C&ES / AAE 340

ISSUES IN FOOD SYSTEMS

FALL Semester 2017 (3 Credits)
Monday/Wednesday 2:30-3:45
10 Agricultural Hall
Office Hours: Before class or by appointment

Monica M. White, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Environmental Justice
Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
Department of Community and Environmental Sociology
Office Hours: by appointment
312 Agricultural Hall
mmwhite3@wisc.edu
**Course Description:**

This course is centered on the fundamental question: What is the food system and how are communities impacted by and agents in redefining a “community food system?”

In this course, students will engage questions regarding the current state and future directions of the food system and food access. We will examine how regional, social, and demographic categories impact food access and choices and the ways that communities respond to the call for access to healthy food. The course is also designed to offer an analysis of the many voices of the respective food movement(s).

**Course Objectives:**

In this course you will:

- Gain an understanding the difference between a food system and a community food system
- Examine the impact of race, class, gender and other categories on accessing healthy food
- Examine the impact of privilege in the food system and the food movement(s)
- Examine components of the food justice/security/sovereignty movement
- Interrogate our own privilege in the food system

**Assignments**

Throughout the semester, there will be three assignments due at the beginning of class. The purpose of these assignments is to help you think critically about food access for different demographic groups in your hometown and in Madison. You will use these assignments to process, interpret, and digest the materials and reflect on the issues that the readings raise. These papers should be uploaded to Learn@UW. No late assignments will be accepted.

Discussion facilitation:
Each student will identify three class sessions of interest to facilitate discussion. This is your opportunity to engage the class in questions, ideas and examples to illustrate the course readings and materials.

**Required Books:**

- Poppendieck, Janet  
- Estabrook, Barry  
- Hope Alkon, Alison and Julian Agyeman (eds.)  
Course Schedule

Week 2—Introductions
Monday (9/11)
Course overview and syllabus review

Wednesday (9/13)
Pollan, Michael
Peterson, Latoya

Supplemental:
Shange, Ntozake

Week 3—Kloppenburg, Pollan and Berry
Monday (9/18)
Kloppenburg, Jack, John Hendrickson, and G.W. Stevenson
1996 "Coming in to the foodshed." Agriculture and Human Values 13:3 (Summer): 33-42.
Supplemental:
Kloppenburg, Jack,

Wednesday (9/20)
Pollan, Michael
Berry, Wendell

Assignment 1 due—Four Questions

Week 4---Other Voices, Other Rooms
Monday (9/25)
Kendall, Erica
2013 “The unbearable whiteness of eating: how the food culture war affects Black America.” From the blog a black girl’s guide to weight loss, at

DuPuis, E. Melanie and David Goodman

Supplemental:
Twitty, Michael
2011 “The unbearable taste.” Common-Place 11:3 (April).
Guthman, Julie,
2007 “Commentary on teaching food: why I am fed up with Michael Pollan et al.”
Agriculture and Human Values 24: 261-264.
Ehrenreich, Barbara

**Wednesday (9/27)**
George, Susan

United Nations

**Week 5—Hunger: Abroad and At Home**
**Monday (10/2)**
Conway, Gordon
Holt-Gimenez, Eric
2011 “Food security, food justice, or food sovereignty?: Crises, food movements, and regime change.” Chapter 14 in Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman (eds.), Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

**Wednesday (10/4)—Feeding Wisconsin Guest Speaker**
Poppendieck, Janet

**Assignment 2 Due—Friends and Food Access in Madison**

**Week 6—Hunger at Home**
**Monday (10/9)**
Poppendieck, chapters 4-7
**Wednesday (10/11)**
Poppendieck, chapters 8-9 and conclusion

**Week 7—Fair/Just Food**
**Monday (10/16)**
Alkon, Alison Hope and Julian Agyeman  
Freeman, Andrea  

**Wednesday (10/18)**
Cole, Teju  
McIntosh, Peggy  
Guthman, Julie  
2011 “‘If they only knew’: The unbearable whiteness of alternative food.” Chapter 12 in Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman (eds.), Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

**Week 8—Fair/Just Food II**
**Monday (10/23)**
Race, Class, and Food Access in Madison—bring computer to class

**Wednesday (10/25)**
White, Monica  
Morales, Alfonso  

**Week 9—Cooking and Thinking**
**Monday 10/30**
Pollan, Michael  
Wednesday 11/1
Ethnic/Cultural Potluck?

Gender and Food in Class Assignment

Week 10—Food and Women’s Bodies
Monday (11/6)
Bordo, Susan
Counihan, Carole M.

Wednesday (11/8)
Guthman, Julie
2007 “Can’t stomach it: How Michael Pollan et al. made me want to eat Cheetos.” Gastronomica (Summer): 75-79.

Week 11—Food and Laboring Bodies
Monday (11/13)
Estabrook, Barry

Wednesday (11/15)
Estabrook, pages 97-197

Week 12—Holiday Week—Family Member Interview

Week 13—Genetic Engineering
Monday (11/27)
Kloppenburg, Jack

Wednesday (11/29) (Guest: Irwin Goldman, UW Dept. of Horticulture)
Harmon, Ronald, Pamela
Goldman, Irwin, William Tracy, Stephen Jones, John Navazio, Michael Sligh, and Matthew Dillon
2014 Response to Ronald.” Unpublished manuscript.
Week 14—Food Movements

Monday (12/4)
Rosset, Peter

Wednesday (12/6)
Simmons, Erica
2013 “Sin maíz no hay país: Cooperation, participation, and community in the Mexican Tortillazo Protests.”

Assignment 3 Due—Family Interview Assignment Due

Week 15—What is Being Done?

Monday (12/11)
Wallace Center

Wednesday (12/13) (Guest: Margaret Krome, Michael Fields Institute)
Wilde, Parke
Kloppenburg, Jack
2004 “Willy St. Co-op is best choice because it’s more than a food store.” The Capital Times (August 23): 9A.

What can I do?

Monday (12/13)
George, Susan
Alkon, Alison Hope and Julian Agyeman

Grading:
Participation (Blog and discussion) 33%
Assignments 3@33 pts each 33%
Family Food Interview 33%
--------------------------------------------------------------------
100%