

Urban Studies 360: Food and the City: Urban Agriculture, Food Justice, and Environmental Sustainability

FALL 2016: Course Meets Online on [D2L](#)

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Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to explore local, national, and global urban agriculture and food justice movements. The course will address the historical roots of growing food in the city as well as examine how urban agriculture represents both a social movement to create a more just society and an aid to implement urban environmental sustainability.

Viewing food through theories of political economy and critical sociology, this course will emphasize inequality and globalization and their respective impacts on food accessibility and insecurity. Students will examine urban areas with plentiful access to organic food stores, farmers markets, and grocery stores, and compare to other areas that provide food primarily through gas stations, corner stores, and food banks. The course will also touch on urban areas' and urban residents' relationship to food, the growth of distinct food cultures in cities, and the larger meaning and significance of urban food geographies.

UWM Social Science General Education Requirements engages the study of human behavior, human cultural and physical variation and evolution, and the organization, development, and consequences of human activity, both past and present. The course also incorporates the UW System Shared Learning Goal of individual, social and environmental responsibility including civic knowledge and engagement (both local and global), ethical reasoning, and action. USP 360 counts as a required course for the Urban Studies Program certificate and major degree program.

Course Goals, Objectives, and Expectations

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- identify and critically evaluate the function, structure and development of human collectivities, organizations, institutions, and cultures, their infrastructures and interrelationships
- recognize and analyze intrapersonal, interpersonal, and/or socio-cultural factors associated with individual behavior collective action, or societal development
- examine the impact of local and federal policies and globalization on the food system
- evaluate the relationship between race and the food system
- interpret various aspects of the concepts of food justice and sovereignty
- develop a social movement project addressing inequalities in the urban food system

Course Expectations; the instructor will:

- support and provide a respectful and professional learning environment.
- encourage use of general discussion section for the class. Online classes can make it a little more difficult to engage in questions with immediate instructor feedback, the "I'm Confused" section is a great place to get answers. Also, you are likely not the only person who is confused about the question, so help your classmates!
- respond to email during the week and weekend emergencies *within 24 hours*.
 - Weekend (non-emergency) emails will be returned *within 48 hours, or by Monday morning*.
 - In the unlikely case of limited Internet access and a longer response time, I will warn you ahead of time.
- read and synthesize all discussion posts. The heart of the discussion portion of class is for you to engage with the material and I will not stifle discussion by inserting my opinion. There are no "right" answers for the posts so I will simply foster additional conversation or ask for clarification as needed. I will provide comments and corrections as needed when grading the discussion.
- post any necessary course clarifications on the D2L "news" page as well as send a class-wide email.

Course Expectations; the students will:

- conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner.
- consume (watch, listen, read, etc.) all assigned material for the week unless it is marked *optional.
- participate in discussion and group projects within the assigned timeline.
 - This includes initial posts, comment posts, and the reading of all posts within your assigned group.
 - Late posts and assignments will not be accepted as each segment builds upon the previous one.
- check their UWM email regularly for emails from the instructor.

Required Texts:

Globalization and Food Sovereignty: Global and Local Change in the New Politics of Food. Edited by Peter André, Jeffrey Ayres, Michael J. Bosia, and Marie-Josée Massicotte. University of Toronto Press: 2014.

ISBN 9781442612280 Available at UWM Libraries Reserve (HD9000.5 .G636 2014)

Jennifer Cockrall-King. *Food and the City: Urban Agriculture & the New Food Revolution*. Prometheus Books: 2012.

ISBN 1616144580 Available at UWM Libraries Reserve (S494.5.U72 C63 2012)

Grace Lee Boggs. *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century*. University of California Press: 2012. ISBN 9780520272590

Ebook available free through the UWM Library. Follow the link, you must be signed into your UWM library account:

http://uw-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/MIL:MIL_ALL:UWI7136207200002121

Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability. Edited by Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman. The MIT Press: 2011. ISBN 9780262516327

Ebook available free through the UWM Library. Follow the link, you must be signed into your UWM library account:

http://uw-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/MIL:MIL_ALL:UWI71361992920002121

Course texts can be found in the bookstore, and online. Paperback, used, and electronic versions are fine. You will need to use direct quotes from the book for all discussions, projects, and exams. If you use the e-version, you *MUST CITE* the location where the quote is found in the book (chapter, section heading if applicable, and number of paragraphs into the section), so keep detailed notes and save yourself some time!

Course Grades:

Point Distribution

Point Distribution	Grade Breakdown	
EOPs: 35% (50 points each, 350 total)	A: 930-1000 points	C: 730-769 points
Food System Project: 12.5% (125 total)	A-: 900-929 points	C-: 700-729 points
Midterms: 25% (125 points each, 250 total)	B+: 870-899 points	D+: 670-699 points
Social Movement Project: 17.5% (175 total)	B: 830-869 points	D: 630-669 points
Self-Reflections: 8% (20 points each, 80 total)	B-: 800-829 points	D-: 600-630 points
EOP Bylaw Formation: 2% (20 points total)	C+: 770-799 points	F: <600 points
Final Total: 1000 points		

Desire2Learn (D2L):

This course will function fully online through the D2L site. Students must have access to the Internet either at home, or in the computer lab on campus. Inadequate Internet access *will not be accepted* as an excuse for a late assignment. Assigned readings, lecture materials, and videos will be posted on D2L under the week in which they are assigned. If you have trouble with D2L or have not used it yet, please see the following information on accessing and navigating D2L. Recommended browsers: A complete and up-to-date list of recommended browsers and settings can be found [here](#). Please contact the UWM Help Desk, as described below, if you have questions about these requirements.

To find and browse the D2L course web site:

1. Go directly to the D2L [login page](#) OR - from to the UWM [home page](#) click on the D2L tab
2. Click on the button that says "UWM ePanther" to access D2L utilizing your UWM ePanther account.
3. On the Desire2Learn Welcome screen, type in your ePanther Username (your ePanther campus email, but without the "@uwm.edu) and Password. Then hit [Login].
4. On the D2L MyHome screen, go to the drop down menu ("Select a course") at the top of the screen. You'll see your active courses here, this course is titled: Urban Studies 360: Food and the City.
5. Click on course title to see the Course Home page. Click "Content" in the navigation bar to begin exploring the site.
6. If you have any difficulty getting into the course web site, please close down your web Browser completely and open it up again. Then try logging on again, using the instructions above. If you do not know your ePanther username or password, please get help as indicated below.
7. When you are finished looking around your D2L course sites, always click on "Logout" which can be found in the drop down menu under your name in the top right corner of the screen. This is especially important if you are in a computer lab. Otherwise, the next person who uses the machine will be using your D2L account!

What to do if you have problems with Desire2Learn (D2L):

If you have any difficulties with D2L, including problems with your login (e.g., you forgot your password, or if you just can't get on), please contact the UWM Help Desk by doing one of the following:

- Call the UWM Help Desk at (414) 229-4040 or the CETL Learning Technology desk at (414) 229-4319

Class Structure, Content, and Assignments

Class Structure:

There is required content to complete each week, but we are not required to be online at the same time. New course content will open each week on Monday at 12AM. Due dates will be listed within the assignment, but in general discussions are **due Wednesday and Friday 11:59PM**, and all assignments close **Sunday evening at 11:59PM**. Future weeks' content will be hidden until the previous week has ended, much like if we were meeting in real time.

Week	Start Date	Assignments	Topics and Textbook Readings
1	23-Jan	EOP1, Bylaw 1 Self Reflection1	Topic: Global Food System Read: <i>F&C</i> Intro through Chapter 4
2	30-Jan	EOP2 Bylaw 2	Topic: Global Food System Read: <i>GFS</i> Chapters 3,4,&5
3	6-Feb	EOP3	Topic: Race & The Food System Read: <i>CFJ</i> Intro through Ch 4
4	13-Feb	EOP4	Topic: Race & The Food System Read: <i>CFJ</i> Ch 5,6,10&12
5	20-Feb	Midterm	Topic: Midterm Readings: No Readings
6	27-Feb	Food Systems Project Post 1	Topic: Food Justice/Sovereignty (FJS) Read: <i>GFS</i> Intro through Ch 2 & Ch 9
7	6-Mar	Food Systems Project Post 2	Topic: FJS & Health Disparities Read: <i>CFJ Ch 13,14,&15</i>
8	13-Mar	SPRING BREAK - Enjoy!	
9	20-Mar	Project DUE Friday March 24, 11:59PM!!	Catch Up Week!! Complete Project 1 Review Wk 6 & 7 Topics/Readings
10	27-Mar	Review Projects Self Reflection2	Topic: Health Disparities Read: <i>CFJ</i> Ch 7,8,9,&11
11	3-Apr	EOP 5	Topic: Urban Agriculture Read: <i>F&C</i> 5,6,7,14&15
12	10-Apr	EOP6	Topic: Urban Agriculture Case Studies Read: <i>F&C</i> 12&13; <i>GFS</i> 7&11
13	17-Apr	EOP7 Self Reflection 3	Topic: Urban Ag Case Studies; MKE Health Read: <i>F&C</i> Chapters 8,9,10 & 11
14	25-Apr	Midterm	Topic: Midterm Readings: Begin <i>NAR</i>
15	1-May	Soc Mov Post 1	Social Movements Complete <i>NAR</i>
16	8-May	Soc Mov Post 2	Social Movements
FINAL DUE	19-May	Self Reflection 4 Group Project	Social Movement Group Project <i>Due: Friday, May 19th!!</i>

Book Key: *Globalization and Food Sovereignty (GFS)*; *Food and the City (F&C)*; *The Next American Revolution (NAR)*; *Cultivating Food Justice (CFJ)*. Additional readings will be posted directly into the weekly content and are also required unless marked optional.

Weekly Class Content:

All materials (beyond the required texts) will be posted under the week's content tab in D2L. These materials include guidance on where to focus your attention in the readings as well as supplemental video clips and readings to expand on ideas. I will *not reiterate* what you are expected to have read, rather I will highlight topics that may need additional clarification or that I believe will help you conceptualize multiple aspects of the readings on a deeper level.

Along with the assigned texts, students will use weekly content to inform their Educated Opinion Post (EOPs) and midterm study guides. After I read through your EOPs, I will clarify any misconceptions, highlight some of the debates that may be occurring in your EOPs, and add anything that I think may be relevant or missing from the topic of the week before we move on to the next week's topic.

Assignments:

Here is a BREIF overview of all assignments. See individual assignment guidelines for details.

I. Bylaw Formation for Educated Opinion Posts (EOPs) (20 points):

In weeks 1 and 2 we will create the "EOP Bylaws" and all will confirm the adoption of these "Bylaws" as a group discussion post. There are sensitive themes in the course; much of what we talk about deals with oppression and marginalization within the local and global food system. The course requires an open and honest discussion, but any disrespectful language will not be tolerated. These "Bylaws" will help us navigate difficult topics by asking you all to help set the rules and regulations of how to remain in respectful dialogue.

II. Educated Opinion Posts EOPs (50 points each):

There are 7 EOPs throughout the semester. There will be specific prompts or questions to think about for the week's EOP. The purpose is for you to expand upon two distinct observations you had about the textbook content that can answer the question/prompt, try to explain what your opinion is about those observations, and back up this explanation using facts you have gathered along the way in the textbook and other weekly content sources. Then, you will comment on two different classmates' initial posts. This can be the most engaging part of the discussion, and a great place for alternative perspectives! More specific directions are in the EOP guidelines.

Initial Post (200 words, minimum): Due on **Wednesday evening at 11:59PM.**

Comment Posts (300 words, 2 different comments): Due on **Friday evening at 11:59PM.**

Students will *read all EOPs and comments* within their group by **Sunday 11:59PM.**

III. Self-Reflection (80 points total): There are 4 private self-reflections submitted through dropbox for me to read. I will provide very specific questions to answer that are based on weekly content, as well as more thorough instructions on the purpose of each reflection during the week's content. More specific directions are in the self-reflection guidelines.

IV. Group Projects: There are two group projects in the semester. During the weeks in which group projects are assigned, the discussion section will operate as a way to "meet" with your group as if you had the chance to meet face to face. Groups will also use the discussion section assign parts of the presentation and set the deadlines for submitting work to each other as well as expected online response time in order to complete the project by the due date. I will monitor the discussion section to determine which group member is responsible for segments of the presentation, as well as step in if there is a group member with limited participation. More specific directions in each project guidelines.

A. Food System Project (125 points): The first group project will include group work to discuss the broader food production and policies that shape the system.

B. "Solutionary" Milwaukee Project (175 points): The end of the semester will include group work to create a social movement project around a topic of your group's choosing in the realm of urban food systems.

V. Midterms (125 points each): There are 2 long-form midterms: the *minimum* requirements for each midterm are 600-700 words, with 4 different textbook citations. These will be open for a week and will expect you to synthesize topics covered over the previous weeks in a more complex way than what is covered in the discussion. Weekly content will remain open, but the EOPs will be hidden so that you work through these concepts yourself. While it is fine to discuss concepts with classmates and myself, you *must write your own answers* that pull from the texts and weekly content in a concise, accurate manner. Each week I will post "Student Questions" to help guide what concepts may be on the midterm exams. More specific directions are posted under midterm guidelines.

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities within Urban Studies program or other lectures on campus, including the USP Spring event: 1. Urban Studies Student Forum: Friday, April 28; **Extra credit opportunities are accepted only if 85% of assigned work is completed.**

University Policy on Credit Hours:

“Study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours for class contact in lectures, for laboratories, examinations, tutorials and recitations, and for preparation and study; or a demonstration by the student of learning equivalent to that established as the expected product of such a period of study.”

Urban Studies 360 is a 3-credit course. Based on federal and university expectations, students should prepare to spend a minimum of 144 hours of class time on preparation and work related to the course. Taking into consideration that the number of hours demanded of students outside of class will fluctuate based on the scheduling of exams and major assignments, students should anticipate investing *10-12 hours per week* on the course including time spent on D2L for weekly content and discussions.

Academic Conduct

You are expected to do your own work in this class and properly cite any ideas or quotes from other sources. Citations should follow a generally accepted format (APA, MLA, Chicago). Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct will be dealt with in accordance to the guidelines of the university. Academic dishonesty includes failing to cite published work or someone else’s ideas, purchasing a paper from another student or online, using another student’s work as your own, directly copying from a source without quoting the author, submitting your own work from another class, etc. Submitted material may be randomly run through plagiarism detection software.

Any student caught engaging in plagiarism will receive a failing grade for this course, and will automatically initiate the university’s procedure and policy on plagiarism and academic integrity. This can be viewed online [here](#).

UNIVERSITY AND URBAN STUDIES PROGRAMS POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf>

Students with Disabilities. Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf>

Religious Observances. Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

Students called to active Military Duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

Incompletes. You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

Discriminatory Conduct (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

Academic Misconduct. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: <http://www4.uwm.edu/osl/dean/conduct/cfm>

Complaint Procedures. Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S49.7.htm

Grade Appeal Procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department,

college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at http://www4.uwm.edu/letscli/upload/grievance_procedure.pdf

Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at <http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/>

Final Examination Policy. Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S22.htm