LA 439 Design Studio
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Sustainability theories and practices are premised on first fulfilling essential human needs of food, clothing, shelter, and jobs (1). Basic survival is a local, as well as global, issue: Here in Eugene, more than 12,000 people were homeless at some point in 2015-16 (2), 53% of children living in the county qualify for free lunch programs (3), and almost 25% of the population lives below the poverty line (4). While acknowledging that safety, comfort, love and belonging, and a feeling of self-worth are also basic to human flourishing, this studio will focus on two immediate, physiological needs:

housing and food.

We will be working with SquareOne Villages, a local non-profit, on a site design for Emerald Village, a small community of nontraditional affordable housing. The community consists of 20+ micro-houses to be built on 1.1 acres in the Whiteaker neighborhood. Emerald Village is affordable housing for people with low and very low income levels. This may include seniors on disability, previously homeless people who have lived in transitional housing, or others with a need for affordable housing. Residents of Emerald Village will become members of a housing cooperative, and gain a modest investment in their tenure in the cooperative.

The studio will conduct a series of spatial investigations that examine the relationships between public and private spaces, the hard and soft boundaries that contain space, and the thresholds or transitions between what novelist Georges Perec called "species of spaces." A parallel design concern will be how the landscape can literally nourish the inhabitants of this place. Beginning with basic elements of spatial design, we will explore ways to embed edible systems into design. In some situations, this may be a simple substitution of one (edible) species for another (non-edible). In others, it may be necessary to negotiate perceptions of "messiness" of the productive landscape and suggest changes to a traditional system that advantages efficiency over well-being.

1). United Nations. (1987). *Our Common Future*. Chapter 2: Sustainable Development, "Meeting Essential Needs" http://www.un-documents.net/ocf-02.htm
2). Lane County Releases Annual Homeless Point-in-Time Count Numbers for 2016. http://www.lanecounty.org/Media/News/Pages/PR_HHS_Homeless_Count_Results.aspx
3). Quick Facts about Food for Lane County. (2012). http://www.teameugene.org/orteam/__eventform__/291202_Food%20For%20Lane%20County%20Facts.pdf
4). United States Census Bureau. (2014). Community Facts: Eugene. http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml?src=bkmk