COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING, AND FOOD

Room 369, Civic Square Building, Bloustein School
Mondays 1:10-3:50

Course Overview and Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to democratic processes and neighborhood planning with food security. Food has increasingly come into focus as a critical and often overlooked area of planning. While in the past we may have ensured that people have enough food, we now think about the quality of calories, the connection between food and health, the way in which we produce, procure, and dispose of food, the impact of food production and distribution on the environment, and the potential to use food to fuel economic development.

Class sessions will be devoted to learning about food systems, food security, and food planning. We will complement the literature with guest speakers and field visits.

Your preparation and participation are essential for a productive and successful class. Please read all assigned materials and participate thoughtfully and enthusiastically. During the course of the term, you will identify a community development organization that works on food and do a small project or write a small paper that will assist that organization. The idea is to have you learn about innovative ways that cities and organizations are seeking to improve food security today. This gives you hands-on experience with the people who are engaging in food systems work and provides some help for them in return. You’ll present the project at the end of the term sharing what you’ve learned with your colleagues.
Course Material

Course reading, viewing, and listening materials are available on the Sakai course website and on the Internet.
*Masters students read the material with one asterisk. **Doctoral students may elect to read any or all of the material assigned for masters students and select at least one recommended item

Grading

Attendance, Participation & Veggie Points 20%
To get full credit for participation, attend class & tours, read, engage thoughtfully and come prepared. If you miss class, download the presentation slides from Sakai and ask a colleague for notes. Please turn off digital devices prior to entering class to ensure that nothing on your person hums, vibrates, rings, or tweets.

Veggie Points
You can enhance your in-class experience and earn vegetable points (formerly known as brownie points) by participating in the events highlighted with the green background. You can also organize a food film club. You can find many food-related film ideas on Professor Philip H. Howard's website at Michigan State University here: https://www.msu.edu/~howardp/booksfilms.html (many thanks to Professor Howard).

Reflection Papers 30%
Submit 4 two-page 1.5 spaced reflection papers on Sakai. The reflection papers present an opportunity for you to think critically about what you learn in the classroom, from speakers and on tours and from the readings. A well written reflection paper will do more than describe the literature. Think about a theme to unite your reflection paper. What key issues and themes were discussed? How do you link the real world experience with the course materials? Keep quotes to a minimum or don’t use them at all. Post your paper to Sakai after a class session but before class the following week. (i.e., you have readings assigned for one week, listen to a guest presentation and go on a tour. Your reflection paper is due on Sakai for that experience before class the following week). We won’t accept late reflections.

Organizational Experience and Presentation 50%
Do a small-scale food project in partnership with a community organization or local government. The idea is for you to learn about food planning while also providing some assistance to a community organization or local government. You might:
• engage in research on innovative strategies for hosting community gardens
• create a map of grocery stores
• explore the potential to do urban agriculture
• attend meetings for an organization to extend their reach to learn about new food opportunities

Constraints
• While we would like you to be ambitious and creative, remember you only have one semester. A really well done small project is much better than an uncompleted wildly ambitious project.
• Because of the time constraints in the semester, we won’t be able to do any research that involves human subjects. For example, if the organization would like you to survey neighborhood residents, I think it would be next-to-impossible to get through the IRB process in time to make this a doable project within a semester.
Getting Started
• Contact an organization or municipality that is working on food security
• Ask them what would be useful for their work
• Develop a one page proposal
• Create a timeline (with intermediate production reports based on the timeline below)
• Get project approval from organization and instructors
• Conduct research
• Produce project (report or could be some other output depending on the type of project you develop. You might produce a video, build a website, attend meetings etc... You will need to write a two-page summary of your project if you do something other than produce a paper/report).
• Submit project to organization and instructors
• Present project to class

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<tr>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>• Add 4 organizations to Sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>• Identify organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>• Contact organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>• Develop one page proposal with timeline</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28 - March</td>
<td>• Conduct research work</td>
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<td>End of March</td>
<td>• Write draft report</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>• Submit draft on Sakai for feedback (voluntary)</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>• Final report due</td>
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<td>April 25 or May 2</td>
<td>• Final presentations</td>
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Course Schedule

January 24. Introduction

3:00-3:30 Skype Discussion with students at St. Philips Academy, Newark about EcoSPACE http://web2.stphilipsacademy.org/

*EcoSPACES http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UY3sx-LKt6E


January 31. Foundations - Democratic Participation and Neighborhood Planning

2:10-3:50 Michael Powell, NJCDC Workshop on Neighborhood Planning


February 7. Food Systems

2:45-3:45 Presentation: Alison Hastings, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)


*Slocum, Rachel. 2010. “Race in the Study of Food.” Progress in Human Geography. Online first, August 26


View


• Food Systems Network NYC. http://www.foodsystemsny.org/
February 14. Food Security

Speaker: Johann Rinkens, Farmer


*Winne, Mark. Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty. Chapters 1 and 2. (You might enjoy reading more)
February 21. Food and Health


*View

*President Obama and Michelle Obama on the Child Health Food Bill. http://org2.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=Wqukv3pFMKeiKd%2Br%2BKuKqNHaFUNcMAJZ
February 28. Food Politics & Policy


*Food Research and Action Center. 2007. FRAC 101: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization.


View
March 7. Food in Schools

*In class screening of Lunch Line

*Poppendieck, Janet. Free for All: Fixing School Food in America. Chapters 1,2,8.


*Slocum, Rachel, Shannon, Jerry, Cadieux, Valentine, and Beckman, Matthew. forthcoming. ““Properly, with love, from scratch.” : Jamie Oliver’s Food Revolution.”


March 14. Spring Break

March 21. Planning and Food


March 28. Neighborhood Planning Around Food

2:45-3:45 Speakers: Cynthia Mellon, Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark & Meredith Taylor, Isles, Trenton


Treuhaft, Sarah, Michael Hamm, and Charlotte Litjens. 2009. Healthy Food For All: Building Equitable and Sustainable Food Systems in Detroit and Oakland. Policy Link and Michigan State University.

View

- *Design for Health. "Promoting Food Access with Comprehensive Planning and Ordinances”*
- *APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning.*

April 4. Field Trip

12:30 Meet in lobby, board bus to have lunch at A Better World cafe in Highland Park. 1:30, board bus and travel to Elijah’s Promise to learn about culinary arts program, food pantry, soup kitchen, and food policy council [http://www.elijahspromise.net/culinaryschool.htm](http://www.elijahspromise.net/culinaryschool.htm)
April 11. Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens

2:45-3:45 NB Local Visit: Paul Helms, Community Food Security, Elijah’s Promise Local Garden Plots, Elijah’s Promise

*MacRae, Rod, Gallant, Erica, Michalak, Marc, Bunch, Martin, and Schaffner, Stephanie. 2010. “Could Toronto Provide 10% of its Fresh Vegetable Requirements from Within its Own Boundaries? Matching Consumption requirements with Growing Spaces.” Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development.


Lawson, Laura. *City Bountiful: A Century of Community Gardening in America.*


April 18. Food, Land Use and Economic Development

2:30-3:50 Panel Discussion in Special Events Forum

- Margaret Waldock, Dvoor Farm and Hunterdon Land Trust
- Brian Lang, Vice President, The Food Trust
- Theresa Viggiano, First Field, http://www.first-field.com
- Jaymie Santiago, Food Policy Institute and New Brunswick Community Farmer’s Market


April 25. Presentations

May 2. Presentations