



SW 799-006: Food Justice or Community Practice, Food Systems and Social Justice

**Instructors:**

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**Class Meeting Times**

Thursday May 26 & Friday May 28, 2016

9am-5pm

Room: 3752 SSWB

**Course Description**

This course is designed to fill a gap of knowledge not previously addressed in the MSW curriculum regarding the intersection of food systems and social justice. It will facilitate students' exploration and understanding of the important role that the food system plays in families, communities, and government policies. We will explore the inequalities that exist in the food system including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), urban/rural food deserts, agriculture as a community intervention, the role of undocumented workers in food production, the role that food plays in cultures, and case studies of political/social movements that have altered the direction of our food system. The course will have a level of flexibility to accommodate student interests and will include in-class guest speakers from Southeastern Michigan's dynamic community food activism leaders.

**Preparations for Class**

- **Readings (in Canvas):** before class read the articles found on the course site.
- **Assignment 1:** Write 2-3 pages on what "Food Justice" means to you. (12 pt font, 1 inch margins, double spaced). This is to be completed and brought to our first class.
- **Assignment 2:** In class group assignment related to a food justice topic. Full assignment details provided in class.

**Course requirements**

**Class Participation:** Participation includes being present, on time, active, and prepared for class and group discussions. Reading the assigned materials prior to class is also required. Active discussion includes asking questions or providing critical perspectives on the readings, and "stepping back" when necessary so others can speak. Students must attend both complete class sessions in order to receive credit for the mini-course.

Your grade is 80% attendance and participation, 5% the food justice essay you turned in, and 15% Assignment 2.

## **Course Policies**

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities**

If you need an accommodation for a disability please let me know as soon as possible. Many aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and teaching methods can be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. I will make every effort to use the resources available to us, such as the services for Students with Disabilities, the Adaptive Technology Computing Site, and the like. If you disclose your disability, I will (to the extent permitted by law) treat that information as private and confidential. For more information and resources, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office at G664 Haven Hall, (734)763-3000 or go to <http://www.umich.edu/~sswd/>

### **Health and Wellness Services**

Health and wellness encompasses situations or circumstances that may impede your success within the program. The Office of Student Services offers health and wellness services that are directed to the MSW student body. Feel free to contact Health and Wellness Advocates Lauren Davis ([laurdavi@umich.edu](mailto:laurdavi@umich.edu)) or Nyshourn Price-Reed ([ndp@umich.edu](mailto:ndp@umich.edu)); 734-936-0961, regarding any health, mental health or wellness issue. This could include need for advocacy and referral to University or community resources, financial resources or counseling. Also contact Health and Wellness using [ssw.wellness@umich.edu](mailto:ssw.wellness@umich.edu). The MSW student Guide to Health and Wellness can be found at [http://www.ssw.umich.edu/current/Health\\_Wellness\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.ssw.umich.edu/current/Health_Wellness_Guide.pdf)

### **Dependent Care Resources**

For students with child or other family care responsibilities, can consult the Students with Children website (<http://www.studentswithchildren.umich.edu>). This site is dedicated to the needs of students at UM who juggle parenting/elder care, study, and work. Resources include childcare, financial assistance, social support, housing, and health care information. The website was created by the former Committee on Student Parent Issues (COSPI). For additional information on work/life support please also visit the Work/Life Resource Center site (<http://www.hr.umich.edu/worklife/>) and the U- M Child Care gateway (<http://www.hr.umich.edu/childcare/>).

### **Religious Observances**

Please notify me if religious observances conflict with class attendance, community participation or due dates for assignments so that we can make appropriate arrangements. Student Code of Academic and Professional Conduct All students should be familiar with the Student Code for Academic and Professional Conduct (<http://oscr.umich.edu/statement>) which holds our students to the highest standards of academic and professional conduct. Unacceptable academic behavior refers to actions or behaviors that are contrary to maintaining the highest standards in course work and includes such actions as cheating, plagiarism, falsification of data, aiding and abetting dishonesty and impairment. Any suspected situations of academic misconduct will be discussed with the student and then reported to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs.