

SOC 324: Food Justice Fall 2016

Professor: Joshua Sbicca, PhD

Class Meeting Time: Tuesday (12:30-1:45 PM) and Thursday (12:30-1:45 PM)

Class Location: Clark Building – C358

Office Location: Clark Building – B265

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-5 PM, Wednesday 3:30-5 PM or by appointment

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Teaching Assistant: Becca Eman: Email – reman227@gmail.com; Office Location – Clark B267;

Office Hours – Tuesday, Thursday 11 AM-12:15 PM, Wednesday 12:45-1:15 PM

Course Description

Food justice includes all ideas and practices that strive to eliminate exploitation and oppression and challenge the structural drivers of all forms of inequality within and beyond the food system. As a practice, food justice advocates for the right to healthy food that is produced justly, recognizes diverse cultural foodways and histories, and promotes equitable distribution of resources, democratic participation, and control over food systems. This focus on social justice broadens the predominant emphasis on environmental sustainability within most alternative food politics in the United States. Food justice, therefore, prioritizes addressing the root causes of problems, like capitalism, institutional racism, and patriarchy, while also recognizing the potential of creating just alternatives. Not only does this course delve into some of the ways in which food related inequities are produced and maintained, it focuses on how the food justice movement is working toward solutions. Because of the movement's wide ranging commitments, you will also learn about how food justice draws on movements for economic, gender, racial, and environmental justice, and explore the possibilities for building innovative cross-movement ties that engage in both confrontational and prefigurative food politics.

Course Objectives

- 1) Read scholarly, popular, and social movement texts that explore the production of inequities within and beyond the food system and how the food justice movement is mobilizing in response.
- 2) Watch films, documentaries, and video clips that examine the sociological intersections between class, gender, race/nationality/ethnicity, and geography that shape food justice activism.
- 3) Engage in critical, but respectful debate on a) why social inequities are produced and maintained in the food system, food movements, and society more broadly; b) how groups are organizing to address these inequities; c) why it is necessary to simultaneously challenge structural drivers of problems and create alternatives; and d) how food justice relates to other social justice movements.

Goals and Learning Outcomes

- 1) Understand and articulate the production and maintenance of social inequities.
- 2) Develop critical analyses of the historical and geographical forces intersecting with the food system.
- 3) Develop tools to dissect power relations between food-based social movements and countermovements in the context of systems of domination (e.g. white supremacy, imperialism) and exploitation (e.g. capitalism, slavery).
- 4) Critically evaluate claims made by authorities and in the media regarding issues pertaining to food and agriculture.
- 5) Link personal history to food related histories of privilege, oppression, and resistance.
- 6) Realize that one can work toward food justice in concert with others.
- 7) Cultivate analytic, discussion, public speaking, research, and writing skills.

Reading Requirements

The required readings are a combination of books and selected articles or chapters. Below are the books that you need to purchase and instructions for accessing the readings.

- Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman. 2011. *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*. MIT Press
- Robert Gottlieb and Anupama Joshi. 2010. *Food Justice*. MIT Press

To access electronic readings:

- 1) Go to Canvas for our class: <http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx>
- 2) Once in Canvas go to “Files” on the left hand side of the page.
- 3) You will see a number of folders with different labels. Any electronic readings will be in the “Readings” folder.
- 4) Click on this folder. It will show you the files inside. You have the option to download.
- 5) Once downloaded open up the file.
- 6) My suggestion is to save all the PDFs to your computer. They are named in such a way where you will be able to easily find the readings you have to read for each week. Just cross-reference the syllabus with the file names.

Assignments

Reading Comprehension and Reaction – 10 points a week (140 points total)

- This is a reading intensive course. Starting week 2, you will write a one page, double spaced reaction to the readings for that coming week. These reactions need to be sociological and convey a thoughtful reading of the major themes. Do not focus on minutia. In particular you need to include in each paper 1) How the readings address some kind of social inequity in the food system and/or a solution to that social inequity; 2) One main idea or theme that you found most memorable or important; 3) How this idea helps you better understand the major topic for that week. Reactions are due **Monday evenings by 11:59 PM**.
- **ALL READINGS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE CLASS ON TUESDAY.**

Real Food Challenge Organizing Workshops – 60 points

- Beginning in the fifth week of class, we will spend Thursdays working to bring the Real Food Challenge to Colorado State University. A small group of 2-4 people will facilitate the class in exercises that educate about the Real Food Challenge and mobilize the class to take concrete actions to bring about new food procurement policies on campus. The TA and I will assist in this process, but you are responsible for coming up with the details based on specific campaign materials that we will cover that week. This will run the entire class period. While specific groups of students are responsible for one organizing workshop, this is a collective effort and meant to be a space to work together toward a common goal. **You must meet with the TA in person at least one week before you lead the workshop. Any member of the group that fails to do this will lose 10 points off their final grade.** See handout on Canvas for details.

Participation – 70 points

- Given the hands on learning and organizing for the Real Food Challenge that you will undertake this semester, your consistent presence is required. I will take daily attendance beginning the second week. (5 points a class)

Food Justice Research Project – 160 points

- This project takes place throughout the semester (see due dates below). In short, you are required to write **fifteen pages double-spaced** on a food justice topic of your choice, which is broken up into different papers. Specifically, you must pick a particular social inequity (e.g.

based on race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, place, work, etc.) critically analyze the structural drivers and why it continues, and research the kinds of food justice activism mobilizing in response. Read handout on Canvas for specific details and the point breakdown. This will consist of the following parts:

- 1) A brief **one-page** proposal of your project (Due 9/23)
- 2) A **five-page** analysis of your chosen social inequity in the food system (Due 10/14)
- 3) A **four-page** media analysis of the contested nature of your chosen food topic (Due 11/4)
- 4) A **six-page** analysis of food justice movement strategies and solutions (Due 12/11)

Instructions for Turning in Assignments on Canvas

All assignments must be turned in using Canvas. Login: <http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx>
The syllabus page shows a table-oriented view of the course schedule. You can click on the link for the assignment and complete it through this portal.

You can also go to “Assignments” to find each required assignment. Click on assignment and complete.

All information on this system, including troubleshooting, can be found at:

<http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/student-resources.aspx>. For support go to the IT Help Desk or <http://lib.colostate.edu/services/computers/technical-support-helpdesk>.

Assignment Standards

Assignments need to be double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins. All assignments are due by **11:59 PM** unless otherwise noted. Please include name of assignment, date, and student name (does not count toward length requirements). I expect people to use the American Sociological Association, MLA, or APA standards of citation. Just make sure to be consistent. Please visit the following websites for citation details:

<http://www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/3asa.pdf>,
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/mla>,
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa>.

I will assist any student who needs help. Another great library resource in sociology can be found at: <http://libguides.colostate.edu/sociology>.

For assistance with writing go to CSU’s Writing Studio: <http://writing.colostate.edu/>.

LATE WORK REQUIRES OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION TO RECEIVE FULL POINTS.

Otherwise, I take off 5% of the final grade for each day that it is late.

Grades and Point System*

94 – 100	A	Reading Comprehension and Reflection –	140 points (33%)
90 – 93	A-	Real Food Challenge Organizing Workshop –	60 points (14%)
87 – 89	B+	Participation –	70 points (16%)
83 – 86	B	Final Project –	160 points (37%)
80 – 82	B-		
76 – 79	C+	Total =	430 points
70 – 75	C		
60 – 69	D		
59 and below	F		

* Information on current CSU grading policies for assigning grade points, incomplete grades and other information: <http://registrar.colostate.edu/faculty-grades>.

Academic Integrity

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found in the [General Catalog - 1.6, pages 7-9](#) and the [Student Conduct Code](#). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

Remember that the CSU Honor Code states: *As a student at Colorado State University, I recognize my active role in building a Campus of Character. This includes my commitment to honesty, integrity, and responsibility within the campus community. As such, I will refrain from acts of academic misconduct.*

It is in the interest of learning and skill development that students do all their own work, and refrain from cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession or dispossession of academic materials, falsification, and facilitation.

Disabilities Statement

If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. You may also want to contact Resources for Disabled Students. Phone: 970-491-6385. <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/RDS/>.

Religious Holidays

Colorado State University has a legal and moral obligation to accommodate all students who must be absent from classes in order to observe religious holidays. You will not be penalized for missing class due to religious observance. You are responsible for notifying me in advance of any conflicts.

Final Notes

- 1) I reserve the right to change this syllabus at any time. I will make sure that students are clear on what changes occur.
- 2) Use of smart phones, texting, and perusing the internet is discouraged. This includes laptops. This class requires your undivided attention and participation. You actually take better notes when you write instead of type: <http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/taking-notes-by-hand-benefits-recall-researchers-find/51411>. If you bring a laptop, I expect it to be used for class only.
- 3) There are times when you might miss class. If you are going to be absent, you need to provide adequate evidence for your absence if you are to receive points that would be missed otherwise.

Weekly Readings	Assignments & Holidays
<p align="center">Week 1 – August 23, 25 Food Justice Now!</p> <p>Alkon and Agyeman Introduction Cadieux and Slocum 2015</p>	
<p align="center">Week 2 – August 30, September 1 Power, Profit, and Injustice in the Food System</p> <p>Gottlieb and Joshi Ch. 1 Alkon and Agyeman Ch. 2-4</p>	
<p align="center">Week 3 – September 6, 8 Power, Profit, and Injustice in the Food System</p> <p>Gottlieb and Joshi Ch. 2-5</p>	
<p align="center">Weeks 4 – September 13, 15 Alternative Versus Oppositional Food Movements</p> <p>Allen Ch. 2, 4</p>	<p align="center">Guest Presentation 9/15: Estefania Narvaez-Real Food Challenge</p>
<p align="center">Week 5 – September 20, 22 Limits of Food Movement Strategies</p> <p>Guthman 2004, Ch. 1 Born and Purcell 2006 Besky 2014</p>	<p align="center">Proposal for Final Project Due 9/23</p>
<p align="center">Week 6 – September 27, 29 Decolonizing Food and Food Movements</p> <p>LaDuke 2005, Part 3 Alkon and Agyeman Ch. 9</p>	
<p align="center">Week 7 – October 4, 6 Dismantling Racism (Food Justice Racial Projects)</p> <p>Sbicca and Myers 2016 Alkon and Agyeman Ch. 7-8, 10</p>	
<p align="center">Week 8 – October 11, 13 Dismantling Racism (Food Justice Racial Projects)</p> <p>Sbicca 2012 Aptekar 2015 Ramírez 2015</p>	<p align="center">Food System Inequity Analysis Due 10/14</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Week 9 – October 18, 20 Feminism, Gender, and Intersectional Food Politics</p> <p>Allen and Sachs 2007 Cairns and Johnston 2015 Ch. 2, 6</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 10 – October 25, 27 Feminism, Gender, and Intersectional Food Politics</p> <p>Porter and Redmond 2014 White 2011 Jarosz 2011</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 11 – November 1, 3 Regulating the Food System</p> <p>Harrison Ch. 4-5</p>	<p>Media Analysis Due 11/4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 12 – November 8, 10 Food Labor and Economic Struggles</p> <p>Ganz Ch. 2, 5</p>	<p>Guest Presentation 11/8: Claudia Lifton- Factory Farm Awareness Coalition</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 13 – November 15, 17 Food Labor and Economic Struggles</p> <p>Zitcer Forthcoming Figueora and Alkon Forthcoming Loh and Agyeman Forthcoming</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">FALL BREAK – NOVEMBER 19–27</p>	<p>FALL BREAK</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 14 – November 29, December 1 Land Use Politics, Private Property and Food</p> <p>Wekerle and Classens 2015 Glowa Forthcoming Kerssen and Brent Forthcoming</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 15 – December 6, 8 The Future of Food Justice Movements</p> <p>Alkon and Agyeman, Ch. 13-15 Roman-Alcala 2016</p>	<p>Social Movement Strategy Analysis Due 12/11</p>

Course Bibliography

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