CSUS 343
Community Food and Agricultural Systems

Spring 2015
Section 730, online
3.0 credit hours

Instructor: Phil Howard
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Required Text:

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.

Goals of the Course:
Investigate the paths food takes from fields to forks, both here and abroad
Explore the intersections of community, food, agriculture and the environment
Analyze dominant trends in food systems, and responses to these trends
Critically assess strategies to achieve sustainable food systems

Course Activities (100 points each, 500 points total)
* Weekly readings, reflection and commentaries
* Weekly reflections on presentations or field trips
* Review of book of your choice (or 3 films), due April 15
* Final self-evaluation, due May 5

Grading scale for the course (by percentage of the 500 points obtained):

94 to 100% - 4.0
87 to 93% - 3.5
80 to 86% - 3.0
75 to 79% - 2.5
70 to 74% - 2.0
65 to 69% - 1.5
60 to 64% - 1.0
<60% - no credit

Schedule

Week 1

- Introduction to Food Systems
- Personal Introductions

Week 2

- Film: King Corn

Week 3

- Presentation: Consolidation in the Food System

Week 4

- Field Trip #1

Week 5


Week 6

• One-Third of Food is Lost or Wasted: What Can Be Done? Elizabeth Royte. National Geographic, October 2014.
• Presentation: Alternatives to the Hourglass?

Week 7

• Field Trip #2
• Critical Review of “Where Am I Eating” due.

Week 8

• Film: Fresh

Week 9

• Film: A Farm for the Future

Week 10

• Field Trip #3

Week 11

• Presentation: Emerging Ecolabels

Week 12

• Film: Dirt! The Movie

Week 13

• Field Trip #4
• Critical Reflection of 1 book or 3 films due (select from https://www.msu.edu/~howardp/booksfilms.html)

Week 14

• Presentation: Slow Food

Week 15

• Bistro Incognito. Ella Lawrence. North Bay Bohemian, April 6-12, 2005.

Final Exam

• Self-Evaluation

The course outcomes support the Department of Community Sustainability undergraduate program competencies of systems thinking, community and critical thinking. Students can learn more about the Department of Community Sustainability undergraduate program competencies at http://www.csus.msu.edu/undergraduate/sustainability_core.

Article 2.iii.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.

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.