

CSUS 343 - Community Food and Agriculture Systems

Spring 2017 – Tues/Thu 2.40-4.00pm, 111 Biochemistry

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Hodbod

Office: Natural Resources Building, Room 310 B

Office hours: Wednesday, 10am-12pm or by appointment, arranged by email.

Office telephone: 517 355 0312

Email: jhodbod@anr.msu.edu

Course Description

Credits: Total Credits: 3

Description: Food and agricultural systems. Inputs, production, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal. Industrialization, globalization and centralization of power. Community goals including ecological sustainability, social justice, economic viability and democracy.

Food systems are particularly important for human societies to sustain and are also particularly vulnerable to multiple threats related to the interconnected global sustainability challenges we face. CSUS 343, Community Food and Agriculture Systems, will introduce students to the concepts and issues involved in food systems sustainability. The course will be divided into five modules, an introductory unit, three which will address the other systems with which food systems interact - social-ecological, socio-cultural and socio-technical systems. The final module will address the future of food systems.

This course will teach students about the main issues in food system sustainability from the perspective of these multiple disciplines. Students will enhance their critical thinking skills by applying them to case studies from across the world (including right on our doorstep) and considering the social, ecological, economic, and institutional dimensions that influence sustainability.

Prerequisite

Prerequisite: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement

Recommended Background: (CSUS 200) and an introductory social science course

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the paths food takes from fields to forks, both here and abroad;
- Explore the intersections of community, food and agriculture, and the environment;
- Analyze dominant trends in food systems, and responses to these trends;
- Identify and synthesize the social, economic, and environmental sustainability trade-offs within food systems;
- Critically assess strategies to achieve sustainable food systems.

Learning Objectives

- Define the term food systems.
- Explain and analyze the different interactions food systems have with social-ecological systems:

- Food and the agro-ecological elements (the different methods of production and their different utilizations of ecological resources);
- The food-energy-water nexus (including climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, water footprints, use of energy in agriculture, biofuels);
- Food and land (including global land use for agriculture, competition for land, biodiversity, land grabs, deforestation and land use change);
- Food as livelihood (demographics, income, economic opportunity, scale of production, corporate ag).
- Explain and analyze the different interactions food systems have with socio-cultural systems:
 - Health (access, availability, nutrition, obesity);
 - Food and agricultural trade;
 - Marketing, retail and distribution of food (mechanisms of sustainable marketing);
 - Ethics and justice related to food (animal, human, labor);
 - Food and culture (different meanings of food, multiple values of food in different geographical contexts);
 - Policy, institutions, governance of food systems (the Farm Bill, standard setting, WTO, collective action).
- Explain and analyze the different interactions food systems have with socio –technical systems:
 - Innovation in food systems;
 - Alternate method of production (hydroponics);
 - Food in urban areas (food deserts, urban agriculture);
 - Food and technology (GMOs).
- Synthesize the above elements of community food and agriculture systems.
- Evaluate the future of food systems:
 - Influences on sustainable consumption (consumer choice);
 - Alternatives to animal protein;
 - Future demand (global and national scenarios).
- Identify different models of community food and agriculture systems.
- Evaluate a local food system’s sustainability.

Undergraduate Learning Goals

Students will also leave this class with improved capacities in the Undergraduate Learning Goals:

- Analytical thinking – students will acquire, critically analyze, and evaluate information about food systems via individual writing assignments and group discussions.
- Cultural understanding – students will describe and analyze findings about a diverse range of food systems in multiple geographic contexts, whilst synthesizing and evaluating the global context.
- Effective citizenship – students will understand the structures of local, national, and global food systems, and distinguish where potential solutions to societal issues around food lie.
- Effective communication – students will engage in effective communication practices for a variety of stakeholders – the general public, academia, and policymakers – via summarizing readings, and writing for multiple audiences.
- Integrated reasoning – students will utilize a range of inquiry strategies to extend their understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of analysis in food systems and illustrate systems thinking;

Required and Recommended Resources

There is no required text for this course. All primary readings will be placed on D2L. Readings will come from both the academic literature and the popular food systems literature, including The Omnivore’s Dilemma

(Michael Pollan), Fast Food Nation (Eric Schlosser), and the One-Straw Revolution (Masanobu Fukuoka). There will be some digital content shown in class. All readings must be done in advance of class to inform the discussion.

Course Requirements

- Access to D2L

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is to train students to become change-makers by instilling in them the importance of systems thinking. As an interdisciplinary researcher, I utilize knowledge and methods from multiple disciplines, and similarly when teaching I frame classes around the interconnected nature of coupled human-nature interactions. I believe that by preparing students to address food system issues through a complex systems perspective they will begin to break out of linear thinking patterns, a critically important skill that can be applied in any career.

Methods of Instruction

To teach students how to develop such perspectives, I use both research-led and research-based teaching, framing topics in case studies from the cutting edge of the field and providing opportunities to experience enquiry-based learning.

Course Schedule

Each module will begin with an introductory lecture and end with a synthesis lecture. The modules will include readings from popular food systems literature, some academic literature, and the showing of clips from films or television programs on the relevant topics. Within the modules will be class time for debate and discussion of the topics. Lectures will use examples from countries around the world to illustrate their differences and similarities but also the global and connected nature of food systems.

The following schedule is tentative and subject to change:

Week	Date		Topic
1	1/10/2017	Intro	Introduction to CSUS 343 Introduction to systems thinking and food systems
	1/12/2017		Food security
2	1/17/2017		A history of agriculture
	1/19/2017		How does community fit into this?
3	1/24/2017		Guest lecture #1: Prof. Howard – Consolidation in the food system
	1/26/2017		<i>NO CLASS – use time to select book or films to review.</i>
4	1/31/2017	SESS	Food-based SESSs + Resources in agricultural landscapes
	2/2/2017		Different models of agriculture
5	2/7/2017		Food systems and biodiversity
	2/9/2017		Guest lecture #2: Producer
6	2/14/2017		Food systems and climate change
	2/16/2017		Food systems and land
7	2/21/2017		Food systems and livelihoods
	2/23/2017		Sustainability issues in food-based SESSs

8	2/28/2017	SCSs	Intro to SCSs. Nutrition and health.	
	3/2/2017		Guest lecture #3: Lansing Food Bank	
9	3/7/2017		<i>Spring Break: No classes</i>	
	3/9/2017		<i>Spring Break: No classes</i>	
10	3/14/2017		Food ethics and justice	
	3/16/2017		Food culture	
11	3/21/2017		Food and agriculture policy, institutions, and governance	
	3/23/2017		Sustainability issues in food-based SCSs	
12	3/28/2017		STSs	Intro to STSs. Innovation in food systems.
	3/30/2017			Marketing, retail, and distribution of food.
13	4/4/2017	Guest lecture #4: Hydroponics producer		
	4/6/2017	Genetic engineering		
14	4/11/2017	FoF		Group work on systems diagrams. Sustainability solutions in production
	4/13/2017		The trouble with cows...	
15	4/18/2017		Sustainability solutions in consumption	
	4/20/2017		Urban agriculture	
16	4/25/2017		Group work on final project	
	4/27/2017		Wrap up: Future of Food	
FINAL	05/02/2017			Final exam: solutions presentations

Assignments

Graded Course Activities

There are six assessment activities that will be graded in this class. The assignments are iterative – the reflective reports will inform your systems diagram, which in turn will inform your solutions paper and presentation. Therefore, submitting all assignments is important.

Assignment #1: Participation

Your active participation in class is expected (included prior assigned readings and in-class activities) and worth 0.5 points per class (32 classes). If you are texting, on social media, or doing work for other classes you are **not** participating in class. You must be physically **in** class to participate and earn the points. Attendance will be recorded by Dr. Hodbod every class.

Assignment #2: Book/Film review

You will write a 800 word review of a book of your choice, or of three food-related films or documentaries. Resources on how to write a book/film review will be available in D2L. The report should be named *LastNameFirstNameBook.docx* and placed in the appropriate dropbox folder in D2L. See https://creator.zoho.com/howardp/books-and-films/view-embed/CFA_books_and_films_View/ for a list of books/films from which to choose your review items. This link is embedded within the D2L sub-module for the class on 01/26. By 4pm on 01/26 you should have looked at the repository and completed the survey to select which book or films/documentaries you are going to review.

Assignment #3: Reflective reports

You will submit three reflective reports, a week after guest lectures #2-4. The report will be two-pages, and should summarize the activities of the institute the guest lecturer was representing, before going on to highlight sustainability issues raised during the lecture, and any solutions being practiced. The reports should be named *LastNameFirstNameRR#1.docx*, *LastNameFirstNameRR#2.docx*, and *LastNameFirstNameRR#3.docx* and placed in the appropriate dropbox folder in D2L.

Assignment #4: Systems diagram

Based on the three institutions we hear from, the class will be split into three<six groups whose members will work together for the final assignments. In your groups, you will construct a systems diagram for the institution you are assessing, demonstrating its linkages with both social and ecological components, the flow of resources and information, and the external factors it is influenced by, and also influencing. This activity will be started in class, but will require some group work outside of class. Using this system diagram, you must highlight five sustainability challenges - one per group member – on the diagram. A photo of the systems diagram (or pdf) should be placed in the appropriate dropbox folder in D2L by one of the group members.

Assignment #5: Policy brief

Each individual will be responsible for writing a solutions paper in the form of a policy brief, addressing one of the sustainability challenges identified on the systems diagram. The policy brief should demonstrate further research that supplements the information provided in class. Further information on writing policy briefs will be available in the D2L 'Assignments' folder. The report should be named *LastNameFirstNamePolicyBrief.docx* and placed in the appropriate dropbox folder in D2L.

Assignment #6: Solutions presentation

Each group will also present their proposed solutions during the final exam (please note – this is not our normal class time but **Tuesday May 2nd 2017, 111 Biochemistry, 12.45-2.45pm**). You will be given time in class during the previous week to prepare but must also work together outside of class. The 15-minute presentation must include independent group research into how these solutions will fit together, or trade-off with each other. You must also address the scope of this type of institution to affect the food system within the US. Presentations should be named *GroupXPresentation.ppt* (or pdf) and placed in the appropriate dropbox folder by the time of the exam.

Late Work Policy

NO late assignments will be accepted.

Assignment Logistics

All assigned papers must be typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font, and pages numbered (Times New Roman or Arial font). For questions regarding writing style, and reference citations, refer to the American Psychological Association (APA) manual and recent editions. All assignments are due on the class date defined below. All assignments will be submitted to a dropbox folder via D2L, by 11.30pm on the deadline (other than the final – which is due at 12.30pm). A grading criteria sheet (rubric) will be available on D2L for each assignment and will be used for the assessment of the assignment.

#	Assignment	Points	Due
1	Participation	16	Every class
2	Book (or 3 films) review	14	03/13/2017, 11.30pm
3	3 Reflective reports	10 10 10	02/16/2017, 11.30pm 03/23/2017, 11.30pm 04/11/2017, 11.30pm
4	Systems diagram	10	04/15/2017, 11.30pm
5	Policy brief	15	04/23/2017, 11.30pm
6	Solutions presentation (final exam)	15	05/02/2017, 12.30pm
	TOTAL	100	

Letter Grade Assignment

Grade	Points
4.0	94-1000
3.5	88-93
3.0	81-87
2.5	75-80
2.0	70-74
1.5	65-69
1.0	61-64
0	<60

Course Policies

Attendance:

Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

This course follows the General University Attendance Policy. If you miss a class due to a Special Consideration Absence as defined by University Policy, your class participation grade for those excused absence days will be the average of your earned participation grade.

E-Learning Policies:

Information technologies such as D2L and email are widely used in this class. As a result, there are some additional policies that need to be understood.

- Students should visit the course's D2L site on a regular basis.
- Students should check their email frequently (all class email is sent to the student's official MSU email account).
- All assignments submitted electronically, either on disk or via email, should be free of any viruses and/or worms. Any infected file or disk that is submitted will receive a zero (0) for that assignment.
- This course recognizes the students' right to privacy and adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Students need to review the university policy "Acceptable Use of Computing Systems, Software, and the University Digital Network" at <http://lct.msu.edu/guidelines-policies/aup/>.
- The Web site tech.msu.edu provides a number of information technology resources for students.
- You are responsible for the operation of any personally owned computers you use on or off campus. A malfunctioning computer system is NOT a valid excuse for submitting late work.
- Students are expected to have a high degree of self-motivation and self-direction in this class and develop the needed technology skills to excel in this class and in life.
- CSUS 343 Turnitin Policy
 - Consistent with MSU's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, instructors may use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student's work with multiple sources. The tool compares each student's work with an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a 'similarity score'. The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, the instructor must make a complete assessment and judge the originality of the student's work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool.

- Students should submit papers to Turnitin Dropboxes without identifying information included in the paper (e.g. name or student number – i.e. using the title protocol outlined above). The system will automatically show this info to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin.

Excessive emails make an unreasonable time demands on both sender and recipient. Please ensure you have a legitimate need before you write. Dr. Hodbod will answer email about:

- Questions arising from difficulty in understanding course content.
- Requests for feedback about graded assignments.
- Private issues appropriate for discussion within the teacher-student relationship.

Dr. Hodbod will NOT answer email which:

- Poses questions answered in the course information sections of the course D2L site.
- Poses questions answered in the course syllabus.
- Lacks a subject line clearly stating the purpose of the email and the course number (CSUS343).
- Raises an inappropriate subject.

Dr. Hodbod will answer email received on a given day no later than close of work on the next workday.

Academic Honesty:

[Article 2.III.B.2](#) of the Academic Freedom Report states: “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” In addition, the Department of Sustainability adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, [Protection of Scholarship and Grades](#); the all-University Policy on [Integrity of Scholarship and Grades](#); and [Ordinance 17.00](#), Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu).

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU regulations on Protection of Scholarship and Grades will receive a failing grade in the course or on the assignment.

Faculty are required to report all instances in which a penalty grade is given for academic dishonesty. Students reported for academic dishonesty are required to take an online course about the integrity of scholarship and grades. A hold will be placed on the student's account until such time as the student completes the course. This course is overseen by the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education.

(See also <https://www.msu.edu/~ombud/academic-integrity/index.html>). **There will be no warnings – the maximum sanction allowed under University policy will occur on the first offense.**

Bereavement:

Students seeking a grief absence should be directed to the Grief Absence Request Form found on the RO home page (<https://reg.msu.edu/>) under ‘Student Services – Grief Absence Request Form’ OR to StuInfo (<https://stuinfo.msu.edu/>) under ‘Academics - Enrollment Information and Services – Grief Absence Request Form.’ Per policy, graduate students who should see their major professor and notify course instructors are directed to do so when they access the form.

Disruptive Behavior:

Article 2.III.B.4 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SRR\)](#) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the [SRR](#) states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](#) states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Affairs office.

Social Media

As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor and are subject to the following conditions of use:

1. Students may record lectures or any other classroom activities and use the recordings **only** for their own course-related purposes.
2. Students may share the recordings with other students enrolled in the class. Sharing is limited to using the recordings **only** for their own course-related purposes.
3. Students **may not** post the recordings or other course materials online or distribute them to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor and, if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings.

Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions.

Commercialized Lecture Notes:

Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.

Complete Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through D2L. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor **before** the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider un-enrolling from a course. Refer to the [Michigan State University Office of the Registrar](#) for important dates and deadlines.

Drops and Adds

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is 2/3/2017. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is 3/1/2017. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities](#) (RCPD), and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor

as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to RCPD and meet with an RCPD specialist to request special accommodation before classes start.

Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to the instructor at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

RCPD is located in 120 Bessey Hall, near the center of the Michigan State University campus, on the southwest corner of Farm Lane and Auditorium Road. RCPD may be contacted by phone at (517) 884-7273 (884-RCPD), or [via their website \(http://www.rcpd.msu.edu\)](http://www.rcpd.msu.edu).

Commit to Integrity

Academic Honesty

Article 2.3.3 of the [Academic Freedom Report](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the (insert name of unit offering course) adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](#) and/or the [MSU Web site: www.msu.edu](#).)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html>)

Handling Emergency Situations

In the event of an emergency arising within the classroom, the Professor will notify you of what actions that may be required to ensure your safety. It is the responsibility of each student to understand the evacuation, "shelter-in-place," and "secure-in-place" guidelines posted in each facility and to act in a safe manner. You are allowed to maintain cellular devices in a silent mode during this course, in order to receive emergency SMS text, phone or email messages distributed by the university. When anyone receives such a notification or observes an emergency situation, they should immediately bring it to the attention of the Professor in a way that causes the least disruption. If an evacuation is ordered, please ensure that you do it in a safe manner and facilitate those around you that may not otherwise be able to safely leave. When these orders are given, you do have the right as a member of this community to follow that order. Also, if a shelter-in-place or secure-inplace is ordered, please seek areas of refuge that are safe depending on the emergency encountered and provide assistance if it is advisable to do so.

Syllabus Disclaimer

All syllabi are subject to minor changes to meet the needs of the instructor, school, or class. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed

necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes through the course site announcements. Please remember to check your MSU email and the course site announcements often.