

CSUS 343 - Community Food and Agriculture Systems

Spring 2020 – Mon/Wed 10:20-11:40pm, 108 Kresge Art Center

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Phillip Warsaw

Office: Natural Resources Building, Room 326

Office hours: Tuesday, 1pm-3pm or by appointment, arranged by email.

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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. This course will teach students about the main issues in food system sustainability from the perspective of 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 terms food systems and food security.
- Explain and analyze the use of natural resources in the production and distribution of food products
- Explain and analyze the economic dynamics involved in the production, distribution, and retailing of food
- Explain and analyze the causes of food insecurity, methods to measure it, and approaches to address it
- Identify and analyze models of regional and local food production and distribution
- Evaluate the future of food systems

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. There will be some digital content shown in class. Readings will be uploaded to D2L at least one week before class. All readings must be done **in advance of class** to inform the discussion.

Other 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 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 draw on case studies by scholars at and outside of MSU to illustrate the diversity of perspectives on food systems, including their global and connected nature.

The following schedule is tentative and subject to change:

Week	Date		Topic	Assignment	
1	6 th Jan	Int	Introduction to CSUS 343		
	8 th Jan		A (brief) history of agriculture		
2	13 th Jan	Resources	Resources in agricultural landscapes		
	15 th Jan		Food and water		
3	20 th Jan		MLK Day: no class		
	22 nd Jan		Food and land		
4	27 th Jan	Resources	Food systems and climate change	Choose book/films	
	29 th Jan		Guest Lecture: Phil Howard on consolidation		
5	3 rd Feb	Economic	Food Waste		
	5 th Feb		Ecolabels, behavioral economics and food marketing		
6	10 th Feb		Economic	Labor and supply chains	
	12 th Feb			Economics of the Farm Bill	
7	17 th Feb	Security	Food security: Intro		
	19 st Feb		Measuring Food security		
8	24 th Feb		Security	Guest Lecture: Kimberly Carr on Food Sovereignty	
	26 th Feb			NEMS Assessment and Briefing Note Overview	Book review
9	2 nd Mar	SB	Spring Break: No class		
	4 th Mar		Spring Break: No class		
10	9 th Mar	Sec	Food environments and food swamps		
	11 th Mar		Food ethics		
11	16 th Mar	Local	Introduction to Local Food	Store selections	
	18 th Mar		Direct-to-Consumer Marketing and Value Chains		
12	23 rd Mar		Local	Ag of the Middle and Cooperatives	
	25 th Mar			Farm-to-Institution	
13	30 th Mar	Local	Guest Lecture: Jenny Hodbod on Leverage Points in Flint	NEMS Brief	
	1 st Apr		Urban Agriculture		
14	6 th Apr	Future	Future demand for food; EAT-Lancet Report		
	8 th Apr		Genetic engineering		
15	13 th Apr		Future	Future of protein	
	15 th Apr			Guest Lecture: Morgan Mathison on Regenerative Ag	
16	20 th Apr	Final	Wrap-up: Future of Food		
	22 nd Apr		Group work on final project		
FINAL	30 ^h Apr	Final	Final exam – 7:45 – 9:45am, 108 Kresge Art Center	Food environment presentations	

Assignments/Assessment

#	Assignment	Points	Due
1	Attendance and Participation	100	Every class
2	Weekly Reflections	100	Every Thursday, 12pm
3	Book (or 3 films) review (midterm)	100	2/26/2020, 11:59pm
4	NEMS Briefing Note	100	3/30/2020, 11:59pm
5	Food Environment Presentation (final exam)	100	4/30/2020, 7:45am
	TOTAL	500	

Letter Grade Assignment

Grade	Points
4.0	94-100
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

Assignment #1: Participation (100 points)

Your active participation in class is expected. Participation includes being prepared for class by completing the assigned readings *before* class and also participating in the in-class activities. You must be **physically** in class to participate and earn the points but also **paying attention**. Each student will be allowed two unexcused absences during the semester. Additional absences will result in a five-point deduction from your attendance score. Phones should be silenced/set to vibrate and put away during class. Laptops may occasionally be required for participation in class, but use should be limited to class activities. Non-productive uses of laptops or mobile devices will be treated the same as an unexcused absence.

Assignment #2: Weekly Reflections (100 points)

Starting in week two, each student will submit a two-three paragraph response to the readings of the week on D2L by **Wednesday at 10am**. These reflections will:

- 1) Focus on the problems and solutions either in the readings themselves, or raised by the readings. In other words, your reflections may include additional problems and/or solutions that you feel the authors left out. Other possibilities for reflection are what you found most interesting, or issues you would like to explore further.
- 2) List one question raised by the reading and try to answer it. Find at least one outside article and briefly share what you learned (even if it doesn't turn out to answer your question). Include a link to the article or mention the title/author/date.

In addition, by **Thursday at 12pm** each week, each student will respond briefly to at least two other posts written by another student. Students will receive 5 points for their initial post each week and 5 points for their responses.

Assignment #3: Book/Film review (100 points)

As your midterm, you will write a minimum 800 word, maximum four pages review of a food-related book of your choice, or of three food-related films or documentaries. Films or documentaries must be related to each other. Additional details, as well resources on how to write a book/film review will be available under the 'Assignments' tab in D2L. The report should be named LastNameFirstNameBookTitle.docx (replace 'BookTitle' with the name of your book or films) and placed in the appropriate folder in D2L.

Assignment #4: NEMS Assessment Briefing Report (100 points)

Students will be divided into three groups for the final two assignments. Each group will be assigned a geographical area in Lansing/East Lansing/Okemos, along with a list of food outlets in each area. Each student

will be responsible for conducting a NEMS Assessment for two of the stores on the list and summarizing their findings in a briefing note. The note will report the total calculated scores, key/interesting findings from the assessment, as well as draw connections to the broader questions of food security raised in class. Additional details will be provided under the "Assignments" tab in D2L. The report should be named LastNameFirstNameBriefingNote.docx and placed in the appropriate folder in D2L.

Assignment #5: Food Environment Presentation (100 points)

Each group will synthesize their findings in a 3-5 page executive summary, and present their major findings during the final period (**Thursday, April 30; 7:45-9:45am in Kresge Art Center 108**). The presentation should connect the individual findings for each store within the broader food landscape in the city. The presentation should highlight food security concerns (if any), as well as potential solutions, whether existing or constructed. Additional details will be provided under the "Assignments" tab in D2L. Executive summaries should be named *GroupXExecutiveSummary.docx* and submitted to the appropriate folder by the time of the final. Presentations should be named *GroupXPresentation.ppt* (or pdf) and placed in the appropriate folder by the time of the exam (7:45am).

Late Work Policy

Submission of assignments after the assigned deadline will result in a reduction of the maximum score by 10% for each 24 hours beyond the deadline. So, for example, the grade for an assignment with 10 points due but not submitted by 11:59pm on February 16 would be able to score a maximum of 9 points so long as it is submitted by 11:59pm on February 17. After that, the maximum grade will be reduced by 10% further, so long as it is submitted by 11:59 p.m. on February 18, etc. Assignments that are more than three days late will not be accepted.

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 not be reduced.

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. Warsaw 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. Warsaw 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. Warsaw 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 no refund and no grade reported is 2/26/2020. 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-in-

place 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.