

CUS 501J Harvesting the Future: Farming and the Food Movement

Course Description

This course will examine the food movement as one of the significant emerging social and livelihood movements across the globe. It is not only a reaction to the threats to food production, food sovereignty and food security: climate change, nuclear disaster pollution, contamination of water and soil, reduction of farmland, monopoly by multinational agribusiness, and speculation of food prices in futures markets. It is also putting in practice a self-reliant mode of living that is inherently just and democratic. Farming and agriculture in Hong Kong will be one of the case studies, and students will also be required to engage in farming so as to learn about principles of permaculture.

Aims and Objectives

- to introduce basic knowledge and cross-disciplinary analytical frameworks to the contemporary issues of food and agriculture
- to articulate the various significances of food and agriculture both as a source of self-understanding and medium to act in the contemporary capitalism

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the development of the agriculture and food system in Hong Kong from a historical and critical perspective
- articulate the situation of Hong Kong to the post-war dynamics in Asia and global capitalism
- identify the various meanings and approaches of grass-root actions and resistant food/agricultural movements in the world
- familiarize with the operation of a permaculture farm from the perspectives of resources circulation and community interaction

Indicative contents

- the culture, politics and history of Hong Kong agriculture
- analytical frameworks for post-war global development of agriculture and food industry
- climate change and nuclear threat
- the conception and practices of alternative agricultural practices
- various local food movements on the global scene

Teaching methods:

Lecture, seminar discussion and presentation

Measurement of learning outcome:

1. Written assignment

Students will write an critical discussion and reflection on related documentary films and videos (the list will be provided in due course).

2. Term paper

Students will write a paper on a food movement/alternative agricultural practice of their choice, demonstrating their ability to critically discuss its concepts and trajectory, to identify the issues addressed by it, the strategies and tactics it employed and its unique significance to the ecology and/or humanity.

3. Farm visit/work

Visits will be arranged to a local organic farm where students' attendance are expected. On location, they will have an chance to understand the context and difficulties of running an organic farm in Hong Kong. They will also be provided with opportunities for farm works, hence an basic understanding of how permaculture works to interact with the ecology.

Assessment:

- Participation and discussion (20%)
- Written assignment (40%)
- Term paper (3,000 Eng or 5,000 Chi) (40%)

Class Schedule:

11 Sept (Fri)

Agriculture in Hong Kong: post war and after戰後以來的香港農業

Required reading

Aijmer, Goran (1980), *Economic Man in Sha Tin: Vegetable Gardeners in a Hong Kong Valley*. London and Malmo: Curzon Press. Ch 2 & 8

Watson, James L. (1972) A Chinese Emigrant Community: The Man Lineage in Hong Kong and London. University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D., 1972 Ch 3

18 Sept (Fri)

Food industry and its meaning in Hong Kong在香港的食品工業及其意義

Required reading

Airriess, Christopher A. (2005), "Governmentality and power in politically contested space: refugee farming in Hong Kong's New Territories, 1945-1970" in *Journal of Historical Geography*, No.31

25 Sept (Fri)

Asian experiences: Japan and Taiwan 亞洲的經驗：日本和台灣

Required reading

Cwierka, Katrzyna J. (2006), *Modern Japanese Cuisine: Food, Power and National Identity*. London: Reaktion Books. Ch 6

劉志偉 (2011), 〈國際農糧體制與國民飲食：戰後台灣麵食的政治經濟學〉in *Journal of Chinese Dietary Culture*, Vol 7.1 (2011): 1-60

2 Oct (Fri)

Green Revolution綠色革命

Required reading

Shiva, Vandana (1991), *The Violence of the Green Revolution*. London and New York: Zed Books. Intro and Ch 1

16 Oct (Fri)

Nuclear and chemical contamination of soil and water 受核武器和化學污染的土壤和水

Required reading

劉健芝等編 (2013) , 《核危機專題資料集》。北京：和平婦女

23 Oct (Fri)*

Climate change effects on agriculture 氣候變化對農業的影響

Required reading

Maslin, Mark. (2009), *Global Warming: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

30 Oct (Fri)

Discussion (1)

6 Nov (Fri)

Soil: the ecological and human dimensions 土壤：生態和人文因素

Required reading

Guattari, Felix. (2000), "Translator's Introduction" in *The Three Ecology*. London: Athlone.
Howard, Albert. (2011), *The Soil and Health: A Study of Organic Agriculture*. Oxford City Press. Ch 4-6

13 Nov (Fri)

Experience and Reflection of Little Donkey Farm 小毛驢市民農園的經歷與思考
Guest speaker: Mr Yan Xiao Hui (Little Donkey Farm, Beijing)

Required reading

Holmgren, David (2002), *Permaculture: Principles and Pathways beyond Sustainability*. Victoria: Holmgren Design Services. Intro
Fukuoka, Masanobu (1978), *The One-straw Revolution*. New York: Rodale. Part II
Ohlson, Kristin (2014), *The Soil will Save Us*. New York: Rodale. Ch 4

20 Nov (Fri)

Seed saving and biodiversity 儲存種子和生物多樣性

Required reading

Kloppenborg, Jack R. (2004), *First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology, 1942 – 2000*. Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin Press. Ch 8
Shiva, Vandana (1991), *The Violence of the Green Revolution*. London and New York: Zed Books. Ch 6

27 Nov (Fri)

Local food movement - the experience of Sangwoodgoon 食物運動－生活館的經驗

Required reading

Katz, Sandor E. (2006), *The Revolution will not be Microwaved: Inside America's Underground Food Movements*. Vermont: Chelsea Green. Ch 4
Pollan, Michael (2013), *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation*. New York: the Penguin Press. Intro: Why cook?

4 Dec (Fri)

Conclusion and discussion (2)

Further Readings

- Ackerman-Leist Philip (), *Rebuilding the Food Shed: How to Create Local, Sustainable and Secure Food Systems*. Vermont: Chelsea Green.
- Barndt, Deborah (2002), *Tangled Routes: Women, Work and Globalization on the Tomato Trail*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Pub.
- Freudentberg, Nicholas (2014), *Lethal but Legal: Corporations, Consumption and Protecting Public Health*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Fukuoka, Masanobu (2012), *Sowing Seeds in the Desert*. Vermont: Chelsea Green
- Goodman, D & Redclift, M (1991), *Refashioning Nature: Food Ecology and Culture*. New York and London: Routledge
- Gorz, Andre (1980), *Ecology as Politics*. Boston: South End Press.
- Gorz, Andre (1989), *Critique of Economic Reason*. London: Verso.
- Gorz, Andre (2010), *Ecologica*. London: Seagull Books.
- Gorz, Andre (2010), *The Immaterial: Knowledge, Value and Capital*. London: Seagull Books.
- Hardt, Michael (2009), "Politics of the common", Znet.

<http://www.zcommunications.org/politics-of-the-common-by-michael-hardt.html>

- Hardt, M & Negri, A (2012), *Declaration*. Argo Navis
- Hauter, Wenonah (2012), *Foodopoly: the Battle over the Future of Food and Farming in America*. New York: New Press.
- Harvey, Graham (2008), *We Want Real Food: the Local Food Lover's Bible*. London: Constable.
- Hensel, Julius (1894), *Bread from Stone*. Augsburg: John Schacher
- Holt-Gimenez, Eric (ed.) (2011), *Food Movements Unite!*. Oakland: Food First Books
- Howard, Albert (1943), *An Agricultural Testament*. New York and London: Oxford University Press
- Jensen, B & Anderson M (1990), *Empty Harvest: Understanding the Link our Food, our Immunity and our Planet*. New York: Avery Pub.
- Kneen, Brewster (1993), *From Land to Mouth: Understanding the Food System*. Ontario: New Canada Publication
- Koc, M, MacRae, R, Mougeot, L.J.A., Welsh, J. (eds), *For Hunger-proof Cities: Sustainable Urban Food System*. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre
- Magdoff, F. & Tokar, B. (eds) (2010), *Agriculture and Food in Crisis: Conflict, Resistance and Renewal*. New York: Monthly review.
- Nauta, Phil (2012), *Building Soil Naturally*. Austin: Acres U.S.A.
- Nestle, Marion (2010), *Safe Food: the Politics of Food Safety*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko (1994), *Rice as Self: Japanese Identities through Time*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press
- Patel, Raj (2007), *Stuffed and Starved: the Hidden Battle of World Food System*. New York: Melville House Publishing
- Perkins, John H. (1997), *Geopolitics and the Green Revolution: Wheats, Genes and the Cold War*. New York and London: Oxford University Press
- Pilcher, Jeffrey M. (2006), *Food in World History*. New York: Routledge
- Roy, Arundhati (2014), *Capitalism: A Ghost Story*. Illinois: Hey Market Books
- Solnite, Rebecca (2012), "Revolutionary plots", *Orion Magazine*.

<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/6918>

- Solt, George (2014), *The Untold History of Ramen: How Political Crisis in Japan Spawned a Global Food Craze*.
- Strauch, Judith (1984), "Middle peasants and market gardeners, the social context of the 'Vegetable Revolution' in a small agricultural community in New Territories" in David Faure et al. (eds.), *From Village to City: Studies in the Traditional Roots of Hong Kong Society*, Hong Kong: Center of Asian Studies.
- Schwartz, Judith D. (2013), *Cows Save the Planet: and other Improbable Ways of Restoring the Soil to Heal the Earth*. Vermont: Chelsea Green.
- Thompson, Paul B. (1995), *The Spirit of the Soil: Agriculture and Environmental Ethics*. New York and London: Routledge.
- Toensmeier, Eric (2013), *Paradise Lot: Two Plant Geeks, One-tenth of an Acre*. Vermont: Chelsea Green
- Touraine, Alan (2014), *After the Crisis*. Cambridge: Polity
- Weis, Tony (2007), *The Global Food Economy: The Battle for the Future of Farming*. New York, London: Zed Books
- Wright, Angus (1990), *The Death of Ramon Gonzalez: The Modern Agriculture Dilemma*. Austin: University of Texas Press
- 陳弘美 (2012) , 《日本311默示：瓦礫堆裏最寶貴的紀念》。臺北：麥田。
- 周桂田 (2015) , 《從土地到餐桌上的恐慌》。臺北：商周