



Spring 2016 - ONLINE COURSE

Food in the City: Urban Agriculture, Food Justice, and Environmental Sustainability

Urban Studies 360: Lec. 201

Instructor: Renee Scampini

In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore urban agriculture and food justice movements in the U.S. and abroad. The course will address the historical roots of growing food in the city as well as examining how urban agriculture represents both a social movement working to create a more just society and as an aid in the implementation of urban environmental sustainability. Along with this, the course will give special focus to the city of Milwaukee as a city on the cutting edge in the area of urban agriculture. Local organizations and city programs such as Growing Power, Walnut Way Conservation Corp, Milwaukee Urban Gardens, Home Gr/Own, as well as Milwaukee's many farmers markets and community gardens will be studied as examples of urban agriculture at work for environmental sustainability and food justice. Looking at the topic of food through the lens of urban political economy, this course will emphasize inequality and neoliberal globalization and their respective impacts on where certain foods end up and who has access to them. Students will examine why certain areas of the city have plentiful access to organic food stores, farmers markets, and grocery stores, while in other areas residents are dependent on gas stations, corner stores and food banks. Finally, the course will touch on our relationship to food, the growth of distinct food cultures in cities, and the larger meaning and significance of urban food geographies.