Course Description

The purpose of this course is to build knowledge of the food system from local planning and policy and applied economic perspectives. The food economy, planning and policy have traditionally been considered a national domain, and has dealt with issues such as public health, nutrition, anti-hunger, food safety, food labeling, international trade and food aid. In the past several years, however, food has been recognized as an issue for local governance, planning and economic development. Community food governance and planning (or lack thereof) affects the ways that people produce, obtain, consume and dispose of their food. Food decisions affect where and how food can be grown, where and how food can be accessed, and how food is integrated into broader community goals.

The intent of the course is to familiarize students with key players and issues related to the practice of food system planning (the process and practice of creating and implementing food policies) and how this practice interfaces with the economy - and to place these issues in a global context. Further, basic issues in our conventional food system (production, distribution, marketing, and disposal of food), particularly with regard to those elements that may be influenced by civic action and public regulation, will be addressed. Building on these basic issues, the course will provide the fodder to examine and critique alternatives to this system (e.g., urban farming, local foods, direct markets, civic agriculture). The class is structured to develop and challenge participants’ thinking through readings, lectures, interaction with participants in alternative food system, and structured discussion. At the end of the class, students should have an increased understanding of food systems as a planning and community development topic.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the current state of the global food system.
- Recognize trends in the global food system affecting local conditions.
• Identify the many actors in the food system and the perspectives they bring to food system planning and practice.
• Identify the roles of the local policy-makers, planners and economic developers in food system development.
• Critique alternative food system strategies.
• Apply information about the challenges of, and solutions to, current food system failures.
• Hone and improve communication and presentation skills.

**Course Materials**


Students can access textbook information via the Barnes & Noble bookstore website: www.shopOhioState.com as well as from their BuckeyeLink Student Center. This information is disseminated by B&N to all area bookstores. You may buy from a store of your choice and/or shop for books (always use ISBN# for searches) on line.

All additional articles and reports are available Carmen or via a link on the syllabus.

**Grading and Assignments**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Discussion of Readings</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy Food Access Report 1 (Due 9/22 by 5 PM)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy Food Access Report 2 (Due 10/13 by 5 PM)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Brief Lite (Due 11/18 by 5 PM)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (12/17, 10:00am-11:45am)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Grading scale:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>93 - 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>88 - 89</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>83 - 87</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 77</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 72</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>64 - 67</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>63 &amp; below</td>
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The instructor reserves the right to curve the final grades, depending on the overall performance of the class.

**Class Participation**

Class participation is a critical part of this class because it prepares students for all other assignments and the final exam. Class participation includes coming to class prepared (having read and thought about the assigned materials) and participating in in-class discussions and exercises. While voluntary contribution is preferred, you can expect that you may be called upon at any time, whether to open class discussion with a summary of the key issues covered in the readings or to answer a specific question. After each class, the instructor will take notes on students’ contributions to the class session.

**Carmen Discussion of Readings**

For each day’s set of readings, a study question is posted as a new topic under the “Daily Question” forum in Carmen. These questions are designed to reinforce key concepts from the reading materials and
to engage critical thinking about how the materials relate to food system planning and policy. These questions are designed to prepare you for class discussion and for the eventual final exam.

Of the 25 sets of readings, you are expected to contribute to a minimum of 10 Carmen discussions. A response is considered complete if you contribute original content. For example, you can agree with another student’s response, but you must provide further thoughts of your own or explain why you agree. You are welcome (and encouraged) to prepare more than the minimum of responses. There is no one right answer, but there are insufficient responses. Contributions are due PRIOR to the class session within which the reading is covered. Each contribution is worth 1% point for a total of 10%.

Healthy Food Access Exercise and Reports 1 and 2
The purpose of this activity is to provide students with an opportunity to explore the food access gap environment to better inform the planning and community economic development process. Instructions are available for these two assignments on Carmen and further discussion about the assignment will take place during class. The first written report is due by 5 PM on September 22nd. The report is to be placed in the Carmen Dropbox titled for this assignment. Any late work will be reduced by one full grade level for each day the assignment is late. Day one starts immediately after the assignment is due. The second report is due by 5 PM on October 13th by 5 PM.

Policy Brief Lite
In teams of three or four, you will write a very short public policy brief on a recommended approach a community decision-making body food system topic to address a food system failure. The purpose of this exercise is for you to develop a more in-depth and critical understanding of a community food system topic not covered in class, but of interest to you, and to apply basic concepts from readings and class discussion. Instructions are available for this assignment on Carmen and further discussion about the assignment will take place during class. This assignment is due November 18th by 5 PM.

Final Exam
The short essay-based comprehensive final exam covers major class concepts. A review session will be offered. The date will be determined collectively in class. Writing and reviewing entries for the Carmen Discussion of Readings will help prepare students for the final exam. Our scheduled final exam is December 17th, 10:00am-11:45am.

Attendance Policy
While I expect you to attend class regularly, I will not take daily attendance. Note that success on class assignments is likely to depend on your attendance record.

Digital Etiquette
Aside from two to three class sessions, lap-tops, tablets and phones are not required for this class. Our draft policy for digital use in class is as follows. First, digital devices may be used for class-related activities, such as note taking and referencing class readings. Second, if are using a lap top that has a screen visible by other students, consider sitting toward the back so as not to distract other students. If you find someone’s use of digital devices distracting, feel free to move. Third, a “digital break” will be offered in most classes, allowing you to use devices for non-class purposes.

Academic Misconduct Policy
It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic
“misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

**Student Accommodation Policy**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/. Students not certified by the Office of Disability Services but with any reason for concern about accommodation should feel free to contact the instructor at their earliest convenience.

**Part 1. The Global Food System and Food System Trends**

*August 28, Course Introduction*

*September 2, The Food System*

*September 4, Food System Trends*

*September 9, Transnational Corporations and Food*

*September 11, Transnational Corporations and Food*

*September 16, Review of Food Policy in the US*

**Part 2. Local Consequences, Healthy Food Access**

*September 18, Healthy Food Access: Physical, Economic, Production and Cultural Access*


**Healthy Food Access Report 1 Due 9/22 by 5 PM**

September 23, Healthy Food Access Exercise Discussion and Solutions
http://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/HFHC_FULL_FINAL_20120110.PDF

Part 3. Agri-Food System Alternatives

September 25, Framing Alternatives

September 30, Alternative Approaches

Part 4. Food System Governance, Planning and Policy

October 2, What is Local and State Food Policy?

Day Farnsworth, Lindsey. 2014. Local Food System Policy. Community, Local and Regional Food Systems eXtension Community of Practice. Accessed 7/8/14:
http://www.extension.org/pages/70527/local-food-system-policy#.U7xvk_ldXT0

http://cccfoodpolicy.org/sites/default/files/resources/planning_to_eat_sunybuffalo.pdf

October 7, Local Food System Governance

October 9, Planners and the Food System

**Healthy Food Access Report 2 Due 10/13 by 5 PM**

October 14, Healthy Food Access Discussion

October 16, Food Policy Councils

October 21, Food System Assessments

October 23, Food System Zoning and Regulation

Part 6. Who is (and is not) Coming to the Table

October 28, Community Food Security, Sustainable Ag

October 30, Civic Agriculture

November 4, Anti-Hunger

November 6, Food Justice and Food Sovereignty

**Part 7. Steps in the Food System**

*November 13, Agriculture and Land Use*


**Policy Brief Lite Due 11/18 by 5 PM – NOTE: No Class Today**

*November 20, The Family Farm and Farm/Food System Labor*


Review the website:  [http://www.whyhunger.org/food-workers](http://www.whyhunger.org/food-workers)

*November 25, Waste and the Food System*


**Guest lecture:** Angel Arroyo-Rodríguez, RS, AICP, Environmental Planner, Program Development and Materials Conservation Unit, Solid Waste Management Planning Unit, Division of Materials and Waste Management, Ohio EPA

**Part 8. Critiques of Alternative Food Systems**

*December 2, What is Local?*


*December 4, Subjects of Alternative Food Practice*


*December 9, Are Alternatives, Alternative?*


*December 17, Final Exam 10:00am-11:45am*