



Image from: www.kitchenstewardship.com

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

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Department of Community and Environmental Sociology

Office Hours: by appointment

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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

1998 *Sweet Charity: Emergency Food and the End of Entitlement*. New York, NY: Penguin Books.

Estabrook, Barry

2011 *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit*. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing.

Hope Alkon, Alison and Julian Agyeman (eds.)

2011 *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Course Schedule

Week 2—Introductions

Monday (9/11)

Course overview and syllabus review

Wednesday (9/13)

Pollan, Michael

2013 “Why cook?” Chapter 1 in *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation*. New York: The Penguin Press.

Peterson, Latoya

2011 “If you haven’t been on food stamps, stop trying to influence government policy.” From the blog *Racialicious-the intersection of race and pop culture*,

[https://www.facebook.com/notes/racialicious-race-identity-and-pop-culture-in-a-](https://www.facebook.com/notes/racialicious-race-identity-and-pop-culture-in-a-olorstruck-world/if-you-havent-been-on-food-stamps-stop-trying-to-influence-government-policy/10150187118107287/)

[olorstruck-world/if-you-havent-been-on-food-stamps-stop-trying-to-influence-government-policy/10150187118107287/](https://www.facebook.com/notes/racialicious-race-identity-and-pop-culture-in-a-olorstruck-world/if-you-havent-been-on-food-stamps-stop-trying-to-influence-government-policy/10150187118107287/).

Supplemental:

Shange, Ntozake

1998 “What’d you people call that?” Pp. 5-13 in *If I Can Cook / You Know God Can* Boston: Beacon Press.

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,

2010 “Impeding dispossession, enabling repossession: biological open source and the recovery of seed sovereignty.” *Journal of Agrarian Change* 10:3 (July): 367-388.

Wednesday (9/20)

Pollan, Michael

2006 “Introduction: our national eating disorder.” Pp. 1-11 in *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York, NY

Berry, Wendell

1990 “The pleasures of eating.” Pp. 125-131 in Robert Clark (ed.), *Our Sustainable Table...Essays*, San Francisco, CA: North Point Press.

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

<http://blackgirlsguidetoweightloss.com/the-op-eds/the-unbearable-whiteness-of-eating-how-the-food-culture-war-affects-black-america/>, accessed January 16, 2014.

DuPuis, E. Melanie and David Goodman

2005 "Should we go 'home' to eat?: Toward a reflexive politics of localism." *Journal of Rural Studies* 21: 359-371.

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

1994 "Berkeley." *Z Magazine* (September): 5.

Wednesday (9/27)

George, Susan

1976 "Rich man, poor man: Who's the thief? Chapter 1, pp. 3-27 in *How the Other Half Dies: The Real Reasons for World Hunger*. Montclair, NJ: Allanheld, Osmun.

United Nations

2013 Excerpts from *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*. New York, NY: United Nations.

Week 5—Hunger: Abroad and At Home

Monday (10/2)

Conway, Gordon

2012 "Acute and chronic crises." Chapter 1 in *One Billion Hungry: Can We Feed the World?* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

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

1998 *Sweet Charity: Emergency Food and the End of Entitlement*. New York, NY: Penguin Books. Chapters 1-3

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

2011 "Introduction: The food movement as polyculture" Chapter 1 in Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman (eds.), *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Freeman, Andrea

2007 "Fast food: Oppression through poor nutrition." *California Law Review* 95:6: 2221-2259.

Wednesday (10/18)

Cole, Teju

2012 "The White-Savior Industrial Complex," *The Atlantic*, available on-line.

McIntosh, Peggy

n.d., "White privilege: Unpacking the invisible backpack."

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

2011 "D-Town Farm: African American resistance to food insecurity and the transformation of Detroit." *Environmental Practice* (December) 13:4:406-417.

Morales, Alfonso

2011 "Growing food and justice: Dismantling racism through sustainable food systems." Chapter 7 in Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman (eds.), *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Week 9—Cooking and Thinking

Monday 10/30

Pollan, Michael

2013 "Step one: finely dice some onions" and "Step six: simmer, below the boil, for a long time." Pp. 125-134 and 179-195 in *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation*. New York: The Penguin Press.

Wednesday 11/1

Ethnic/Cultural Potluck?

Gender and Food in Class Assignment

Week 10—Food and Women’s Bodies

Monday (11/6)

Bordo, Susan

1998 “Hunger as ideology.” Pp. 11-35 in Ron Scapp and Brian Seitz (eds.), *Eating Culture*. Albany, NY: State University Press of New York.

Counihan, Carole M.

1999 “What does it mean to be fat, thin, and female.” Pp. 76-92 in *The Anthropology of Food and Body: Gender, Meaning, and Power*. New York, NY: Routledge.

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

2011 *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit*. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing.
Pages xiii-95

Wednesday (11/15)

Estabrook, pages 97-197

Week 12— Holiday Week—Family Member Interview

Week 13—Genetic Engineering

Monday (11/27)

Kloppenborg, Jack

2004 “Still the seed: Plant biotechnology in the 21st century.” Chapter 11 in *First the Seed*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

Wednesday (11/29) (Guest: Irwin Goldman, UW Dept. of Horticulture)

Harmon, Ronald, Pamela

2013 “Buddhist economics and a GMO rethink.” *Scientific American Food Matters* blog, at <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/food-matters/2013/09/06/buddhist-economicsand-a-gmo-rethink/>, accessed January 16, 2014.

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

2012 “Rural social movements and agroecology: context, theory, and process.” Ecology and Society 17(3).

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

2013 Innovations in Local Food Enterprise: Fresh Ideas for a Just & Profitable Food System. Arlington, VA: Wallace Center.

Wednesday (12/13) (Guest: Margaret Krome, Michael Fields Institute)

Wilde, Parke

2013 “Making food policy in the United States.” Chapter 1 in Food Policy in the United States: An Introduction. New York, NY: Earthscan.

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

1976 “What can I do? Chapter 12 in How the Other Half Dies: The Real Reasons for World Hunger. Montclair, NJ: Allanheld, Osmun.

Alkon, Alison Hope and Julian Agyeman

2011 “Conclusion: cultivating the fertile field of food justice.” Chapter 15 in Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman (eds.), Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Grading:

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

	100%