

**PUBP710-015 — Topics in Public Policy: Introduction to Food Policy**

**SYLLABUS**

---

Credit Hours:	3
CRN	20209
Date/Time:	Monday 7:20 pm – 10:00 pm
Classroom:	Arlington Campus, Founders Hall 320
Website:	<a href="http://courses.gmu.edu">http://courses.gmu.edu</a>
Instructor:	Katrin B. Anacker, Ph.D.
Office:	Arlington Campus, Founders Hall 673
e-mail:	<a href="mailto:kanacker@gmu.edu">kanacker@gmu.edu</a>
Office Hours:	Monday 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm Wednesday 6:15pm – 7:15p or by appointment ( <a href="mailto:kanacker@gmu.edu">kanacker@gmu.edu</a> )

---

**Course Description**

This course explores the role of the production, distribution, marketing, and disposal of food in shaping individual, family, neighborhood, urban, regional, state, national, and global health, sustainability, security, hunger, culture, community and economic development. It explores the interaction between food systems and public policies, along with alternative policies, programs and plans intended to improve food systems. Student will conduct three site visits or expert interviews to analyze a food policy issue.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course, students should

- be knowledgeable and understand key issues in food policy;
- have acquired select qualitative skills, i.e., be able to conduct site visits and/or expert interviews in a professional and ethical manner;
- have acquired select quantitative skills; i.e., analyze policies in a quantitative fashion;
- be able to write professional reports based on site visits and/or expert interviews;
- be able to present findings of their site visits and/or expert interviews in a professional manner.

**Class Website**

This class uses Blackboard in order to enhance the online learning experience of students. This website contains select class readings and a discussion board. Source: <http://courses.gmu.edu>.

## Course Materials

### Required Reading:

CQ Researcher (2012) *Issues for Debate in Food Politics and Policy: Selections from CQ Researcher* (Washington, DC: CQ Researcher).

<http://store.vitalsource.com/search?q=issues+in+food+politics>

Pierre Desrochers and Hiroko Shimizu (2012) *The Locavore's Dilemma: In Praise of the 10,000 Mile Diet* (New York, NY: PublicAffairs). [available at the GMU Arlington bookstore]

### Recommended Reading:

Diane Hacker (2009) *A Pocket Manual of Style* (New York, N.Y.: Bedford-St. Martin's).

## Course Requirements:

### Class Attendance/Participation/Behavior

Students are required to attend class. Many educational studies have shown a high *causation* between class attendance and high grades. If students have to miss class for professional, i.e., a time conflict at work, or medical reasons they are expected to notify the instructor in advance and to familiarize themselves with the materials missed in class. Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Many educational studies have also shown a high *causation* between participation in class discussions and high grades. Students are expected to arrive on time.

### Reading Assignments

Students are required to familiarize themselves with and understand the class readings before each class. Readings will be discussed during class time.

### Writing Assignments/Final Paper

Grades will be based on a final paper (75% of the grade) (limit: 5,000 words) and on a final presentation (25% of the grade) (minimum: 15 minutes; maximum: 30 minutes; in Prezi), based on a field project with a **minimum of three field trips or expert interviews. The final paper must contribute to knowledge. The final paper must contain full length transcriptions of the expert interviews.** "No show" presentations will be evaluated with a zero grade for the 25% part of the final grade. Audio recorders for the expert interviews are available at the Collaborative Learning Hub (CLUB) at B117 Founders Hall (contact person: Chris Tilley, [ctilley3@gmu.edu](mailto:ctilley3@gmu.edu), ph. 703.993.7553). Students are encouraged to submit their final papers to *New Voices in Public Policy* (NVPP). Extra credit (5%) will be given for book reviews (limit: 500 words) related to recently published books (i.e., in 2012 or in 2013) on food policy submitted to NVPP.

### Final grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+	over 100.00 points total
A	95.00 points total – 100.00 points total
A-	90.00 points total – 94.99 points total
B+	85.00 points total – 89.99 points total
B	80.00 points total – 84.99 points total

- B- 75.00 points total – 79.99 points total
- C 74.99 points total – 50.00 points total
- F below 50.00 points total

### **Academic Accommodation for a Disability**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see the instructor and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

### **GMU/SPP Policy on Plagiarism**

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus, any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas presented as one's own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another's work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For international students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g., F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. <http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/>

## Course Outline

**January 28 Topic: Introduction to Class, Introduction to Food Policy**

**Guest Speaker:** Aurali Dade, GMU Human Subjects Review Board

**Guest Speaker:** Beth Roszkowski, GMU SPP Library Liaison

### **Assignment (due February 4<sup>th</sup>):**

Complete CITI training, administered by Mason's Office of Research Subject Protections. <http://research.gmu.edu/ORIA/docs/IRB%20Training20060817.pdf>. Inform the instructor via e-mail about completion of the CITI training (no attachments, please).

### **February 4 Topic: History of Food and Cities**

#### **Study Assignments for February 4<sup>th</sup>:**

Carolyn Steel (2008) *Hungry City: How Food Shapes Our Lives* (London: Vintage Books). 53-102. (Chapter 2: Supplying the City). [available via Blackboard]

Peter J. Atkins (2007) "A Tale of Two Cities: A Comparison of Food Supply in London and Paris in the 1850s." Eds. Peter J. Atkins, Peter Lummel, and Derek J. Oddy. *Food and the City in Europe since 1800* (Farnham: Ashgate). 25-38. [available via Blackboard]

Jefferey Sobal (1999) "Food Systems Globalization, Eating Transformations, and Nutrition Transitions." Ed. Raymond Grew. *Food in Global History* (Nashville, TN: Westview). 171-193. [available via Blackboard]

Martha Carlin (1998) "Fast Food and Urban Living Standards in Medieval England." Eds. Martha Carlin and Joel T. Rosenthal. *Food and Eating in Medieval Europe* (London: Hambledon Press). 27-51. [available via Blackboard]

### **Assignment (due February 11<sup>th</sup>):**

Explore a topic for a potential final project, exploring the following websites:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/VA.htm>

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/MD.htm>

Be prepared to present your thoughts in class.

### **February 11 Topic: Food Production: Crops and Livestock**

#### **Study Assignments for February 11<sup>th</sup>:**

CQ Researcher (2012) *Issues for Debate in Food Politics and Policy: Selections from CQ Researcher* (Washington, DC: CQ Researcher). 93-158, 229-end (Chapter 5: Factory Farms; Chapter 6: Farm Subsidies; Chapter 7: Fish Farming; Chapter 11: Animal Rights; Chapter 12: Water Shortages)

Colin Tudge (2010) "How to Raise Livestock and How not to." Eds. Joyce D'Silva and John Webster. *The Meat Crisis: Developing More Sustainable Production and Consumption* (Washington, DC: Earthscan). [available via Blackboard]

Mark Winne (2008) *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press). . xi-xxii; 3-20 (Introduction; Chapter 1: Suburbia, Environmentalism, and the Early Gurglings of the Food Movement) [available via Blackboard]

Michael Pollan (2006) *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York, NY: Penguin Group). 123-133. (Chapter 8: All Flesh is Grass) [available via Blackboard]

**Assignment (due February 18<sup>th</sup>):**

Introduce your final project idea in class.

**February 18 Topic: Food Consumption I: Nutrition**

**Study Assignments for February 18<sup>th</sup>:**

CQ Researcher (2012) *Issues for Debate in Food Politics and Policy: Selections from CQ Researcher* (Washington, DC: CQ Researcher). 159-180 (Chapter 8: Slow Food Movement)

U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2010) *Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2010* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/Publications/DietaryGuidelines/2010/PolicyDoc/PolicyDoc.pdf>

Nicholas Freudenberg and Sandro Galea (2008) "Cities of Consumption: The Impact of Corporate Practices on the Health of Urban Populations." *Journal of Urban Health* 85.4. 462-471. [available via GMU Libraries]

Marion Nestle (2006) *What to Eat* (New York, NY: North Point Press). 3-16 (Introduction) [available via Blackboard]

**Assignment (due February 25<sup>th</sup>):**

Explore three potential organizations or sites for your final project. Be prepared to present your thoughts in class.

**February 25 Topic: Food Consumption II: Security, Equity, and Hunger  
Study Assignments for February 25<sup>th</sup>:**

CQ Researcher (2012) *Issues for Debate in Food Politics and Policy: Selections from CQ Researcher* (Washington, DC: CQ Researcher). 1-92, 203-228 (Chapter 1: Global Food Crisis; Chapter 2: Rising Food Prices; Chapter 3: Food Safety; Chapter 4: Fair Trade Labeling; Chapter 10: Domestic Poverty)

Jane Dixon, Abiud M. Omwega, Sharon Friel, Cate Burns, Kelly Donati, and Rachel Carlisle (2007) "The Health Equity Dimensions of Urban Food Systems." *Journal of Urban Health* 84.1 (Supplement 1). i118-i129. [available via GMU Libraries]

Elaine M. Power (1999) "Combining Social Justice and Sustainability for Food Security." Eds. Mustafa Koc, Rod MacRae, Luc J.A. Mougeot, and Jennifer Welsh. *For Under-Proof Cities: Sustainable Urban Food Systems* (Ottawa: International Development Research Centre). 30-40. [available via Blackboard]

Janet Poppendieck (1998) *Sweet Charity? Emergency Food and the end of Entitlement* (New York, NY: Viking). 1-19 (Introduction) [available via Blackboard]

**Assignment (due March 4<sup>th</sup>):**

Introduce the three organizations or sites of your final projects in class.

**March 4 Topic: Food Consumption III: Obesity  
Study Assignments for March 4:**

CQ Researcher (2012) *Issues for Debate in Food Politics and Policy: Selections from CQ Researcher* (Washington, DC: CQ Researcher). 181-202 (Chapter 9: Preventing Obesity)

Ross A. Hammond and Ruth Levine (2010) "The Economic Impact of Obesity in the United States." *Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity: Targets and Therapy* 3. 285-295. [available at [http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/articles/2010/0914\\_obesity\\_cost\\_hammond\\_levine/0914\\_obesity\\_cost\\_hammond\\_levine.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/articles/2010/0914_obesity_cost_hammond_levine/0914_obesity_cost_hammond_levine.pdf)]

Andrew Rundle, Kathryn M. Neckerman, Lance Freeman, Gina S. Lovasi, Marnie Purciel, James Quinn, Catherine Richards, Neelanjan Sircar, Christopher Weiss (2009) "Neighborhood Food Environment and Walkability Predict Obesity in New York City." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 117.3. 442-447. [available via GMU Libraries]

Marion Nestle (2007) *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press). 175-196 (Chapter 8: Starting Early: Underage Consumers) [available via Blackboard]

**Assignment (due March 11<sup>th</sup>):**

Submit a draft of the abstract of your final paper to [kanacker@gmu.edu](mailto:kanacker@gmu.edu).

**March 11 (Spring Break) Topic: Public Policy I: Local and Regional Policies and the Food System Study Assignments for March 11<sup>th</sup>:**

Pierre Desrochers and Hiroko Shimizu (2012) *A Locavore's Dilemma: In Praise of the 10,000-Mile Diet* (New York, NY: PublicAffairs).

**Assignment (due March 18<sup>th</sup>):**

Submit the abstract of your final project to [kanacker@gmu.edu](mailto:kanacker@gmu.edu).

**March 18 Topic: Public Policy II: Local and Regional Policies and the Food System (cont'd) Study Assignments for March 18<sup>th</sup>:**

Simone Plantinga and Petra Derkzen (2012) "How Food Travels to the Public Agenda." Eds. André Viljoen and Johannes S. C. Wiskerke. *Sustainable Food Planning: Evolving Theory and Practice* (Wageningen: Wageningen Academic Publishers). 79-90. [available via Blackboard]

Samina Raja, Branden Born, and Jessica Kozlowski (2009) *A Planner's Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning*. PAS Report 554 (Chicago, IL: American Planning Association). [available via Blackboard]

American Planning Association (2007) *Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning* (Chicago, IL: American Planning Association). [available at <http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/pdf/foodplanning.pdf>]

Kameshwari Pothukuchi (2004) "Community Food Assessment: A First Step in Planning for Community Food Security." *Journal of Planning Education* 23.4. 356-377. [available via GMU Libraries]

**Assignment (due March 25<sup>th</sup>):**

Provide a status report of your final project in class.

**March 25 Topic: Alternative Food Systems I: Production and Distribution Study Assignments for March 25<sup>th</sup>:**

Julie Guthman (2011) *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press) 140-162 (Chapter 7: Will Fresh, Local, Organic Food Make you Thin?) [available via Blackboard]

Betsy Donald (2010) "Food Systems Planning and Sustainable Cities and Regions: The Role of the Firm in Sustainable Food Capitalism." Ed. Alison Blay-Palmer. *Imagining Sustainable Food Systems* (Aldershop: Ashgate). 115-134. [available via GMU Libraries]

Alison Hope Alkon (2008) "From Value to Values: Sustainable Consumption at Farmers Markets." *Agriculture and Human Values* 25.4. 487-498. [available via GMU Libraries]

**Assignment (due April 1<sup>st</sup>):**

Provide a status report of your final project in class.

**April 1            Topic: Alternative Food Systems II: Community Building, Equity and Consumption**

**Study Assignments for April 1<sup>st</sup>:**

Branden Born and Alon Bassok (2009) "Beyond Bodegas: Affordable Groceries through an Innovative Store Format." *Journal of Urbanism* 2.2. 127-143. [available via GMU Libraries]

Anne Short, Julie Guthman, and Samuel Raskin (2007) "Food Deserts, Oases, or Mirages? Small Markets and Community Food Security in the San Francisco Bay Area." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 26.3. 352-364. [available via GMU Libraries]

Kameshwari Pothukuchi (2005) "Attracting Grocery Retail to the Inner City: Economic Development Outside the Box." *Economic Development Quarterly* 19.3. 232-244. [available via GMU Libraries]

note: April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>: instructor at Urban Affairs Association (UAA) meeting in San Francisco – intermittent access to e-mail – apologies for delay in responding

**April 8            no class** [instructor en route from UAA to AAG conference]

note: April 9<sup>th</sup> to April 13<sup>th</sup> instructor at Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual meeting in Los Angeles, CA – intermittent access to e-mail – apologies for delay in responding

**April 15            Topic: Alternative Food Systems III: Urban Agriculture**

**Study Assignments for April 15<sup>th</sup>:**

Catherine Tumber (2012) *Small, Gritty, and Green: The Promise of America's smaller Industrial Cities in a Low-Carbon World* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press). 65-87. (Chapter 4: Framing Urban Farming) [available via Blackboard]

David Hess (2009) *Localist Movements in a Global Economy: Sustainability, Justice, and Urban Development in the United States*



(Cambridge, MA: MIT Press). 135-160. (Chapter 5: The Challenges of Urban Agriculture) [available via Blackboard]

Wendy Mendes, Kevin Balmer, Terra Kaethler, and Amanda Rhoads (2008). "Using Land Inventories to Plan for Urban Agriculture: Experiences from Portland and Vancouver." *Journal of the American Planning Association* 74.4. 435-449. [available via GMU Libraries]

Andre Viljoen and Katrin Bohn (2005) *CPULs Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes: Designing Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Cities* (Jordan Hill, Oxford: Architectural Press). 3-9. (Chapter 1: New Space for Old Space: An Urban Vision) [available via Blackboard]

**Assignment (due April 22<sup>nd</sup>):**

Familiarize yourself with Prezi. <http://prezi.com/>

**April 22      Topic: Alternative Food Systems IV: Building Local and Regional Food Systems**

**Study Assignments for April 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

Wendy Mendes (2008) "Implementing Social and Environmental Policies in Cities: The Case of Food Policy in Vancouver, Canada." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 32.4. 942-967. [available via GMU Libraries]

Marcia Caton Campbell (2004) "Building a Common Table: The Role for Planning in Best Practices in Local and Regional Food Planning." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 23.4. 341-355. [available via GMU Libraries]

Kameshwari Pothakuchi and Jerome Kaufman (2000) "The Food System: A Stranger to the Planning Field." *Journal of the American Planning Association* 66.2. 112-124. [available via GMU Libraries]

Mustafa Koc and Kenneth A. Dahlberg (1999) "The Restructuring of Food Systems: Trends, Research, and Policy Issues." *Agriculture and Human Values* 16.2. 109-116. [available via GMU Libraries]

**April 29      Topic: Class Presentations**

**May 6        Topic: Class Presentations**

**May 13      Topic: Class Presentations**