

FOOD SYSTEMS: FROM URBAN AGRICULTURE TO AGRARIAN URBANISM

LA 410/510 WINTER 2019



| Time | Location | Credits | CRN |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| THURSDAYS 4pm- 5:50 | Lawrence 231 | 2 | 26872 |

Instructor

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This seminar will set out to examine key notions and developments around food systems, urban form, and landscapes. Food and its production entails a complex web of relationships from the soil to plate. Examining these relationships asks us to engage with notions of culture, identity, ecology, spatial design and social justice. Food systems are material systems; perhaps the one human reality that cannot be dematerialized. As such, they extend through ecosystems, agricultural lands, residential areas and cities. Everywhere that humans go food systems reach; food has determined the shapes of our cities for millennia. Just as we can look at historical food systems and relationships as determinant of urban form, new developments and thinking about food production are sparking a new wave of urban design and landscape architectural innovations.

The relationship between food and cities is fundamental to our lives. From the point of view of spatial design, these relationships are a rich field of investigative potential. We will examine how food has historically shaped urban form. We will encounter notions of food justice, food security, and food sovereignty. Urban agriculture has recently enjoyed a renaissance and is transforming our cities. From there we will encounter the emerging field of “Agrarian Urbanism” — spatial design based upon agrarian ideals. This coming together of design for food production and the creation of urban forms has yielded new developments, such as Agrihoods which integrate large-scale food production into residential areas and give new meaning to the phrase “mixed-use development.” Food and design opens up a new realm of possibilities—new lifestyles, new urban spaces, but it is also necessary to critique these developments through the lens of social justice and accessibility.

This seminar will be reading and discussion based with short essay responses and a final project. We will be coordinating some of discussions and projects with the two other seminars being offered in Winter 2019: Yekang Ko’s LA 459 Sustainable Energy Landscapes and Kory Russel’s ENVS 410 Water, Public Health, and the Environment. This will allow exploration of some key connections between food, energy, and water.

Selected Reading List

Basic Food Systems Terminology: <http://www.pbs.org/food/features/the-lexicon-of-sustainability-terms/>

Galt, R. E., Gray, L. C., & Hurley, P. (2014). **Subversive and interstitial food spaces: transforming selves, societies, and society–environment relations through urban agriculture and foraging.**

Imbert, D. (2010). **Aux Fermes, Citoyens.** In: **Ecological urbanism.** Mostafavi, Mohsen e Doherty, Gareth (eds.). Harvard University e Lars Publishers, 312-323.

Ingersoll, R. (2013). **Eat the City.** Places Journal. <https://placesjournal.org/article/eat-the-city/>

Irvine, S. (2012). **Carrot City: Creating Places for Urban Agriculture.**

Lyson, T. A. (2007). **Civic agriculture and the North American food system.** Remaking the North American food system: Strategies for sustainability, 19-32.

Mares, T. M., & Peña, D. G. (2010). **Urban agriculture in the making of insurgent spaces in Los Angeles and Seattle.** Insurgent public space: Guerrilla urbanism and the remaking of contemporary cities, 241-254.

Markham, L. (2014). **Gentrification and the urban garden.** The New Yorker.

Mayes, C. (2014). **An agrarian imaginary in urban life: Cultivating virtues and vices through a conflicted history.** Journal of agricultural and environmental ethics, 27(2), 265-286.

Nairn, M., & Vitiello, D. (2009). **Lush lots: Everyday urban agriculture.** Harvard Design Magazine, 31, 1-8.

Patel, R. (2009). **Food sovereignty.** The Journal of Peasant Studies, 36(3), 663-706.

Patton-López, M. M., López-Cevallos, D. F., Cancel-Tirado, D. I., & Vazquez, L. (2014). **Prevalence and correlates of food insecurity among students attending a midsize rural university in Oregon.** Journal of nutrition education and behavior, 46(3), 209-214.

Potteiger, M. (2013). **Eating Places Food Systems, Narratives, Networks, and Spaces.** Landscape Journal, 32(2), 261-275.

Steel, C. (2013). **Hungry city: How food shapes our lives.** Random House.

Thompson, P. B. (2010). **The agrarian vision: Sustainability and environmental ethics.** University Press of Kentucky.

Waldheim, C. (2010). **Notes toward a history of agrarian urbanism.** Places Journal. <https://placesjournal.org/article/history-of-agrarian-urbanism/>

Wirzba, N. (2003). Introduction: **Why agrarianism matters—even to urbanites.** The Essential Agrarian Reader: The Future of Culture, Community, and the Land.

Viljoen, A., & Bohn, K. (2014). **Second nature urban agriculture: designing productive cities.** Routledge.