

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: ENVS 110

Year: 2019-2020

Course Title: Food Systems Seminar I: Introduction to the U.S. Food System

Credit Hours: 2

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Course Description

This seminar course will introduce students to the food system concept, and explore the sustainability of the U.S. food system. Topics covered will include: the history of food and agriculture; environmental impacts of food systems; production agriculture in the U.S. and sustainable alternatives; food processing, distribution, and waste; food and health, food security in the U.S.; and local food systems. Prerequisites: Prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 099 if required by placement testing 100; RDNG 099 if required by placement testing. 2 Cr. (2 Lec.) Fall semester.

Course Context/Audience

ENVS 110 is a required course in the Sustainable Farming and Food Systems and Culinary Arts A.A.S. degree programs. It may also be used as an unrestricted elective.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

Writing: W1 Prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 099 or prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ESL 103 if required by placement testing.

Math: M0 Course requires very little or no math.

Reading: R2 RDNG 099 if required by placement testing.

Course Goal

The student will critically evaluate the reasons behind our current food system and the problems arising from it.

Course Objectives/Topics

Topic	% Course
The student will begin to understand the costs and benefits of current food production and distribution.	Throughout
The student will begin to understand the history of agriculture from the initial settlement of humans to the current centralization of the food system in developed nations.	35%
Students will become familiar with problems associated with the current food system.	Throughout

General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues. ➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information. ➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions. ➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others. 	<p>The course examines relevant contemporary issues and asks students to look at multiple stakeholders and pros/cons.</p> <p>The course emphasizes the importance of considering possible bias in the media and focuses on evaluating sources for legitimacy.</p>
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live. ➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences. 	<p>The focus of this course will be to develop an understanding of how different communities are impacted by the current food production and distribution paradigm. Emphasis is on social justice and food equity.</p> <p>Students will evaluate their roles in the food system and how they, as individual consumers, can support change that brings us closer to an equitable food system.</p>

Instructional Methods

Discussion and guest lectures

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Discussion and participation	20-50%
Oral presentations	0-40%
Discussion facilitation	0-20%
Term paper or multiple smaller written assignments	0-40%
Quizzes	0-30%

Texts

Required:

The textbook used for this class is *Food, Farms, and Community: Exploring Food Systems*, by Lisa Chase and Vern Grubinger (UNH Press, 2014).

Bibliography

This list is for example only, and shows a sample of potential readings. Up-to-date readings will be assigned from the scientific literature and popular press.

Ackerman-Leist, Philip. 2013. *Rebuilding the Foodshed: How to Create Local, Sustainable, and Secure Food Systems*. Chelsea Green, White River Junction, VT.

Green, J and D. Hilchey, 2002. *Growing Home: A Guide to Reconnecting Agriculture, Food and Communities*. Chapter 1.

Guptill, Amy E., Copelton, Denise A., and Betsy Lucal. 2013. *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes*. Polity Press, Malden, MA.

Martinez, S. et al. *Local Food Systems: Concepts, Impacts, and Issues*, ERR 97, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, May 2010.

McMichael, Philip. 2010. *The Peasant as 'Canary'? Not too early warnings of global catastrophe*. In: *Development*, 2008, 51(4), (504–511).

Neff, Ron (Editor). 2015. *Introduction to the U.S. Food System: Public Health, Environment, and Equity*. Jossey-Bass, San Francisco.

Sullivan, Preston, 2003. *Applying the Principles of Sustainable Farming*. NCAT-ATTRA.

Winne, Mark. *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty*

Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition, Volume 4 Issue 3 & 4 2009. *Focus Theme: Food Systems and Public Health: Linkages to Achieve Healthier Diets and Healthier Communities*.