COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Do you produce the food you eat? Probably not, as few in the United States are self-sufficient producers of food today. Until relatively recently, this was not the case. Being able to produce one’s own subsistence was a cherished American value. What changed? Why have rural communities throughout the world moved from producing their own food to consuming food generated in other locales? This course begins with this question. It then turns to explore the recent wave of resistance to this trend. Diverse groups—both urban and rural—are returning to agriculture, reclaiming the simple right to produce one’s own food. Throughout the semester, we will focus on the concept of food sovereignty, which can be defined as the right for people to define their own food systems. Topics to be covered include the transition from family farming to industrial agriculture, the relation between food sovereignty and food security, political economy of agriculture, agrarian values, agroecology, peasant movements, urban agriculture, and food justice.

Course materials
All required course readings are available online through Canvas. There are no required books for this course.

Class participation (15%): Class participation is expected from all students. Each week there will be short web-based articles and reflection assignments built into the modules. Thoughtfully completing these assignments will constitute the class participation grade.

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS (25%)
While reading is a critical part of learning, writing about what you have read is an opportunity to further develop your own ideas about a topic in a more systematic way. As this is an asynchronous course, the discussion forum is the place where we will thoughtfully engage with the course material, hone our analyses of the course content, and engage in dialogue with each other.

For every class you should make a post in that day’s discussion forum. Each discussion post is worth 3 points. Your post (worth 2 points) should contain two pieces of information:

1) Reflections about the readings-Did you agree with the author’s arguments? How did it relate to your personal experiences? Did this make you think about the topic in a new way? Mainly what was your personal EDUCATED opinion of the readings? (1 point)

2) 2 questions you had about the reading that you will pose to the class (1 point)
For full credit (an additional point), you are also required to:
3) Respond to another student’s post. Please make sure your comments are cordial, and constructive. This should not be a simple “I agree with you;” rather, you should offer a focused comment that builds upon the original post to open a discussion. (1 point)

As this course is on an asynchronous web format, you may complete the lecture material at your own pace. There are however discussion posts that are due twice a week that help to create a schedule for the class, and ensure that we are moving forward in developing a nuanced understanding of food sovereignty. Discussion posts are due at 10 a.m. on Wednesday/Friday. Think of this as the point at which you should have completed the readings, and lecture content for that day’s “class”. For each discussion post, please post your original commentary by the night before the discussion post is due at midnight (Sunday/Tuesday) and respond to another student’s post before 10 a.m. the next day (Monday/Wednesday).

Written Assignments (2X 15%=30%)
Undergrads and Grads: (2) Three-page/five-page (UG/G) double-spaced papers (15%); the first will be an analysis of an international food sovereignty struggle; the second will be an analysis on an aspect of agroindustrial capitalism.

Final paper (30%)
Undergrads-15-page paper on professor-approved topics will be due (15%). Students should prepare a one-page précis of their paper three weeks prior to the due date (see dates in syllabus); abstract will count for 5% towards the paper’s 30%. An annotated bibliography will also be due several weeks before the final paper is due (5%; see dates in syllabus). Undergraduate students will deliver a power point presentation on their project during the last class session; presentation length TBD depending on class enrollment (5%).

Grads-20-page paper on professor-approved topics will be due. Students should prepare a one-page précis of their paper three weeks prior to the due date (see dates in syllabus); abstract will count for 5% towards the paper’s 30%. An annotated bibliography will also be due several weeks before the final paper is due (5%; see dates in syllabus). Graduate students will deliver a power point presentation on their project during the last class session; presentation length TBD depending on class enrollment (5%).

Important Dates

| Essay #1 turned in online | January 28th |
| Final project proposal   | February 4th |
| Final project annotated bibliography | February 11th |
| Essay #2 turned in online | February 25th |
| Final paper and presentations (grads) | March 11th |

UNDERGRAD GRADING POLICY

| Participation                  | 15% |
| Weekly reflections            | 25% |
| Essays 1 & 2                  | 30% |
| Final paper                   | 30% |
| Proposal                      | 5%  |
| Bibliography                  | 5%  |
| Final paper                   | 15% |
| Presentation                  | 5%  |
| Total grade                   | 100% |
**GRAD GRADING POLICY**

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**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:**

If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, or if you have medical information you wish to share with me, please see me privately after class or in office hours.

**ESSAYS AND PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

You are expected to demonstrate integrity in your academic endeavors and will be evaluated on your own merits. Be proud of your work and avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty. In all of your assignment you may use words or ideas written by others but only with proper attribution. It means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class.

**WEEK 1: Introduction to Food Sovereignty**

**Day 1: Overview of Food Sovereignty**—(Wednesday, January 5th)


**Day 2: Food Sovereignty and Food Security: Competing Concepts?—(Friday, January 7th)**


**Week 2: Sovereignty and Seed Sovereignty**

**Day 1: Conceptions of Sovereignty**—(Wednesday, January 12th)
Claeys, Priscilla. Food Sovereignty and the Recognition of New Rights for Peasants at the UN: A Critical Overview of La Via Campesina's Rights Claims over the Last 20 Years. *Globalizations* DOI:10.1080/14747731.2014.957929


**Day 2: Seed Sovereignty—(Friday, January 14th)**


**Week 3: Agrarian Visions**
**Day 1: Agrarian Ideals—(Wednesday, January 19th)**


**Day 2: Identity, Autonomy, and Cooperation—(Friday, January 21st)**


**Week 4: Reconsidering the Peasantry**
**Day 1: Peasant Movements, Agroecology and the New Agrarian Question—(Wednesday January 26th)**


**Day 2: Peasant Movement and Repeasantization—(Friday, January 28th)**
**Essay 1 due: Submit via Canvas**


**Week 5: Transforming Urban Agriculture**
**Day 1: Overview of Urban Food Sovereignty—(Wednesday, February 2nd )**


**Day 2: Farming the City?— (Friday, February 4th)**

**Final paper proposal due; submit online**


**Week 6: Race and a Just Food System**

**Day 1: Overview of Race and the Food System—(Wednesday, February 9th )**


**Day 2: Race and Food Justice—(Friday, February 11th)**

**Final paper annotated bibliography due**


**Week 7: Community Gardens**

**Day 1:—(Wednesday, February 16th )**


**Day 2:—(Friday, February 18th )**


**Week 8: Rethinking Place**

**Day 1: Globalizing Place—(Wednesday, February 23rd)**


Day 2: Questioning the “Local”—(Friday, February 25th)

2nd Essay Due


Week 9: Gender
Day 1: Wednesday, March 2nd
Gender, Transnational Politics, and the Politics of Nutrition
Park, C.M.Y; White, B. and J. We Are Not All the Same: Taking Gender Seriously in Food Sovereignty Discourse. Conference Paper # 17. Paper for presentation at Yale International Food Sovereignty Conference, September, 2013.


Day 2: Friday, March 4th
Current Topics in Food Sovereignty

Week 10: Conclusions
Day 1: Rethinking the Rural-Urban Divide—March 9th


Day 2: March 11th
Final papers presentations online