PLANNING FOR GLOBAL AND LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

URBP 787.48

Fall 2012, THURS 9:10 – 11 AM

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

There is now evidence that the production, processing, and distribution of food, and the disposal of food waste, account for some 25% of global greenhouse emissions. Advocacy by consumers, producers, environmental and public health organizations has heightened debates about food systems, including: the role of the Green Revolution and proposals to further expand food production through biotechnology; food justice and the growth of inequalities in access to healthy food at global and local levels; disparities in the levels of malnutrition, hunger, obesity, diabetes and other food-related illnesses; the role of multinational food conglomerates, global free trade and capitalism; and declining food sovereignty and food security. These concerns have given rise to food movements at local and global levels.

Urban planners are increasingly involved in strategies for change in food systems at local and global levels. Food production has mostly disappeared from within the boundaries of the cities and metropolitan regions of an increasingly urbanized world. However, periurban agriculture has a significant presence in some regions, particularly Africa. In parts of the developed world, including the United States and Canada, interest in the promotion of urban agriculture, local food and the preservation of periurban agriculture has expanded dramatically in only the last decade. Planning for local food security is now a growing subject of policy research and action, moving beyond consumer drives for wider choice towards an ecological, food systems approach. The study of food systems from an ecological perspective aims for a more comprehensive and holistic approach that connects the dots between land, water and air; human, animal and plant life; and economic, social and
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cultural relations. It addresses the relationships between food, culture, race, class and gender.

REQUIREMENTS:

Class participation. Students should come prepared to discuss each topic and minimally read the required selections before class. Except for the first class I will call on students to summarize each of the readings and raise questions and we will organize the discussions around these questions. Students who miss three or more classes will face automatic grade penalties and possible failure.

Report on food culture. Every student should bring to class one recipe and a story that reflects the food culture they grew up in. Bringing samples of the prepared food to class is optional. We will arrange these so that there are one or two reports per class session.

Research papers. Two research papers are required. The first should be approximately 8-10 pages double-spaced excluding references. The second should be approximately 15-20 pages excluding references. The topics of the two papers should be different. You may chose any topics related to this course; we will discuss alternatives in class.

September 20: First paper proposal due: one page statement of research objectives, outline and initial sources.

October 11: First paper due.

October 25: Second paper proposal due: one page statement of research objectives, outline and initial sources.

December 20: Second paper due

No incomplete grades will be given except by prior arrangement and for valid health reasons.

REQUIRED TEXTS [On order at Shakespeare’s on Lexington Ave. & 69th St.)


REQUIRED JOURNAL ARTICLES AND OTHER READINGS (on Blackboard)

Food Security, Special Issue of Plan Canada. 49:2, Summer 2009.

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS

Harry Magdoff, John Bellamy Foster, and Frederick Buttel, Eds. Hungry for Profit.
University of California Press.
Winne, M. 2008. Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of the Plenty.
Winne, M. 2010. Food Rebels, Guerrilla Gardeners, and Smart Cookin’ Mamas:

TOPIC SEQUENCE AND READINGS
(Readings not in required books are on Blackboard)

1. Introduction and overview: The global food system and the paradox of plenty
   Patel, Ch. 1, 6, 10; Shiva Ch. 1

2. Food sovereignty and food security
   Holt-Giménez, Part 1
   Timothy A. Wise and Betsy Rakocy. Hogging the Gains from Trade The Real

3. Farmers, free trade, comparative advantage and capitalist development
   Patel, Ch. 2-5; Shiva, Ch. 2
   Maria del Carmen Vera-Diaz, Robert K. Kaufmann, and Daniel C. Nepstad, The
   Environmental Impacts of Soybean Expansion And Infrastructure
   Development in Brazil’s Amazon Basin. Global Development and
   Environment Institute, Tufts University, May 2009.
   Mamerto Pérez, Sergio Schlesinger and Timothy A. Wise, The Promise and the
   Perils of Agriculture Trade Liberalization: Lessons from Latin America,
   Angotti, New Century of the Metropolis, Ch. 3, 4

4. Food Justice
   Holt-Gimenez, Part 2
5. Biotechnology, seeds and GMOs
   Shiva, Ch. 5-6, Patel, Ch. 7
   Park Slope Food Coop, *Safe Food*
   Video in class: *The Future of Food*

6. Food marketing, consumers and public health
   Patel, Ch. 8,9; Shiva, Ch. 3-4

7. Urban and Periurban Agriculture
   Case study in class: Prospect Farm, Brooklyn


8. Planning for Community Food Systems
   *JPER* articles by Kaufman, Campbell
   *Plan Canada* articles by Kaufman, Caldwell and Dodds-Weir, Turvey and Konyi, Hall, Angotti

9. Urban food assessments, local food policy initiatives, and food justice
   *JPER* articles by Pothukuchi, Wekerle, Clifton
   *Plan Canada* articles by Oswald, Kaill-Vinish, Graff

10. Local distribution systems
    *JPER* article by Vallianatos, et. al.
    *Plan Canada* article by Wegener
    Angotti, “Rotten Fresh Direct”

11. Completing the circle: food waste, composting and recycling
    *Business Food Waste Briefing Paper*. Waste Cap Wisconsin
12. New York City case study

Food Works. NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn, 2011.
Food NYC. Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, 2010.

13. Ecosystemic approaches to urban planning and public health

Holt-Gimenez, Part 3
Angotti, New Century of the Metropolis, Ch. 9

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Classics:


Global Food Justice:


Hunger:


**SOME LINKS**

Community Food Security Coalition [www.foodsecurity.org](http://www.foodsecurity.org)
Campaign to Label Genetically Engineered Foods [www.thecampaign.org](http://www.thecampaign.org)
National Black Farmers Association [www.blackfarmers.org](http://www.blackfarmers.org)
Just Food [www.justfood.org](http://www.justfood.org)
The Center for Food Safety [www.centerforfoodsafety.org](http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org)
Slow Food [www.slowfood.com](http://www.slowfood.com)