CSUS 343 - Community Food and Agriculture Systems

Spring 2018 – Tues/Thu 2.40-4.00pm, 223 Natural Resources Building

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Hodbod
Office: Natural Resources Building, Room 310 B
Office hours: Wednesday, 11am-1pm 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 focus on the future of food systems.

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 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:
  - Food and culture (different meanings of food, multiple values of food in different geographical contexts);
  - Health (access, availability, nutrition, obesity);
  - Marketing, retail and distribution of food (mechanisms of sustainable marketing);
  - Ethics and justice related to food (animal, human, labor).
- 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. There will be some digital content shown in class. All readings must be done **in advance of class** to inform the discussion.

Other Course Requirements

- Access to D2L
- ***TopHat account***. TopHat is a student response software that I'll be using to facilitate our interactive activities in class and take attendance. You can use Top Hat via your mobile devices or laptops, and the following guide will help you set it up: http://help.d2l.msu.edu/top_hat_student_guide. TopHat is $24 for a semester. The code for CSUS 343 is 972715. I expect you all to have Top Hat ready to go for our first class on 01/09.

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	Assignment
1	9th Jan		Introduction to CSUS 343 and TopHat	
	11th Jan		Introduction to food systems	
2	16th Jan	Intro	ESPP Colloquium 'Global Change and Agroecosystems' - Sustainable Food Systems in Developing Countries **2.00-3.30pm in Room 105, Kellogg Centre**	
	18th Jan		Introduction to food security	
3	23rd Jan		Guest speaker: Prof. Gray, Systems Thinking Study	
	25th Jan		Intro to SESs. A (brief) history of agriculture	
4	30th Jan	SESs	Resources in agricultural landscapes	
	1st Feb		Food and land	
5	6th Feb		**Producer Guest Lecture #1: Visit the MSU Beef Center** *Please be at 5307 Bennett Road at 2.40pm. Wear boots and be prepared to be outside for 80 minutes.*	
	8th Feb		Food and water	

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6	13th Feb		*NO CLASS – use time to select book or films to review.*	Reflective report #1
	15th Feb		**Producer Guest Lecturer #2: Russ Allen, Seafood Systems**	
7	20th Feb		Food systems and climate change	
	22nd Feb		Food systems and livelihoods	Reflective report #2
8	27th Feb		Intro to SCSs. Food Environments.	
	1st Mar		Food culture	
9	*6th Mar*	SCSs	*Spring Break: No classes*	
	8th Mar		*Spring Break: No classes*	
10	13th Mar		**Producer Guest Lecturer #3: TBD**	Book review
	15th Mar		Marketing, retail, and distribution of food.	
11	20th Mar		Food ethics and justice	Reflective report #3
	22nd Mar		Food Deserts	
12	27th Mar		Intro to STSs. Group work on systems diagrams.	
	29th Mar	STSs	Innovation in food systems.	
13	3rd Apr		Food in urban areas	Systems Diagram
	5th Apr		Genetic engineering	
14	10th Apr		Future demand for food	
	12th Apr		Future of protein	
15	17th Apr	FoF	Food waste	
	19th Apr		Sustainable consumption	Briefing Note
16	24th Apr		Group work on final project	
	26th Apr		Wrap up: Future of Food. Prof. Gray.	
FINAL	3rd May		Final exam - **3.00-5.00pm, NR 223**	Solutions presentations

Assignments

The assignments in this class 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 and worth 0.5 points per class (30 classes). 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**. Whilst using TopHat means you must have a mobile device or laptop to use, if you are texting, on social media, or doing work for other classes you are **not** participating in class. Attendance will be recorded by Dr. Hodbod every class using TopHat.

Assignment #2: Quizzes

Five unannounced quizzes will be administered during the semester using TopHat (2 points each).

Assignment #3: Book/Film review

As your midterm, you will write a minimum **800 word, maximum four pages** 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

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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 02/13. By 4pm on 02/13 you should have looked at the repository and completed the survey to select which book or films/documentaries you are going to review.

Assignment #4: Reflective reports

You will submit three reflective reports, a week after guest lectures. 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 #5: Systems diagram

Based on the three institutions we hear from, the class will be split into six groups whose members will work together for the final assignments. In your groups, the first step will be to 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 leverage points - one per group member – on the diagram. These leverage points should be sustainability challenges where solutions could be introduced. 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 #6: Briefing note

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

Assignment #7: Sustainability assessment

Each group will also present their proposed solutions during the final exam (please note – this is not our normal class time but **3rd May 2018, 223 Natural Resources, 3-5pm**). 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). A grading criteria sheet (rubric) will be available on D2L for each assignment and will be used for the assessment of the assignment.

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#	Assignment	Points	Due
1	Participation	15	Every class
2	Quizzes	10	Unannounced
3	Book (or 3 films) review	15	03/13/2018, 11.30pm
4	3 Reflective reports	10	02/13/2018, 11.30pm
		10	02/22/2018, 11.30pm
		10	03/20/2018, 11.30pm
5	Systems diagram	5	04/03/2018, 11.30pm
6	Briefing Note	15	04/19/2018, 11.30pm
7	Solutions presentation (final exam)	10	05/03/2018, 12.30pm
	TOTAL	**100**	

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

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.

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- 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.

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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 2/2/2018. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is 2/28/2018. 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).

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.