VWT-134: VINEYARD PRUNING

Effective Term
Fall 2025

CC Approval
02/07/2025

AS Approval
02/13/2025

BOT Approval
02/20/2025

COCI Approval
05/15/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status
Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Agricultural Production (Any Degree and Professional Experience)	

Subject Code
VWT - Viticulture and Winery Technology
Course Number
134

Department
Viticulture and Winery Technology (VWT)

Division
Career Education and Workforce Development (CEWD)

Full Course Title
Vineyard Pruning

Short Title
Vineyard Pruning

CB03 TOP Code
0104.00 - *Viticulture, Enology, and Wine Business

CB08 Basic Skills Status
NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code
C - Clearly Occupational

Rationale
Pruning is a critical Viticultural skill best learned through instruction and practice. This course supports the viticulture program. Additionally there is widespread interest in the community in grapevine pruning.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description
This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of pruning grapevines. Lectures explain vine responses to pruning and introduce terminology. Laboratory consists of pruning and vine-training field work.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit
No

Repeatability
Not Repeatable

Grading Options
Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit
No

Requisites

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?
No

Units
1.00

Lecture Hours
15.00

Activity Hours
6.00

Outside of Class Hours
33

Total Contact Hours
21

Total Student Hours
54

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?
Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Permanent
Entirely Online	Emergency Only

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Explain and execute basic principles and practices of vineyard pruning.
2.	Demonstrate skills required in the workplace.

Course Objectives

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Identify anatomical parts of the vine as related to pruning.
2.	Compare various training and pruning systems including spur and cane pruning. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of each.
3.	Discuss the likely grapevine growth responses to particular pruning technique, timing, and bud count.
4.	Explain the role of pruning in maintaining vine balance.
5.	Demonstrate proper pruning techniques.
6.	Distinguish between various techniques and explain how they differ.
7.	Identify pruning wound diseases and create a plan that minimizes the risk of vine infection.
8.	Evaluate alternative pruning tool choices.
9.	Create a maintenance program for pruning tools.
10.	Describe dormant grapevine bud morphology and composition.

Course Content

1. Anatomy and physiology of the dormant grapevine and grapevine bud as related to pruning.
2. Grapevine responses to pruning including timing and vigor of growth.
3. Differences, advantages and disadvantages of cordon-trained spur pruned vines, head-trained spur pruned vines, and cane pruning.
4. Training systems the use of pruning practices in vine training.
5. The importance of bud position and count for vine health, canopy structure and fruit quality.
    a. Relationship between pruning and vine balance.
6. Training and pruning methods used for different grape varieties.
7. Diseases associated with pruning including *Eutypa sp.*, *Botryosphaeria* family cankers and Esca.
8. Proper timing of pruning and the risks associated with early pruning.
9. Pruning equipment selection and maintenance.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lecture	Instructor lecture on grapevine morphology, form, and specialized vocab associated with pruning.
Field Experience	Students prune grapevines in the Napa Valley College Student Vineyard with oversight and instruction from faculty and instructional assistants.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
Discussion Boards
Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Discussions
Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Homework	Students must draw simple before and after pruning sketches of grapevines grown in various training systems.
Skills Demonstration	An exhibition of vine pruning on a group of vines in the NVC Student Vineyard.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Assigned readings from class handouts (example: "Reasons and Rules of Pruning Grapevines" UCCE Kern County).

Writing Assignments

Performance:

Student demonstration of pruning techniques (example: an exhibition of pruning using a group of vines in the NVC Student Vineyard).

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Other required materials/supplies

Description

Various articles and publications on the principles and practices of grapevine pruning.

Course Codes (Admin Only)

ASSIST Update

No

CB00 State ID

CCC000158169

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No