  Basic tree biology
        Climbing techniques 1

May 12: Tree identification
        Climbing techniques 2

May 14: Principles of tree pruning
        Basic tools

May 21: Climbing and pruning combined
        Handsaw safety

May 23: Review
        Roles of trees in agricultural systems

non-degree students

Chatham is happy to welcome non-degree seeking students for this class. Cost for each student is $1,773. This is a 2-credit class.

registration

Visit chatham.edu/treecare, call 412-365-1637 or e-mail nlehrer@chatham.edu to speak with Nadine Lehrer, course instructor.

Space is limited, so apply soon.