



NFS 073 Farm to Table: Our Contemporary Food System Syllabus Fall 2021

Credits: 3.00 CRN: 92917 Section: A Enrolled: 75

Meeting time, dates, location

MWF 10:50-11:40a 30 August-10 December 2021 Innovation Hall E105

Instructor and Teaching Assistant, contact information, office hours

Matthew Burke, matthew.burke@uvm.edu

Office hours: Tues 1-3p Marsh Life Science room 122 and Fri 12-2p via Teams

Sarra Talib, Sarra.Talib@uvm.edu

Office hours: By appointment via Teams

Course description

This course introduces the contemporary food system, focusing on the interdependence of key components from a critical perspective, from farm to table and beyond.

Course learning objectives

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

- Understand what food systems are for and how they work for people and planet;
- Identify and engage with key components of contemporary food systems;
- Critically evaluate a range of possible food systems using historical and future cases; and
- Apply critical thinking and writing skills to real world food systems challenges.

Required course materials:

Choose one of the following books (available from multiple online book sellers):

- Barber, D. (2015). *The third plate: Field notes on the future of food*. Penguin Books.
- Roberts, P. (2008). *The end of food* (1st Mariner Books ed). Mariner Books.

All other required materials will be posted on [UVM Blackboard](#).

Course activities

Students will achieve the course objectives through course activities to include:

- Engagement with required readings and course materials
- Participation in discussion in person and online
- Independent writing
- Direct personal experience

Assessments (graded work)

Learning objectives will be assessed according to the following assignments and expectations. Detailed descriptions of assignments will be provided separately.

Regular class attendance and participation **10%**

Attend each scheduled class period throughout the semester. Arrive prepared by reading and viewing all assigned materials before class. Engage actively with in-person group discussion.

Weekly participation using Blackboard's Discussion Board **50%**

Contribute an initial post on the week's readings and course materials. The initial post must be available in the Discussion Board by Friday 12pm of each week. By the following Monday BEFORE CLASS contribute at least one response to another student's initial post. Ten sets of posts at 5% each.

Practice and reflection assignment **25%**

Each week participate directly with a chosen aspect of the local food system. Find a local farm, restaurant, distributor, nonprofit to volunteer one hour per week beginning no later than Friday 10 September 2021. By the following Monday BEFORE CLASS contribute a short reflection on your experience as a post to the Discussion Board.

Future food system paper **15%**

This paper will build on skills and information learned throughout the course. You will use credible evidence to argue for and speculate on a future food system. This paper (5-10 pages) is due via Blackboard by 11:59pm on Friday 10 December 2021. If you would like feedback on an outline, this must be submitted by Blackboard no later than Friday 12 November 2021.

Extra credit **1%**

Select from a short list of films and videos relevant to this course and write a 250-350 word commentary which discusses how this resource fits with the course content,

whether and how it enriched your learning, and an argument as to whether it should be included in the course in the future. Alternatively, present two short in-class contributions on an aspect of food culture that is personally meaningful (poem, song, visual art, family recipe...). Requires advance notice.

Modality description and meeting pattern

This course will involve synchronous and asynchronous participation. Every week you will engage with the course in three formats: (1) review weekly course materials at a time that works for you; (2) attend class in person on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; and (3) participate in a direct experience at a time as arranged.

Potential changes during the semester

The University of Vermont reserves the right to make changes in the course offerings, mode of delivery, degree requirements, charges, regulations, and procedures contained herein as educational, financial, and health, safety, and welfare considerations require, or as necessary to be compliant with governmental, accreditation, or public health directives. <http://catalogue.uvm.edu/> If we switch to remote, we will use [Teams](#).

Technical support

Students, please read this technology check list to make sure you are ready for classes. <https://www.uvm.edu/it/kb/student-technology-resources/>

Contact the Helpline (802-656-2604) for support with technical issues.

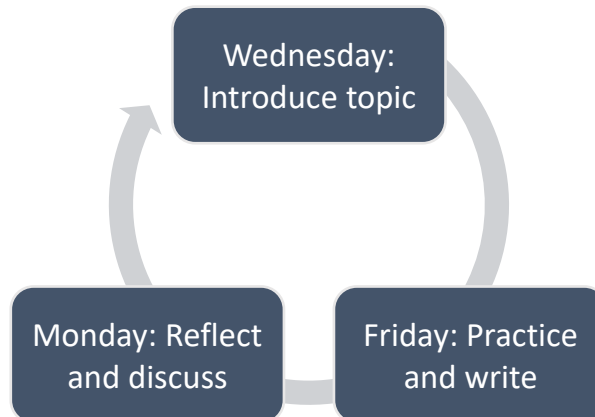
General education or other requirements satisfied

Diversity Category 2 (Diversity of Human Experience); Sustainability

Course schedule

A course schedule for Fall 2021 will be made available separately. Please see Blackboard for course materials by week.

Visual representation of the course



Required platforms

There are two required platforms for this course: Blackboard and Teams. Blackboard will be used weekly, and Teams will be used as needed or if the course modality switches to online/remote. Some videos and other required course materials may be presented via YouTube, Vimeo, and other outside websites. Links to these websites will be provided on Blackboard.

Attendance policy and classroom expectations

UVM expects students, faculty, and staff to remain compliant with all COVID-19 recommendations and measures in place for UVM, the State of Vermont, and the City of Burlington. This includes following all rules regarding facial coverings when attending class and generally in indoor spaces. If you do not follow these guidelines, I will ask you to leave the class. If you forget your mask, you cannot enter the class and should go back and retrieve your mask. [The Code of Student Conduct](#) outlines policies related to violations of University policies that protect health and safety on campus.

Attendance and illness

If a student will not be able to attend in-person classes for qualifying health reasons, Student Health Services (SHS) will send a notification to the appropriate student services office or designated staff member informing them of this along with the dates the student is unable to attend. The SHS notification will specify whether the request for flexibility is only around in-person class attendance or includes additional flexibility for assignments and tests because the student is too ill to participate. Students are

responsible for working with their faculty to make up class content and work they miss due to a documented illness.

Promoting health and safety

The University of Vermont's number one priority is to support a healthy and safe community:

Center for Health and Wellbeing:

<https://www.uvm.edu/health>

Counseling & Psychiatry Services (CAPS)

Phone: (802) 656-3340

C.A.R.E. If you are concerned about a UVM community member or are concerned about a specific event, we encourage you to contact the Dean of Students Office (802-656-3380). If you would like to remain anonymous, you can report your concerns online by visiting the Dean of Students website at <https://www.uvm.edu/studentaffairs>

Recording class sessions

As needed, our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to, and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the chat feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live.

Research and citation help

For help selecting research topics, finding information, citing sources, and more, ask a librarian. The UVM Libraries are eager to help. You may ask questions by phone, e-mail, chat, or text, or make an appointment for an individual consultation with a librarian.

Howe Library: <https://library.uvm.edu/askhowe>

Dana Medical Library: <https://dana.uvm.edu/help/ask>

Silver Special Collections Library: <https://specialcollections.uvm.edu/help/ask>

Course evaluation

All students are expected to complete an evaluation of the course at its conclusion. Evaluations will be anonymous and confidential, and the information gained, including constructive criticisms, will be used to improve the course.

Intellectual property statement / prohibition on sharing academic materials

Students are prohibited from publicly sharing or selling academic materials that they did not author (for example: class syllabus, outlines or class presentations authored by the professor, practice questions, text from the textbook or other copyrighted class materials, etc.); and students are prohibited from sharing assessments (for example homework or a take-home examination). Violations will be handled under UVM's Intellectual Property policy and Code of Academic Integrity.

Student learning accommodations

In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing ADA accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS), the office of Disability Services on campus for students. SAS works with students and faculty in an interactive process to explore reasonable and appropriate accommodations, which are communicated to faculty in an accommodation letter. All students are strongly recommended to discuss with their faculty the accommodations they plan to use in each course. Faculty who receive Letters of Accommodation with Disability Related Flexible accommodations will need to fill out the Disability Related Flexibility Agreement. Any questions from faculty or students on the agreement should be directed to the SAS specialist who is indicated on the letter.

Contact SAS:

A170 Living/Learning Center;

802-656-7753

access@uvm.edu

www.uvm.edu/access

Important UVM Policies

Religious holidays

Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. If you need to miss class to observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence to me in writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time. <https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/religious-holidays>

Academic integrity

The policy addresses plagiarism, fabrication, collusion, and cheating.

<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/acadintegrity.pdf>

Grade appeals

If you would like to contest a grade, please follow the procedures outlined in this policy:

<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/gradeappeals.pdf>

Grading

For information on grading and GPA calculation, go to

<https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/grades>

Code of student conduct

<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/studentcode.pdf>

FERPA rights disclosure

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the rights of students regarding access to, and privacy of their student educational records as provided for in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.

<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/academicinfo/ferparightsdisclosure/>

Final exam policy

The University final exam policy outlines expectations during final exams and explains timing and process of examination period. <https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/final-exams>

Alcohol and cannabis statement

As a faculty member, I want you to get the most you can out of this course. You play a crucial role in your education and in your readiness to learn and fully engage with the course material. It is important to note that alcohol and cannabis have no place in an academic environment. They can seriously impair your ability to learn and retain information not only in the moment you may be using, but up to 48 hours or more afterwards. In addition, alcohol and cannabis can:

- Cause issues with attention, memory, and concentration
- Negatively impact the quality of how information is processed and ultimately stored
- Affect sleep patterns, which interferes with long-term memory formation

It is my expectation that you will do everything you can to optimize your learning and to fully participate in this course.