

ENVS 411: FOOD SYSTEMS FROM THE GROUND UP

Fall 2013 - TR / 2:00-3:50PM / Columbia 142

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<http://blogs.uoregon.edu/foodsystems/>

Course Description - A plethora of popular films and books have documented the environmental and social problems inherent in the industrial agri-food system; however, much of the discourse is centered on policies and regulations on the national scale. While these are valid and necessary critiques, they tend to overlook fundamental insights from a bottom-up systems perspective. This course, then, will work to map food systems from the ground up by exploring the emerging social movement towards sustainable and just food systems, and to prepare students for leadership roles through exercises in systems thinking and meaningful, active engagement in local community projects. Through readings on agroecology, social systems, food justice, and governance, you will become familiar with the various, interrelated perspectives that set the groundwork of our food system. To develop truly sustainable solutions, it is vital to recognize that food systems are diverse, complex, and interconnected and cannot be addressed by any single perspective or rule of thumb.

Learning Objectives - By the end of this course, students will:

1. Be able to define the food system using principles in community building, social justice and ecological sustainability.
2. Be able to apply systems, interdisciplinary, participatory, and multi-stakeholder approaches to investigating issues in food systems.
3. Be able to define the impact of policy on agriculture, food systems, and human and ecological health.
4. Develop skills in critical thinking, leadership, team building and problem solving in a multicultural and diverse context.
5. Participate effectively in a group of learners and apply skills to community-oriented projects.

Course Requirements

Attendance (10%) - Students will be expected to attend every class. Attendance scores will not be affected by one unexcused absence; however this absence will negatively affect their participation grade. Beyond this, for each unexcused absence students will incur a two percentage point deduction to their overall grade. If they have a legitimate scheduling conflict (such as a doctor's appointment or family emergency) students should talk to one of the instructors *beforehand*.

Participation (20%) - Students will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. During class they will be expected to actively contribute to both small group and class discussion. Students will be evaluated on the quality as well as quantity of their engagement during class time.

Discussion Questions (10%) - Students are expected to submit one discussion question on the course blog by 9AM every class session that critically engages with the readings. Students will be assessed

on both quality and quantity of questions submitted.

Reading Response Blogs (30% total, 15% each) This course is community learner oriented and therefore, we will have a collective online blog. Students will be required to write and submit two response blogs throughout the term. Instructors will provide students with topic prompts to encourage them to think critically about the readings, to respond to class discussions and to analyze their own learning process, thereby developing their own perspectives and visions. Each response must be approximately 600 words (about two pages, standard font, double spaced, 1 inch margins) and is due one week from the original date the reading was assigned. Blogs will be evaluated on demonstrated understanding of and engagement with the course material and process, thoughtfulness, creativity, grammar, and spelling. Proper in-text citation and a works cited page are required!

Integral Project (30%) In their Integral Teams, students will work on a project that fills a need identified by a real community organization throughout the term. We will work with local organizations to define the scope of the projects ahead of time. The materials evaluated for students' Integral Projects will be divided into two components: an individual paper (15% of final grade) reflecting on their experiences and a group presentation of the project (15% of final grade). See accompanying handout for more details on the integral project.

Course Websites -

- The course blog is located on the University of Oregon's blog system (<http://blogs.uoregon.edu/foodsystems/>). The course syllabus, readings, food news, jobs/internships, classmate blogs and other materials will be posted here. Please check the course blog frequently for updates.
- Grades and emergency class announcements can be found on University of Oregon's Blackboard page (<https://blackboard.uoregon.edu>). You will be alerted via email of any last minute class updates.

Course Policies

Email and Technology Policy - Please allow instructors up to 24 hours to respond to any emails or requests. It is important to plan ahead if you have a question or visit office hours for one-on-one communication. Please do not use your cell phones during class unless we are on a break.

Discrimination - All students are expected to adhere to University of Oregon policies related to discrimination based upon ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.

Documented Disability - If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in the course, please make the necessary arrangements. You may contact Disabilities Services at 541-346-1155. Also, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that your learning needs are appropriately met.

Inclusion Statement - Environmental Studies is a community that values inclusion. We are a

committed to equal opportunities for all students to develop individually, professionally, and academically regardless of ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic standing, cultural beliefs and traditions. If you feel excluded or threatened, please contact your instructor and/or the department head. The University Bias Response Team is also a resource that can assist you. Find more information at their website at <http://bias.uoregon.edu/index.html>.

Readings & Assignments

All readings are located on the course blog. There are no required textbooks for this course.

<p>Week One Food and Perspectives</p>	<p>10.01 Course Intro Place and Identity</p> <p><u>Required:</u> Parasecoli</p>	<p>10.03 Social and Ecological Perspectives <i>Guest speakers: Megan Kemble and Lynne Fessenden, WFFC</i></p> <p><u>Required:</u> Henderson</p>
<p>Week Two Community Food Systems</p>	<p>10.08 Community Food Systems</p> <p><u>Required:</u> Lyson, Friedman <u>Recommended:</u> Raja</p>	<p>10.10 Local Food Systems in the Willamette Valley <i>Guest Speaker: Dan Armstrong, Willamette Valley Bean and Grain Project</i></p> <p><u>Required:</u> Allen, Giombolini</p>
<p>Week Three Connecting Past and Future food systems</p>	<p>10.15 Reclaiming Indigenous Food Systems</p> <p><u>Required:</u> Burke, Norgaard</p>	<p>10.17 Resilience and Food Production</p> <p><u>Required:</u> Holt-Giménez, Trosper <u>Recommended:</u> Jackson & Noordwijk</p>
<p>Week Four Food Justice</p>	<p>10.22 Food Justice Theory</p> <p><u>Required:</u> DuPuis et al., Mares and Peña</p>	<p>10.24 Food Justice in Practice <i>Guest Speaker: Jorge Navarro, Huerto de la Familia</i></p> <p><u>Required:</u> Slocum, Guthman 2008</p>
<p>Week Five The Power of Knowledge, Expertise, and Technology</p>	<p>10.29 Modern and Indigenous Agricultural Knowledge</p>	<p>10.31 Agricultural Technology: Boon or Bane?</p>

	Systems <u>Required:</u> Altieri, Carolan 2006	<u>Required:</u> Leach, "Farmhack" <u>Recommended:</u> Jefferson
Week Six The real "O.G.": Ecological and Evolutionary Approaches to Growing Food	11.05 Ecological Agriculture in Theory and Practice <u>Required:</u> Guthman 1998, Furguson	11.07 Agrobiocultural diversity and Seed Stewardship <u>Required:</u> Carolan 2012 <u>Recommended:</u> Howard
Week Seven The Importance of Region in Remaking the Food System	11.12 Urban Food Systems and Access <u>Required:</u> Block et al., Alkon 2008, Steel <u>Recommended:</u> Agyeman, Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project, Policy Link, Urban Vitality Group	11.14 Rural Food Systems and Access <u>Required:</u> Brown and Getz, Gilbert and Sharp <u>Recommended:</u> Oregon Food Bank & RARE Video
Week Eight Mobilizing and Organizing in Food Movements	11.19 Food Movement Networks <u>Required:</u> Gimenez, Wekerle <u>Recommended:</u> Van Bommel and Spicer	11.21 Food, Media and Technology: How do we initiate community-level dialogue? <u>Required:</u> Valenzuela
Week Nine Institutions and Practices to Remake the Food System	10.26 Food Policy and the Farm Bill <u>Required:</u> IATP, Nestle	11.28 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING
Week Ten Institutions and Practices to Remake the Food System (continued)	12.03 Food Democracy and Food Policy Councils <i>Guest Speaker - Melissa Wischerath, Center for Sustainability Law</i> <u>Required:</u> TBD	12.05 Final Presentations & Class Celebration Project Papers due on 12.12 @ 1 PM (Final Exam time)

List of Readings:

- Agyeman, Julian. "From Loncheras to Lobsta Love: Food Trucks, Cultural Identity and Food Access" *Just Sustainabilities* .(2013).
- Alkon, Alison. 2008. "Paradise or Pavement: The Social Constructions of the Environment in

Two Urban Farmers Markets and Their Implications for Environmental Justice and Sustainability." *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability* Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 271-289.

- Allen, P. 2010. "Realizing Justice in Local Food Systems." *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 3 (2): 295–308.
- Altieri, Miguel a., and Victor Manuel Toledo. 2011. "The Agroecological Revolution in Latin America: Rescuing Nature, Ensuring Food Sovereignty and Empowering Peasants." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 38 (3) (July): 587–612.
- Block, Daniel R., Noel Chavez, Erika Allen and Dinah Ramirez. "Food Sovereignty, Urban Food Access and Food Activism: Contemplating Connections through Examples from Chicago." *Agricultural Human Values*. 2012.
- Brown and Getz. "Farmworker Food Insecurity and the Production of Hunger in California." p. 121 *Cultivating Food Justice*. 2011
- Burke, Eric. 2002. "Food Systems in the Mary's River Region and Reinhabitation." M.A. Thesis. Oregon State University. **Ch. 1 and 3.**
- Carolan, Michael. 2006. "Science, expertise, and the democratization of the decision-making process"
- Carolan, Michael. 2012. "Agrobiocultural diversity and knowledge transfer". In *Sociology of Food and Agriculture*. New York: Routledge. pp. 156-173.
- DuPuis, Melanie E., Jill Lindsey Harrison and David Goodman. "Just Food?" *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability*. 2012.
- Friedmann, Harriet 1999. "Remaking "Traditions": How We Eat, What We Eat and the Changing Political Economy of Food" In *Women Working the NAFTA Food Chain*, Deborah Barndt, ed., Toronto: Second Story Press, pp. 36-60.
- Ferguson, Rafter Sass, and Sarah Taylor Lovell. 2013. "Permaculture for Agroecology: Design, Practice, Movement, and Worldview. A Review." *Agronomy for Sustainable Development* 33 (October).
- Gilbert, Jess and Sharp, Gwen. "The Loss and Persistence of Black-Owned Farms and Farmland: A Review of the Research Literature and Its implications." *Southern Rural Sociology*, Vol 18 No 2 pp. 1-30. 2002.
- Giombolini, Katlyn J, Kimberlee J Chambers, Joe W Bowersox, and M Henry. 2011. "From Turf to Table : Grass Seed to Edible Grains in the Willamette Valley." *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* 2 (1): 141–161.
- Guthman, J. "Bringing Good Food to Others: Investigating the Subjects of Alternative Food Practice." *Cultural Geographies* 15.4 (2008)
- Guthman, Julie. 1998. "Regulating Meaning, Appropriating Nature: The Codification of California Organic Agriculture." *Antipode* 30 (2) (April): 135–154.
- Henderson, Elizabeth 2000. "Rebuilding local food systems from the grassroots up." In *Hungry for Profit*, Magdoff, F., Foster, J. B., and Buttel, F. M. eds. New York: Monthly Review Press. Ch. 10.
- Holt-Giménez, Eric. 2002. "Measuring Farmers' Agroecological Resistance After Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua: a Case Study in Participatory, Sustainable Land Management Impact Monitoring." *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment* 93 (1-3) (December): 87–105.

- Howard, Philip H. 2009. "Visualizing Consolidation in the Global Seed Industry: 1996–2008." *Sustainability* 1 (4) (December 8): 1266–1287.
- Institute for Agricultural Trade Policy, "A Fair Farm Bill for America" 2007.
- Jackson, Louise and Meine van Noordwijk et al.. 2010. "Biodiversity and Agricultural Sustainability: From Assessment to Adaptive Management." *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 2 (1-2).
- Leach, Melissa, James Fairhead, and James Fraser. 2012. "Green Grabs and Biochar: Revaluing African Soils and Farming in the New Carbon Economy." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 39 (2) (April): 285–307.
- Lyson, Thomas A. "Civic Agriculture and the North American Food System." *Remaking the North American Food System*. 19-32. 2007
- Mares, Teresa M. & Devon G. Peña "Environmental and Food Justice: Toward Local, Slow and Deep Food Systems" *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability*. 2012
- Nestle, Marion. "Marion Nestle Explains the 2013 Farm Bill Debate." *Good Food* (Audio). 2013.
- Norgaard, Kari. "Institutional Racism, Hunger, and Nutritional Justice on the Klamath". In *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability*. Alkon, J.H. and Agyeman, J. eds. Cambridge: MIT Press. 2012. **Ch. 2.**
- Oregon Food Bank and RARE Video on rural, local food systems. 2011.
- Policy Link. "Growing Urban Agriculture: Equitable Strategies and Policies for Improving Access to Healthy Food and Revitalizing Communities" 2012.
- Raja, Samina, Branden Born, and Jessica Kozlowski Russell. "A Planner's Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning." American Planning Association.
- Slocum, Rachel. "Anti-Racist Practice and the Work of Community Food Organizations." *Antipode*, 2006.
- Steel, Carolyn. How food shapes our cities. TED Talk. 2009.
- Troster, Ronald L. 2003. Resilience in Pre-contact Pacific Northwest Social Ecological Systems. *Conservation Ecology* 7 (3).
- Urban Vitality Group. "Food Cartology: Rethinking Urban Spaces as People Spaces" Portland, OR.