

**Food Systems Planning PD 592  
Spring 2013**

Day/Time: Mondays, 3:00-5:40 PM

Location: 205 Diefendorf

Instructor: Samina Raja, Ph.D.; [sraja@buffalo.edu](mailto:sraja@buffalo.edu); 716-829-5881

Office Hours: TBD

**Course objective**

Food nourishes us, enriches our celebrations, and sustains life itself. Yet not everyone in the U.S. has access to healthful, affordable, and culturally appropriate foods. Some people live in neighborhoods where grocery stores carry a greater variety of potato chips than vegetables, while other people cannot afford vegetables even when they are available. The quality of a community's food system has significant social, economic, environmental, and health implications. Planners and policy makers can play an important role in planning and building community food systems that are economically and socially just, healthy, and environmentally sustainable. Despite this important role, planners have only recently begun to pay attention to the food system as a critical component of a community's infrastructure. In this seminar, students will learn to deploy traditional and innovative planning skills to facilitate and strengthen community food systems. Students will critically assess a community's food system and examine the ways in which a community's food system can be transformed – through programs, policy, and planning tools – to ensure access to affordable, culturally appropriate, and good quality food for all.

**Course requirements and grading**

This is a graduate-level seminar course that requires students to think critically, and read and write extensively. Students will discuss weekly readings during class (facilitated by peer discussants as well as the instructor) and prepare a planning/policy report on a food planning topic approved by the instructor. From time to time, the class will go on site visits, watch films, and hear from guest presenters. The schedule for site visits, guest presentations, and films will not alter the reading schedule for the semester.

*Requirements*

1. Assignments

- a. **Life-cycle policy/planning audit of a food item** (20% of final grade) | Trace the geography of a food of your choice from your kitchen-table to its origin (farm/ranch). Then, conduct a 'life-cycle policy audit' of the food to trace the policy regulations (including zoning) the food item must comply with before arriving on your plate. Submit your written analysis in a 5-page report, not including appendices (use 1.5 spacing; 1 inch margins; 12 font size). Be creative in your presentation; flow charts and diagrams are encouraged.

Due date: Monday, Week 4, 3:30 PM (you will also present your audit during class on the same day)

- b. **Planning report** (35% of final grade) | Identify a specific problem in a local food system, and develop a planning approach to alleviate the problem. Submit a written policy/planning report that includes, at a minimum, the following plan elements:
  - a) description of a problem in the food system,
  - b) evidence to understand the baseline conditions, challenges, and opportunities in the food system, and
  - d) planning recommendations for alleviating or resolving the problem.The report should be no more than 15 pages in length, not including appendices (use 1.5 spacing; 1 inch margins; 12 font size).  
Due date: Monday, Week 15, 3:30 PM; (you will present your mini-plan during exam week; date and time TBD)
2. Review readings as discussants (20%); selected weeks only
3. Participation in seminar as non-discussant (i.e. responding to discussants) (15%); selected weeks only
4. Final presentation (10%); Monday of exam week (Time TBD)

*Grading Scale*

A	95% and above
A-	90-94.5%
B+	85%-89.5%
B	80-84.5%
B-	75-79.5%
C+	70-74.5%
C	65-69.5%
D	60-64.5%
F	55-59.5%

**Course readings and books**

Students are required to complete reading assignments before each seminar session. Most course readings are available through UB Learns, on websites indicated on the reading schedule, or through the UB Libraries course reserve system.

Some readings are extracts from books. I encourage you to borrow these books from the UB Libraries (they are available on 3-day reserve at the Health Sciences Library on UB South). You may also choose to purchase them if you wish. If you decide to purchase them, be sure to order them early.

You will be reading between 50 to 75 pages each week. Please ensure that you acquire assigned materials well in advance of each seminar so that you have ample time to finish reading.

**Guidelines for seminar discussants and participants**

*Discussants*

Except in the first week, each week two (or, more) students will lead the seminar as discussants. In your role of a discussant, you will present a critical review of the assigned reading material in the seminar for about an hour. Keep in mind that other seminar participants will also have read the articles – therefore do not simply reiterate what the articles says. Instead, provide an analysis of the

readings. The following questions may help you prepare your review. Feel free to discuss your review with the instructor in advance.

1. What is the key research question/assertion/hypothesis/argument/policy idea presented?
2. Does the evidence in the reading support the key argument or policy idea?
3. Are you convinced by the argument/proposal/policy solutions?
4. What are the potential positive and negative implications of the argument/proposal/solution for different population sub-groups?
5. Reflect on the implications of the article for the following:
  - o Land use conditions and decisions
  - o Economic development conditions and decisions
  - o Transportation conditions and decisions
  - o Environmental conditions and decisions
  - o Fiscal conditions of local governments (revenues and expenditures)
  - o Social justice
  - o Health conditions
6. What are the implications of this article for the practice of planning? <sup>1</sup>
7. What questions were raised or left unanswered by the authors?

Discussants are encouraged to prepared handouts, outlines, or other materials to share with the class.

*Seminar participants*

Seminar participants are expected to have completed the readings, and be fully prepared to respond to discussants' questions, as well as engage them in discussion. A spirited, but respectful, discussion is expected and encouraged.

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<sup>1</sup> Students from other departments may reflect on the relevance of the assigned reading for their own discipline.

**Reading schedule**  
(Subject to modification)

**PART I | INTRODUCTION**

**Week 1**

Pothukuchi, K., & Kaufman, J. L. (2000). The Food System: A Stranger to the Planning Field. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 66(2), 112-124.

Raja, S., Born, B. & Kozlowski Russell, J. (2008). *A Planners' Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning: Transforming Food Environments, Building Healthy Communities*. Planning Advisory Service Report, No. 554. Chicago: American Planning Association. Chapters 1 and 3, pp-2-5; 27-31.

**Screening of documentary film: FRESH (2009)**

**PART II | THE BASICS**

**Week 2 | Food Production, Processing, Retail, and Service**

National Research Council. 2010. A Pivotal Time in Agriculture. *Toward Sustainable Agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. P 43-75. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.

Pullman, Madeleine and Zhaohui Wu. 2012. Fruit and Vegetable Supply Chains. *Food Supply Chain Management: Economic, Social and Environmental Perspectives*.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2012. Animal Protein Supply Chains. *Food Supply Chain Management: Economic, Social and Environmental Perspectives*.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2012. Food Retailing. *Food Supply Chain Management: Economic, Social and Environmental Perspectives*.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2012. Food Service. *Food Supply Chain Management: Economic, Social and Environmental Perspectives*.

**Week 3 | Regulatory environments**

Pullman, Madeleine and Zhaohui Wu. Food Regulations and Verification Mechanisms. *Food Supply Chain Management: Economic, Social and Environmental Perspectives*.

\_\_\_\_\_. Food Safety. *Food Supply Chain Management: Economic, Social and Environmental Perspectives*.

Neuner, K., P. Gooch, and S. Raja. 2012. *Buffalo's Food System: An Assessment of Current Municipal, County, and State Policies that Regulate Buffalo's Food System*. HKHC-Buffalo Policy Brief. Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab, University at Buffalo.

[http://foodsystemsplanning.ap.buffalo.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/HKHCpolicybrieflocalBuffalo\\_FINAL2\\_27\\_2012\\_4.pdf](http://foodsystemsplanning.ap.buffalo.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/HKHCpolicybrieflocalBuffalo_FINAL2_27_2012_4.pdf)

**PROBLEMS IN THE FOOD SYSTEM**

**Week 4 | Hunger, Food Insecurity and Safety Nets**

Poppendieck, Janet. *Sweet Charity? Emergency Food and the End of Entitlement*. Penguin Books.

Nord et al. (2010). *Measuring Food Security in the United States: Household Food Insecurity in the United States*. USDA, November 2010. Report available at:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR108/ERR108.pdf>

USDA (2010). *The Food Assistance Landscape*. FY 2009 Annual Report. Economic Information Bulletin, No.6-7. USDA, March 2010. Report available at:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB6-7/EIB6-7.pdf>

**Presentations of Assignment 1**

**Week 5 | Food disparities and food injustice**

Blanchard and Matthews. (2007). Retail concentration, food deserts, and food-disadvantaged communities in rural America" In Hinrichs and Lyson (eds.) *Remaking the North American Food System*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.

Block, J. P., Scribner, R. A., & DeSalvo, K. B. (2004). Fast food, race/ethnicity, and income. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 27(3), 211-217.

Clifton, K. (2004). Mobility strategies and food shopping for low-income families: A case study. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 23(4), 402-413.

Lewis, L. B., Sloane, D. C., Miller Nascimento, L., Diamant, A., Jones Guinyard, J., Yancey, A. K., & Flynn, G. (2005). African Americans' access to healthy food options in South Los Angeles restaurants. *American Journal of Public Health*, 95(4), 668-673.

Raja, S. Ma, C., & Yadav P. (2008). Beyond Food Deserts: Mapping and Measuring Racial Disparities in Neighborhood Food Environments. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. 27: 469-482.

Wekerle, G. R. (2004). Food justice movements: Policy, planning, and networks. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 23(4), 378-386.

**Week 6 | Environmental impacts and climate change**

Canning, P. et al. (2010). Energy Use in the US Food System. Economic Research Service. March 2010. USDA. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/err94/err94.pdf>

Cuellar et al. (2010). Wasted Food, Wasted Energy: The Embedded Energy in Food Waste in the United States. *Environmental, Science, and Technology*. 44, 6464-6469

Kantor et al. (1997). Estimating and Addressing America's Food Losses. p1-11.

Liverman, Diana and Kamal Kapadia. 2010. Food Systems and the Global Environment: An Overview. In John Ingram et al. (eds). *Food Security and Global Environmental Change*. Washington, DC: Earthscan.

National Research Council. 2010. Chapter 3. Improving Productivity and Environmental Sustainability in US Farming Systems. *Toward Sustainable Agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. P 83-188. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.

**[Due: Policy/Planning Problem; Literature Review/Best Practices]**

**AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH: COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Week 7 | Efforts to Restore Community Food Systems**

- Gillespie, Gilbert, et al. (2007). "Farmers' Markets as keystones in rebuilding local and regional food systems. in Hinrichs and Lyson (eds.) *Remaking the North American Food System*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.
- Ostrom, Marcia Ruth. (2007). Community Supported Agriculture as an Agent of Change: Is it working? in Hinrichs and Lyson (eds.) *Remaking the North American Food System*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.
- National Research Council. 2010. Chapter 5. Examples of Farming System Types for Improving Sustainability. *Toward Sustainable Agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. P 221-269. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.
- Vallianatos, M., Gottlieb, R., & Haase, M. A. (2004). Farm-to-school: Strategies for urban health, combating sprawl, and establishing a community food systems approach. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 23(4), 414-423.
- Raja, S., Born, B. & Kozlowski Russell, J. (2008). *A Planners' Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning: Transforming Food Environments, Building Healthy Communities*. Planning Advisory Service Report, No. 554. Chicago: American Planning Association. Case studies only. pp. 83-90

**Week 8 | Field Trip: Massachusetts Avenue Project [TBC]**

**PLANNING STRATEGIES TO FACILITATE COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Week 9 | Theoretical approaches to planning for community food systems**

- Born, B., & Purcell, M. (2006). Avoiding the local trap: Scale and food systems in planning research. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 26(2), 195-207.
- Caton Campbell, M. (2004). Building a common table: The role for planning in community food systems. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 23(4), 341-355.
- Erickson, Polly et al. 2010. The Value of a Food System Approach. *Food Security and Global Environmental Change*. In John Ingram et al. (eds). *Food Security and Global Environmental Change*. Washington, DC: Earthscan. [Read carefully the section "Theoretical concepts for framing food systems and global environmental change.]
- Feagan, Robert. The place of food: mapping out the 'local' in local food systems. *Progress in Human Geography*.
- Hamm, Michael. (2007). Localization in a Global Context" in Hinrichs and Lyson (eds.) *Remaking the North American Food System*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press

**Week 10 | Methods for analyzing community food systems**

- Lev, Larry et al. (2007). Practical Research Methods to Enhance Farmers' Markets" in Hinrichs and Lyson (eds.) *Remaking the North American Food System*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.
- Pothukuchi, K. (2004). Community food assessment: A first step in planning for community food security. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 23(4), 356-377.

Thomson, Joan et al. (2007). Community-Initiated Dialogue: Strengthening the Community through the Local Food System in Hinrichs and Lyson (eds.) *Remaking the North American Food System*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.

Raja, S., Born, B. & Kozlowski Russell, J. (2008). *A Planners' Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning: Transforming Food Environments, Building Healthy Communities*. Planning Advisory Service Report, No. 554. Chicago: American Planning Association. Chapter 5, pp. 83-90

Review the methods used in the following assessments and plans:

Greater Philadelphia Foodshed Study. <http://www.dvrpc.org/Food/>

Food for Growth. <http://www.mass-ave.org/Food%20for%20Growth.pdf>

### **Week 11 | Plans for Strengthening Community Food Systems**

American Planning Association (APA). (2007). *Policy guide on community and regional food planning*.

Available at <http://www.planning.org/policyguides/pdf/food.pdf>

Raja, S., Born, B. & Kozlowski Russell, J. (2008). *A Planners' Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning: Transforming Food Environments, Building Healthy Communities*. Planning Advisory Service Report, No. 554. Chicago: American Planning Association. Chapter 6. pp 91-100.

#### **Comprehensive Plans [Pick one that you are unfamiliar with]**

Madison, WI

Seattle, WA

Harrison County, MS

Toronto, ON - Metropolitan

Boston Metro Region, MA - Regional

#### **Food System Plans [Pick one]**

**Regional Food Plan** | *Eating Here: The Greater Philadelphia Food System Plan*

[http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/publicationabstract.asp?pub\\_id=10063](http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/publicationabstract.asp?pub_id=10063)

**County Food Plan** | *Room at the Table*

<http://foodsystemsplanning.ap.buffalo.edu/index.php/room-at-the-table-food-system-assessment-of-erie-county/>

**Municipal Food Plan** | *Foodworks: A vision to Improve NYC's Food System*

[http://www.council.nyc.gov/downloads/pdf/foodworks\\_fullreport\\_11\\_22\\_10.pdf](http://www.council.nyc.gov/downloads/pdf/foodworks_fullreport_11_22_10.pdf)

**Neighborhood Food Plan** | *Food for Growth*

<http://foodsystemsplanning.ap.buffalo.edu/index.php/896/>

**[Due: Policy/Planning Problem; Literature Review; Methods and Data, Preliminary Policy Proposal]**

### **Week 12 | Public Institutions for Rebuilding Food Systems**

Clancey, Kate, Janet Hammer, and Debra Lippoldt. (2007). "Food Policy Councils" In Hinrichs and Lyson (eds.) *Remaking the North American Food System*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.

Roberts, Wayne. 2010. Food Policy encounters of a third Kind: How the Toronto Food Policy Council Socializes for Sustain-ability. Chapter 10 in Alison Blay-Palmer (ed.) *Imagining Sustainable Food Systems: Theory and Practice*. Ashgate.

Harvard Law School, Food Law and Policy Clinic. 2012. *Good Laws, Good Food: Putting Food Policy to Work for our Communities*. Harvard University.

[http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/lsc/documents/FINAL\\_LOCAL\\_TOOLKIT2.pdf](http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/lsc/documents/FINAL_LOCAL_TOOLKIT2.pdf)

**Week 13 | Regulatory and Economic Development Incentives**

NYC. 2009. Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH).

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/fresh/index.shtml>

Raja, S., Born, B. & Kozlowski Russell, J. (2008). *A Planners' Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning: Transforming Food Environments, Building Healthy Communities*. Planning Advisory Service Report, No. 554. Chicago: American Planning Association. Chapter 2 only.

Pothukuchi, K. (2005). Attracting supermarkets to inner-city neighborhoods: Economic development outside the box. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 19(3), 232-244.

Schukoske, J. E. (2000). Community development through gardening: State and local policies transforming urban open space. *Journal of Legislation and Public Policy*, 3, 351-392.

**Week 14 | TBD**

**Week 15 | Where do we go from here? Food security, food justice, food sovereignty**

Hinrichs, Clare and Elizabeth Barham. (2007). "A Full Plate: Challenges and Opportunities in Remaking the Food System" in Hinrichs and Lyson (eds.) *Remaking the North American Food System*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press. pp.345-356.

Obersteiner, Michael, et al. 2010. Green Food Systems for 9 Billion. pp 301-317. In John Ingram, Polly Ericksen, and Diana Liverman (eds). *Food Security and Global Environmental Change*. Washington DC: Earthscan Press.

**[Due: Policy/Planning Problem; Literature Review/Best Practices; Methods and Data, Findings, and Planning/Policy Recommendations]**

**Final Presentation – Date to be announced**



**Important notes**

Assistance

If you have a physical, learning or psychological disability that makes it difficult for you to carry out the coursework as outlined and requires accommodations, such as recruiting note-takers, readers, or extended time on assignments, please contact the Office of Disability Services within the first two weeks of the semester. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is located in 25 Capen Hall and may be reached at 645-2608. ODS will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodation.

Integrity

Students are expected to uphold UB's policies on academic integrity. According to UB guidelines "plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials" (Office of Judicial Affairs & Student Advocacy: Article 1: Definitions, No.15). **Failure to demonstrate academic integrity (through plagiarism or cheating of any kind) will result in a failing grade of 'F' for the entire course.**

Communication

I will rely on UB Learns (including its e-mail function) as a primary means of communication with students outside the classroom. You are responsible for checking the UB Learns course page and your UB e-mail account on a regular basis.