

# LA 410/510 Civic Agriculture Winter 2018

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*The question before us, then, is an extremely difficult one: How do we begin to remake, or to make, a local culture that will preserve our part of the world while we use it? Wendell Berry*

**Introduction** – As the realization that the state of our industrialized food system is neither healthful nor sustainable becomes more self-evident, and that food is the primary defining element shaping how and where we live, communities of all scales are seeking to re-embrace the skills and sensibilities that once defined civilized food production and consumption. Simultaneously, forward-looking thinkers are united in the desire to re-discover and re-develop new methods in which to construct food systems so that they fit into a modern, responsible and more sustainable social paradigm. Civic agriculture is the embodiment of these concepts.

**Course structure** – This course is intended to be a place-based, experiential model of learning where students will identify - and contribute to the actual development and enhancement of – the complex set of constituents and recognized tactics that are required to create and maintain a socially responsible and responsive local food system. Working in teams, students will research, develop and implement various strategies geared towards repairing the damaging effects of industrialized food production and distribution within the campus and local communities.

Course work will be organized around weekly presentations, supported by interpretive activities and field-work. Course activities will consist of discussions, field trips, guest interaction, project critiques and audio-visual presentations. Assignments may include essays, multimedia creations, and class presentations. Two required textbooks will be supplemented by weekly readings and assigned projects.

**Course Objectives** - Upon successful completion of this course students will develop:

- an understanding of the cultural history of American agriculture from the outset, through mechanization and industrialization, to the return to the local vernacular.
- the role of small-scale (non-industrial) food systems in fostering local economies.
- an appreciation of the importance of civic agriculture in shaping human communities.
- a first-hand introduction of actual agrarian efforts to re-invent the local foodshed.
- familiarity with topics relevant to evaluation of locations for site scale urban farming, such as; site cultural history, geology, soils, climate and micro-climate, ecology, hydrology, aesthetics

and zoning.

**Required Texts:**

**Civic Agriculture, Thomas A. Lyson**

**The Essential Agrarian Reader, Edited by Norman Wirzba**

Additional suggested titles can be found in the class section at the bookstore or by going to this web address: <http://literaryduck.uoduckstore.com/CourseMaterials.aspx>

**Student Evaluation Criteria**

You will be given assignments on a weekly basis. The total score for the quarter will be based on a combination of the assignments and participation.

Your grade for the class will be based on the following:

- Food Identity Project (A1) 5%
- Book Review Assignment (A2) 15%
- Neighborhood Mapping and Assessment (A3) 15%
- Term Project (A4 parts a,b & c) 25%
- Attendance / Participation / Style 40%

**Late projects will not be accepted** unless circumstances are discussed beforehand. Each late project will be marked down 10% per class session. After one week from project due date, no late projects will be accepted without pre-clearance.

**A Word about written assignments:**

As with all University writing, you will be graded on style as well as content. Even though we are most interested in hearing about your experience and will give primary credit to the degree to which student work satisfies the spirit of the assignment, points will be deducted for grammar errors, typos etc. You must document all of your source material. If you take any text from somebody else, you must make it clear the text is being quoted and where the text comes from. You must also cite any sources from which you obtain numbers, ideas, or other material. If you have any questions about what does or does not constitute plagiarism, ask! Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. Fortunately, it is also easy to avoid and if you are the least bit careful about giving credit where credit is due you should not run into any problems.

*Policy Statement on Academic Honesty*

*All work submitted in this course must be your own and originally produced for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Students are encouraged to work together and assist one another, but unless an assignment is specifically assigned as a team project, each student is expected to complete their own work individually. See the UO guide to avoiding plagiarism:*

*<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt as to the requirements or the nature of specific projects in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor before you complete the project/activity in question.*

*Students will not have the opportunity to rewrite a paper or exam if they commit plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will be discussed with the student, and be sent to review by Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS) as deemed necessary by the instructor.*

Any disagreement between the instructor and the student about the act of plagiarism is automatically sent to SCCS. If SCCS finds that a student has plagiarized, that student will receive an "F" for the course.

Remember, improper citation is plagiarism. If you have questions about citation please talk to the instructor, GTF or get help from the Writing Center. Also please review the following if you have questions: <http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism/styleguides>

## LA 410/510 Civic Agriculture • Winter 2018

### Working Calendar

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1	<b>January 9</b> <b>A#1 Give out Food Identity Assignment</b> Review syllabus <b>Assignment</b>	<b>January 11</b> Neighborhood Field Walk. (Weather Permitting) <b>A#2 Give out Book Review</b>  (due week 6) <b>A#3 Give out Neighborhood Assessment / Opportunity assignment</b> (due week 4)
<b>Reading-</b>	Lyson • Chapter I (Introduction Community/ Local Food Culture) EA Reader - Forward (Barbara Kingsolver), Why Agrarianism Matters (Norman Wirzba)	
2	<b>January 16</b> <b>A#1 Food Identity Due/Review</b> Discussion starter: History of Community/Civic Gardens Share Term-assignment/example(s) Assign A#3 team segments	<b>January 18</b> Field Work: Amazon Segment Re-con
<b>Reading-</b>	Lyson Ch 2 From Subsistence to Production EA Reader – The Agrarian Standard (Wendell Berry)	
3	<b>January 23</b> Discussion starters: Dan Barber Parable Industrialization Neighborhood Assessment demo <b>A#4 (a,b,c) 'Field Operations Task Force' assigned</b> Share Term-assignment/example(s)	<b>January 25</b>  Campus Farming Food for Lane County Garden Projects, School Garden Project
<b>Reading-</b>	Lyson Ch 3 Industrialization of food in US * Sayre, Designing for Change Bettman, Chapter 5 (Canvas)	
4	<b>January 30</b> Globalization and Industrialization	<b>February 1</b>  <b>A#3 (Neighborhood) due</b>
<b>Reading-</b>	Lyson Ch 4 Global Supply Chain EA Reader – Globalization and the War against Farmers... Vandana Shiva	
5	<b>February 6</b>  Field Trip to Hummingbird	<b>February 8</b>  "Wasted"
<b>Reading-</b>	Lyson Ch 5 Toward a Civic Agriculture	

\* Nabham, Our Coming Food Crisis (Canvas)

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6	<b>February 13</b> <b>A#4 (a) due</b>	<b>February 15</b>
<b>Reading-</b>	Lyson Ch 6 Community Development EA Reader – TBA	“Place at the Table”
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7	<b>February 20</b> <b>(Individual Field Work)</b>	<b>February 22</b> Class De-Briefing/ Strategy
<b>Reading-</b>	Lyson Ch 7 From Commodity Agriculture to Civic Agriculture	<b>A#2 (Book Review) due</b>
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8	<b>February 27</b> <b>Field Work Project</b>	<b>March 1</b> TBA <b>A#4 (b) due</b>
	Work day (Local Fun Stuff)	TBA
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9	<b>March 6</b> Work in class on #4c	<b>March 8</b> <b>A#4 (c) presentations</b>

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\* Denotes optional weekly reading suggestions

**Possible guest speakers:**

Galen Martin            UO Environmental Studies  
Dan Armstrong        Willamette Valley Bean & Grain  
David Stucky, Jan Spenser, Allen Hancock   Panel on Eugene backyard farming  
Charlie Tilt             Hummingbird Wholesale

**Assignment due-dates compressed:**

Assignment 1 ‘Food Identity’	January 16
Assignment 2 ‘Book Review’	February 15
Assignment 3 ‘Neighborhood’	February 1
Assignment 4 ‘Task Force A’	February 8
“ ‘Task Force B’	February 27
“ ‘Task Force C’	March 8