



Urban Agriculture

Fall 2018 EAS 554 (3 cr)

Meetings: Tuesdays 6:00-9:00 pm in
3556 Dana Bldg.

Instructor: Dr. MaryCarol Hunter
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Course Description Growing food in the city is an expanding practice in communities with and without food security. Heralded by some as a viable and sustainable supplement to conventional food systems, urban agriculture has many challenges to implementation. This course explores the motivations, benefits and difficulties of farming within the city.

Throughout the semester we will return to this question: Can urban agriculture can be a durable component of the long-term vision for Detroit and other post-industrial cities? The question provides a platform for creative, interdisciplinary consideration of whether and how urban agriculture can provide a socially acceptable and realistic approach to city-building, community building, and human wellbeing.

To balance current theory with practical application, we will use scholarly papers, organizational reports and popular reports. Guest speakers - local leaders deeply involved with urban agriculture in the region, will offer their insights on practical aspects of implementation.

Typically, we'll learn how urban farmers and relevant infrastructures are navigating the issues of equitable land access, community empowerment, growth of sustainable urban food networks, small-scale economics, policy development, environmental and human health, and how cultural diversity and aesthetic expectations influence outcomes.

Course Format Each weekly meeting will include a lecture from me or a guest speaker - local leaders deeply involved with urban agriculture in the region. To balance current theory with practical application, we will read and discuss a selection of scholarly papers, organizational reports, plus timely news stories and video. See Course Schedule, Readings and Assignments below.

Late Assignment Policy For the sake of fairness to all students in the course, deadlines will be strictly enforced. Unless you've made prior arrangements, lateness will impact your grade. If you have trouble completing a particular assignment, this must be discussed with me before the deadline. At the end of the semester, students will be assigned a letter grade on the basis of the work that has been completed. "Incompletes" will be given only in extenuating circumstances under special permission.

Academic Honesty: All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic career. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe; ignorance of what constitutes dishonesty is not an acceptable defense.

Etiquette Our classes will open with lecture, sometimes from a guest speaker. Please, it is very important to arrive and be settled on time. It is also very wise to avoid eating in the classroom. Please arrange your schedule to accommodate a respectful welcome for our speakers who typically are the first activity. Class begins at 6:00 pm straight up.

Evaluation Since informed discussion is an effective method for integrating multiple viewpoints, the assignments below are designed to help you learn how to engage in exploratory and constructive syntheses. You have the opportunity to earn up to 100 points.

Class participation via online discussion (30 points): up to 3 points for weekly contributions for each of 10 reading sets A thorough reading of assigned papers is the pre-requisite for meaningful discussion. Discussion will begin before the class meets with a Canvas Discussion Thread.

* Each week you will make at least 2 Canvas posts.

The **1st** is a brief but thoughtful comment about some aspect of the week's readings. This is **due before 12:00 pm on the Monday before class.**

The **2nd** is a conversational response to the comments from other people in class. This response is **due before 4:00 pm on the day of class.**

Your participation will be assessed by the quality of your input about the readings. Integration of ideas and response to the opinions of others is the objective.

Discussion Leader Team assignment with White Paper (20 points)

Once during the semester you will be a member of a team that will coordinate discussion of the week's topic with a set of insightful questions and prompts based on the assigned readings. Be creative in your approach to facilitating good discussion. The discussion plan must be vetted by me no later than 24 hours before class; it is advisable to begin this process at least a week ahead of time. The team will have the week following the discussion to write a thoughtful and concise synthesis about outcomes (3 pages). Submit the white paper by 5pm on the following Tuesday. After review, the paper will be shared with everyone through CANVAS posting.

Paper/Project (40) with Proposal (5) and Presentation (5)

Proposal - Develop a short proposal that identifies and outlines your topic, its goals and a comment on why it is of interest. The proposal should be 250-400 words long (500 words for team proposals) plus whatever space is needed for at least 3 focal references. Due before Friday, Oct 19th at 10pm.

Paper - Develop a synthetic interpretation of some aspect of urban agriculture of interest to you. A few examples include: methods for activating community interest in UA based on what has been successful in another/other cities; economic realities of alternative food systems; a synthetic review paper that culminates an evidence-based suggestion on how to expand the benefits of UA; a city case-study or comparison of cities where urban agriculture has emerged as an asset to civic life and healthy communities. **The paper must include an application of your ideas to the practice of urban agriculture in Detroit from the perspective of your selected topic.** Research should take you into scholarly arenas. In other words, do not rely on web reports to build your thinking.

A single author paper will be 2,500-4,000 words of thought. This does not include the bibliography or any graphics. The paper must include at least 10 references of which the majority are scholarly papers or organizational reports.

Project – In lieu of a synthetic interpretation, you may develop a creative vision about implementation of urban agriculture in Detroit. The product can be communicated in a variety of forms - including visualization, objects, or toolkit. Format is subject to approval. Regardless of format, the project must include a discussion (with associated references) of theory and/or precedents that support the promise of your vision. Note - A project can be done as a team if approved.

Presentation – Deliver a brief oral presentation on key aspects of your paper/project's topic. Guidelines on presentation will be provided once the scheduling sequence has been decided.

Paper or project is due on day of your presentation.

EAS 554 Urban Agriculture: COURSE SCHEDULE and READINGS for weekly comment + discussion

Opening day – Sept 4 *For and by the people? The nature of food systems emerging within urban settings*

Week 1 – Sept 11

Topic: Can urban agriculture can be a durable component of the long-term vision for Detroit and other post-industrial cities?

Donadieu, Pierre. 2016. Building Urban Agricultural Commons: A Utopia or a Reality? *Challenges in Sustainability* 4(1): 3-9

Drake, L., and L. J. Lawson. 2014. "Validating verdancy or vacancy? The relationship of community gardens and vacant lands in the US." *Cities* 40 (2014): 133-142.

Mancebo, François. 2016. Urban Agriculture, Commons and Urban Policies: Scaling up Local Innovation. *Challenges in Sustainability* 4 (1): 10-19

News: Sweetgreen 2016 Meet the Godfather of Urban Farming, Who's Breeding the Next Generation of People to Feed the World.

Week 2 – Sept 18

Topic: Detroit's Food System

Detroit Food and Fitness Collaborative. 2014. Economic Analysis of Detroit's Food System. Kellogg Foundation, pp 1 – 101.

Leonard. 2015. Growing capacity- How many urban farms to meet the demand for local food? <http://aglaw313.org/> 3 pp.

Pothukuchi, K. 2015. "Five Decades of Community Food Planning in Detroit: City and Grassroots, Growth and Equity." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* no. 35 (4):419-434. doi: 10.1177/0739456x15586630.

Week 3 – Sept 25

Topic: Policy, Law and Equity: Land sovereignty and urban planning for Detroit's future

GUEST SPEAKER: Nick Leonard, Staff Attorney at Great Lakes Environmental Law Center

Cohen, N., and K. Reynolds. 2014. "Urban Agriculture Policy Making in New York's "New Political Spaces" Strategizing for a Participatory and Representative System." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* no. 34 (2):221-234. doi: 10.1177/0739456x14526453.

Leonard, N. 2016. Do I have an "urban farm" or an "urban garden"? : Proposed amendments to Detroit's urban Agriculture zoning ordinance. <http://aglaw313.org/>

Leonard, N. 2018. Unlocking Urban Agriculture's Potential with Municipal Policy. *Natural Resources & Environment* 32 (3) American Bar Association.

Week 4 – Oct 2

Topic: Community Empowerment and Equity

GUEST SPEAKER: Malik Yakini, Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network

Alaimo, K., T. M. Reischl, and J. O. Allen. 2010. "Community gardening, neighborhood meetings and social capital." *Journal of Community Psychology* no. 38 (4):497-514. doi: 10.1002/jcop.20378.

Bradley, K. and H. Herrera. 2016. Decolonizing food justice: Naming, resisting, and researching colonizing forces in the movement. *Antipod* 48 (1) pp. 97-114 doi: 10.1111/anti.12165

Gordon, E. 2013. "Under-served and un-deserving: Youth empowerment programs, poverty discourses and subject formation." *Geoforum* no. 50:107-116. doi: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2013.08.008.

Week 5 - Oct 9

Topic: Urban ecosystem approach to sustainable farming

Lin, B. B., S. M. Philpott, and S. Jha. 2015. "The future of urban agriculture and biodiversity-ecosystem services: Challenges and next steps." *Basic and Applied Ecology* no. 16 (3):189-201. doi: 10.1016/j.baae.2015.01.005.

Taylor, J. R., S. T. Lovell, S.E. Whortman, and M. Chan. 2016. Ecosystem services and tradeoffs in the home food gardens of African American, Chinese-origin and Mexican-origin households in Chicago, IL *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* 1-18. doi:10.1017/S174217051600003X

Wortman, S. E., and S. T. Lovell. 2013. "Environmental Challenges Threatening the Growth of Urban Agriculture in the United States." *Journal of Environmental Quality* no. 42 (5):1283-1294. doi: 10.2134/jeq2013.01.0031.

Week 6 – Oct 16 FALL BREAK

Week 7 – Oct 23

Topic: Building Social Capital: participatory and organizational perspectives

GUEST SPEAKER: Lindsay Pielack, Co-director of Keep Growing Detroit

Corrigan, M. P. 2011. "Growing what you eat: Developing community gardens in Baltimore, Maryland." *Applied Geography* no. 31 (4):1232-1241. doi: 10.1016/j.apgeog.2011.01.017.

Pudup, M. B. 2008. "It takes a garden: Cultivating citizen-subjects in organized garden projects." *Geoforum* no. 39 (3):1228-1240. doi: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2007.06.012.

News: Peggs, T. 2016. Square Roots x USDA: investing in the next generation of real food entrepreneurs

Week 8 - Oct 30

Topic: Economic perspectives from small operations to urban food systems

GUEST SPEAKER: Devida Davison, Executive Director of Food Lab Detroit

CoDyre, Michael, Evan D. G. Fraser, and Karen Landman. 2015. "How does your garden grow? An empirical evaluation of the costs and potential of urban gardening." *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* no. 14 (1):72-79. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2014.11.001>.

Shuman, M.H. Economic Impact of Localizing Detroit's Food System. Fair Food Foundation, 2007 - fairfoodnetwork.org

USDA 2016. Urban agriculture tool kit for business start-up. 18 pp.

Week 9 – Nov 6

Topic: Building a sustainable urban food network

GUEST SPEAKER: Dan Carmody, President, Eastern Market Corp.

Sadler, R. C., G. Arku, and J. A. Gilliland. 2015. "Local food networks as catalysts for food policy change to improve health and build the economy." *Local Environment* no. 20 (9):1103-1121. doi: 10.1080/13549839.2014.894965.

Thomaier, S., et al. 2014. "Farming in and on urban buildings: Present practice and specific novelties of Zero-Acreage Farming (ZFarming)." *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* 30(1): 43-54.

Rooftop Garden Grows in Brooklyn - link to short story & 3 min video

News: Crain's 2016 Food hubs create buzz in state's distribution system.

News: Crain's 2018 Eastern Market plan seeks to balance food, other uses.

Week 10 – Nov 13

Topic: Impact of urban agriculture on health and wellbeing: nutrition, toxins, restorative impact

Okvat, H. A., and A. J. Zautra. 2011. "Community Gardening: A Parsimonious Path to Individual, Community, and Environmental Resilience." *American Journal of Community Psychology* no. 47 (3-4):374-387. doi: 10.1007/s10464-010-9404-z.

Pitt, Hannah. 2014. "Therapeutic experiences of community gardens: putting flow in its place." *Health & Place* 27:84-91. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2014.02.006>.

Egendorf, S.P. et al. 2018. Constructed soils for mitigating lead (Pb) exposure and promoting urban community gardening: The New York City Clean Soil Bank pilot study. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 175: 184-194.

Week 11 – Nov 20

Topic: How culture & aesthetics influence the successful integration of farming and urban life

Bradley et al. 2014 Design matters in community gardens. *Journal of Extension* (www.joe.org) 52 (1) Article # 1TOT9, 6 pp.

Lindemann-Matthies, Petra, and Hendrik Brieger. 2016. "Does urban gardening increase aesthetic quality of urban areas? A case study from Germany." *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* no. 17:33-41. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2016.03.010>.

Taylor, J. R., and S. T. Lovell. 2014. "Urban home gardens in the Global North: A mixed methods study of ethnic and migrant home gardens in Chicago, IL." *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* no. 30 (1):22-32. doi: 10.1017/s1742170514000180.

Week 12 to 14 – Nov 27, Dec 4, Dec 11

Student Presentations & Class Discussion; Retrospective discussion of your views and visions for urban agriculture 10 years from now.

2018 - Full Reading set – alphabetized

- Alaimo, K., T. M. Reischl, and J. O. Allen. 2010. "Community gardening, neighborhood meetings and social capital." *Journal of Community Psychology* no. 38 (4):497-514. doi: 10.1002/jcop.20378.
- Bradley et al. 2014 Design matters in community gardens. *Journal of Extension* (www.joe.org) 52 (1) Article # 1TOT9, 6 pp.
- Bradley, K. and H. Herrera. 2016. Decolonizing food justice: Naming, resisting, and researching colonizing forces in the movement. *Antipod* 48 (1) pp. 97-114 doi: 10.1111/anti.12165
- CoDyre, Michael, Evan D. G. Fraser, and Karen Landman. 2015. "How does your garden grow? An empirical evaluation of the costs and potential of urban gardening." *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* no. 14 (1):72-79. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2014.11.001>.
- Cohen, N., and K. Reynolds. 2014. "Urban Agriculture Policy Making in New York's "New Political Spaces" Strategizing for a Participatory and Representative System." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* no. 34 (2):221-234. doi: 10.1177/0739456x14526453.
- Corrigan, M. P. 2011. "Growing what you eat: Developing community gardens in Baltimore, Maryland." *Applied Geography* no. 31 (4):1232-1241. doi: 10.1016/j.apgeog.2011.01.017.
- Crain's 2016 Food hubs create buzz in state's distribution system.
- Crain's 2018 Eastern Market plan seeks to balance food, other uses.
- Detroit Food and Fitness Collaborative. 2014. Economic Analysis of Detroit's Food System. Kellogg Foundation, pp 1 – 101.
- Donadieu, Pierre. 2016. Building Urban Agricultural Commons: A Utopia or a Reality? *Challenges in Sustainability* 4(1): 3-9
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- Leonard, N. 2016. Do I have an "urban farm" or an "urban garden"? : Proposed amendments to Detroit's urban Agriculture zoning ordinance. <http://aglaw313.org/>
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- Lindemann-Matthies, Petra, and Hendrik Brieger. 2016. "Does urban gardening increase aesthetic quality of urban areas? A case study from Germany." *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* no. 17:33-41. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2016.03.010>.
- Mancebo, François. 2016. Urban Agriculture, Commons and Urban Policies: Scaling up Local Innovation. *Challenges in Sustainability* 4 (1): 10-19
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- Peggs, T. 2016. Square Roots x USDA: investing in the next generation of real food entrepreneurs
- Pitt, Hannah. 2014. "Therapeutic experiences of community gardens: putting flow in its place." *Health & Place* 27:84-91. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2014.02.006>.
- Pothukuchi, K. 2015. "Five Decades of Community Food Planning in Detroit: City and Grassroots, Growth and Equity." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* no. 35 (4):419-434. doi: 10.1177/0739456x15586630.
- Pudup, M. B. 2008. "It takes a garden: Cultivating citizen-subjects in organized garden projects." *Geoforum* no. 39 (3):1228-1240. doi: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2007.06.012.
- Rooftop Garden Grows in Brooklyn link
- Sadler, R. C., G. Arku, and J. A. Gilliland. 2015. "Local food networks as catalysts for food policy change to improve health and build the economy." *Local Environment* no. 20 (9):1103-1121. doi: 10.1080/13549839.2014.894965.

- Shuman, M.H. Economic Impact of Localizing Detroit's Food System. Fair Food Foundation, 2007 - fairfoodnetwork.org
- Sweetgreen 2016 Meet the Godfather of Urban Farming, Who's Breeding the Next Generation of People to Feed the World.
- Taylor, J. R., and S. T. Lovell. 2015. "Urban home gardens in the Global North: A mixed methods study of ethnic and migrant home gardens in Chicago, IL." *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* no. 30 (1):22-32. doi: 10.1017/s1742170514000180.
- Taylor, J. R., S. T. Lovell, S.E. Whortman, and M. Chan. 2016. Ecosystem services and tradeoffs in the home food gardens of African American, Chinese-origin and Mexican-origin households in Chicago, IL *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* 1-18. doi:10.1017/S174217051600003X
- Thomaier, S., et al. 2015. "Farming in and on urban buildings: Present practice and specific novelties of Zero-Acreage Farming (ZFarming)." *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* 30(1): 43-54.
- Wortman, S. E., and S. T. Lovell. 2013. "Environmental Challenges Threatening the Growth of Urban Agriculture in the United States." *Journal of Environmental Quality* no. 42 (5):1283-1294. doi: 10.2134/jeq2013.01.0031.