

Food Justice

JUST 6900, Section H001, Fall 2021

Hybrid: W 6-8:40PM, MH 314 or via Zoom

Office Hours: T/Th 10-11am, 4-5pm, W 4-6pm
or by appointment.

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This course approaches the study of food systems through the lens of food justice. It begins with the observation that in a world of plenty, food systems everywhere are shot through with inequities. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, there is enough food available to feed everyone on the planet. Yet the FAO also points out that hunger and malnutrition are problems that are getting worse around the world. While access to adequate food is a core concern, the inequities in food systems raise a wide range of questions about justice. This starts with food production, where globalization of food systems has shaped landscapes, changed the lives of food workers (for better and for worse), and raised questions about food sovereignty. In addition, people who work in food production—on farms and in the various stages of processing—face conditions of insecurity, hazardous working conditions, and the vagaries of labor and immigration policies. Questions of fairness and equity are also central to food distribution systems. Restaurant work is characterized by wide pay inequalities, often linked to gender and race. Workers in grocery stores and markets face similar issues. The geographic distribution of food stores often reflects racial and class structures and ideologies. Problems with equitable access to nutritionally and culturally appropriate foods have been linked to the rise of diet-related disease, even in the wealthiest countries.

In this class, we will look at food and food systems in order to get at some of the fundamental questions raised in justice studies. What does it mean to define access to healthy food as a human right? How might that challenge our ideas about how economic or political systems operate? What does it mean for communities or states to assert a right to food sovereignty within a global food system? How does globalization shape fairness and equity for food producers and workers? How do struggles around immigration, fair wages, and workplace safety shape our food system and, in turn, our understanding of justice in American society? How are these debates inflected by gender, class, and race? Why have activists drawn attention, in recent years, to inequities around culture, including access to culturally appropriate foods as well as representation of particular groups in food media?

As a graduate seminar, this class has broad objectives. Through this course, you will learn to define food justice and understand how it connects with questions of environmental and social justice. You will read and learn to critically analyze much of the core literature related to food justice and the food movement. You will learn to identify the actors in food politics and economics and be able to explain and critique the formation and working of food systems as they related to food justice. You will learn to analyze the core concepts in debates around inequities in food production, distribution, and consumption. You will also be able to evaluate both food policy and the work of activists within various parts of the food movement.

Course Requirements

The course is organized in a seminar format with weekly discussions based on the readings. Each reading assignment should be completed before the date it is to be discussed (see below).

You will be graded on:

- Class participation, 20% of your grade.

- Blog posts (2), 30% of your grade.
- 1 midterm exam essay, 20% of your grade.
- 1 research essay, 30% of your grade.

Instructions and deadlines for each of these assignments will be available on Moodle.

Attendance and participation are required for success in this course. This is a graduate seminar which depends on every participant actively reading, engaging thoughtfully with the material and with each other. **Attendance** in all classes is a requirement, not an option. Students who have missed more than one class will be penalized in their final grade for the course. In order to succeed in this class, you must actively **participate** in discussions. In addition to completing the assigned readings prior to weekly discussions, this means that you must come to each class prepared to engage in civil discussion, raise questions, and share your ideas. You may be confronted with ideas that challenge your own beliefs and that make you uncomfortable. If you are unable to tolerate being exposed to such difference, this class is not for you.

This class is also a “hybrid” class. This means that we can meet in person or via Zoom. We will try to meet in person, although depending on the COVID-19 situation, we may meet only via Zoom initially. **We anticipate that the wearing of masks will be required at least at the beginning of the semester. This is university (and state) policy and is not optional.**

Covid-19 Health-Related Class Absences

Students should evaluate their health status regularly, refrain from coming to campus if they are ill, and seek appropriate medical attention for treatment of illness. Students should notify their instructors about their absence as soon as possible, so that accommodations can be made. In the event of COVID-19 illness, students should also complete the Campus Reporting Form <https://uno.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting>.

Grades

Standards for each assignment will be specified with those assignments. Generally, your participation grade will reflect both regular attendance (but see the policy above) and the extent to which you participate in class discussions.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Academic Dishonesty Policy (<https://www.uno.edu/media/15321>) for further information.

Accommodations

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to the Office of Disability Services (<https://www.uno.edu/disability-services>).

Required Texts

The following books are required and are available for purchase in the UNO bookstore as well as through on-line bookstores. All other listed readings will be available on the course Moodle site or through UNO's library databases. Note: some of the books are available through the UNO library website as well.

Alkon, Alison Hope and Juilian Agyeman, eds. 2011. *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. ISBN: 9780262516327

Besky, Sarah. 2013. *The Darjeeling Distinction: Labor and Justice on Fair-Trade Tea Plantations in India*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN: 9780520277397

Gottlieb, Robert and Anupama Joshi. 2013. *Food Justice*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. ISBN: 9780262518666

Holmes, Seth. 2013. *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN: 9780520275140

Reese, Ashanté. 2019. *Black Food Geographies: Race, Self-Reliance, and Food Access in Washington, D.C.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. ISBN: 9781469651507

Reynolds, Kristin and Nevin Cohen. 2016. *Beyond the Kale: Urban Agriculture and Social Justice Activism in New York City*. Athens: University of Georgia Press. ISBN: 9780820349503

Sbicca, Joshua. 2018. *Food Justice Now! Deepening the Roots of Social Struggle*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. ISBN: 9781517904012

Wilson, Eli Revelle Yano. 2021. *Front of the House, Back of the House: Race and Inequality in the Lives of Restaurant Workers*. New York: New York University Press. ISBN: 9781479800629

The Program

Readings and topics are subject to amendment over the course of the semester! All readings are either in the required books or are available online, on the course Moodle site or the UNO library databases.

8/18: Introduction: Food Systems and Food Movements

Gottlieb and Joshi, Introduction.

Alkon and Agyeman, "Introduction: The Food Movement as Poly culture," in Alkon and Agyeman.

Holt-Giménez, "Food Security, Food Justice, or Food Sovereignty? Crises, Food Movements, and Regime Change," in Alkon and Agyeman.

DuPuis, Harrison, and Goodman, "Just Food?" in Alkon and Agyeman.

8/25: Unequal Food Systems

Gottlieb and Joshi, chapters 1-4.

Norgaard, Reed, and Van Horn, "A Continuing Legacy: Institutional Racism, Hunger, and Nutritional Justice on the Klamath," Alkon and Agyeman.

Green, Green, and Kleiner, "From the Past to the Present: Agricultural Development and Black Farmers in the American South," Alkon and Agyeman.

Minkoff-Zern, Peluso, Sowerwine, and Getz, "Race and Regulation: Asian Immigrants in California Agriculture," Alkon and Agyeman.

Rodman-Alvarez, S. & Colasanti, K. (2019) Measuring Racial Equity in the Food System: Established and Suggested Metrics. East Lansing, MI. Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. <http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/measuring-racial-equity-in-the-food-system>.

9/1: Colonialism, Fair Trade, Food Sovereignty

Gottlieb and Joshi, chapter 5.

Shattuck, Annie, Christina M. Schiavoni, and Zoe VanGelder. 2015. Translating the Politics of Food Sovereignty: Digging into Contradictions, Uncovering New Dimensions. *Globalizations*. 12(4): 421–33.

Edelman, Marc, Tony Weis, Amita Baviskar, Saturnino M. Borras Jr, Eric Holt-Giménez, Deniz Kandiyoti & Wendy Wolford. 2014. Introduction: critical perspectives on food sovereignty, *Journal of Peasant Studies*. 41(6):911-931.

Meneley A. 2011. Blood, sweat and tears in a bottle of Palestinian extra-virgin olive oil. *Food, Culture & Society*. 14(2):275–92

Moberg, Mark. 2016. Market's End: Fair-Trade social premiums as development in Dominica. *American Ethnologist*. 43(4):677-690.

Sachs, Carolyn and Anouk Patel-Campillo. 2014. Feminist Food Justice: Crafting a New Vision. *Feminist Studies*. 40(2):396-410.

Thivet, Delphine. 2014. Peasants' transnational mobilization for food sovereignty in La Via Campesina. Counihan C, Siniscalchi V, eds. *Food Activism: Agency, Democracy, and Economy*. London: Berg. Pp. 193-210.

9/8: Colonialism, Fair Trade, Food Sovereignty, continued

Besky, introduction, chapters 1-5, conclusion.

9/15: Farm Workers, Immigration, and Solidarity

Holmes, chapters 1-7, appendix.

9/22: Farm Workers, Immigration, and Solidarity, continued

Gottlieb and Joshi, Chapter 6.

Brown and Getz, "Farmworker Food Insecurity and the Production of Hunger in California," Alkon and Agyeman.

Hernández Romero, Manuel Adrián. 2012. Nothing to Learn? Labor Learning in California's Farmwork. *Anthropology of Work Review*. 33(2):73-88.

Korsunsky, Alex. 2020. Back to the Root? Immigrant Farmers, Ethnographic Romanticism, and Untangling Food Sovereignty in Western Oregon. *Culture, Agriculture, Food, and Environment*. 42(2):114-124.

Ortiz, Cristina. 2020. Mothers' Milk: How Gender and Immigration Obscure Agricultural Expertise and Care Work in Dairyland. *Culture, Agriculture, Food, and Environment*. 42(2):74-82.

Stuesse, Angela C. 2010. What's "Justice and Dignity" Got to Do with It?: Migrant Vulnerability, Corporate Complicity, and the State. *Human Organization*. 69(1):19-30.

Stuesse, Angela C. 2021. The Criminalization of Undocumented Work, Pandemic Suffering, and the Meat We Eat: A Reflection on "What's 'Justice and Dignity' Got to Do with It?" (Stuesse 2010). *Human Organization*. 80(2):102-104.

9/29: Urban Food Crises, Racism, Food Deserts, Food Apartheid

Reese, Introduction, Chapters 1-5, Conclusion.

10/6: Urban Food Crises, Racism, Food Deserts, Food Apartheid, continued

Chatelain, Marcia. 2016. The Miracle of the Golden Arches. *Pacific Historical Review*. 85(3):325-353.

Fouts, Sarah. 2018. Re-Regulating Loncheras, Food Trucks, and their Clientele: Navigating Bureaucracy and Enforcement in New Orleans. *Gastronomica*. 18(3):1-13.

McClintock, "From Industrial Garden to Food Desert: Demarcated Devaluation in the Flatlands of Oakland, California," Alkon and Agyeman.

McCutcheon, "Community Food Security 'For Us, By Us': The Nation of Islam and the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church.," Alkon and Agyeman.

Hassberg, Analena Hope. 2020. Nurturing the Revolution: The Black Panther Party and the Early Seeds of the Food Justice Movement. Garth Hanna and Ashanté Reese, eds. *Black Food Matters: Racial Justice in the Wake of Food Justice*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Pp. 82-106.

Newman, Andrew and Yuson Jung. 2020. Good Food in a Racist System: Competing Moral Economies in Detroit. Garth Hanna and Ashanté Reese, eds. *Black Food Matters: Racial Justice in the Wake of Food Justice*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Pp.131-157.

Midterm essays due: 10/8.

10/13: Can Local Food be Just Food?

Reynolds and Cohen, Preface, Chapters 1-8, appendices.

10/20: Can Local Food be Just Food?

Gottlieb and Joshi, Chapter 7, 8.

Beriss, David. 2019. Food: Location, Location, Location. *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 48:61-75.

Broom, Pamela Arnette and Yuki Kato. 2020. From the Holy Trinity to Microgreens: Gentrification Redefining Local Foodways in Post-Katrina New Orleans. Alkon, Alison Hope, Yuki Kato, and Joshua Sbicca, eds. *A Recipe for Gentrification: Food, Power, and Resistance in the City*. New York: New York University Press. Pp. 111-131.

Kolavalli, Chhaya. 2020. Confronting Whiteness in Kansas City's Local Food Movement: Diversity Work and Discourse on Privilege and Power. *Gastronomica*. 20(1):59-68.

Guthman, "If They Only Knew': The Unbearable Whiteness of Alternative Food," Alkon and Agyeman.

Morales, "Growing Food and Justice: Dismantling Racism through Sustainable Food Systems," Alkon and Agyeman.

Mares, Teresa M. 2017. Navigating gendered labor and local food: A tale of working mothers in Vermont. *Food and Foodways*. 25(3):177-192.

10/27: Restaurants, Race, Gender, Inequality

Wilson, preface, introduction, chapters 1-5, conclusion.

11/3: Restaurants, Race, Gender, Inequality, continued

Kwate, Naa Oyo A. 2019. *Burgers in Blackface: Anti-Black Restaurants Then and Now*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Entire (96 page) book: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5749/j.ctvkwnq8> (through the UNO library).

Cooley, Angela Jill. 2015. "Eating with Negroes": Food and Racial Taboo in the Twentieth-Century South. *Southern Quarterly*. 52(2):69-89.

Martin, Nina. 2020. Savior Entrepreneurs and Demon Developers: The Role of Gourmet Restaurants and Bars in the Redevelopment of Durham. Alkon, Alison Hope, Yuki Kato, and Joshua Sbicca, eds. *A Recipe for Gentrification: Food, Power, and Resistance in the City*. New York: New York University Press. Pp.54-70.

Jayaraman, Saru. 2013. "Women Waiting on Equality," in *Behind the Kitchen Door*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pp. 130-156.

Druckman, Charlotte. 2010. Why Are There No Great Women Chefs? *Gastronomica*. 10(1):24-31.

Rosner, Helen. 2018. One Year of #MeToo: A Modest Proposal to Help Combat Sexual Harassment in the Restaurant Industry. *The New Yorker*. <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/annals-of-gastronomy/one-year-of-metoo-a-modest-proposal-to-help-dismantle-the-restaurant-industrys-culture-of-sexual-harassment>.

11/10: Just Culture?

Sánchez Prado, Ignacio M. 2020. Diana Kennedy, Rick Bayless and the Imagination of ‘Authentic’ Mexican Food. *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*. 97(4): 567-592.

Williams, Judith. 2020. The Mango Gang and New World Cuisine: White Privilege in the Commodification of Latin American and Afro-Caribbean Foods. Garth Hanna and Ashanté Reese, eds. *Black Food Matters: Racial Justice in the Wake of Food Justice*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Pp.251-278.

Farrer, James and Chuanfei Wang. 2020. Who owns a cuisine? The grassroots politics of Japanese food in Europe. *Asian Anthropology*. 20(1):12-29.

Hirsch, Dafna. 2011. "Hummus is best when it is fresh and made by Arabs": The Gourmetization of Hummus in Israel and the Return of the Repressed Arab. *American Ethnologist*. 38(4):617-630.

Alkon, Alison Hope and Rafi Groszlik. 2021. Eating (with) the Other: Race in American Food Television. *Gastronomica*. 21(2):1-13.

Firth, Jeanne and Catarina Passidomo. 2021. New Orleans’ “restaurant renaissance,” chef humanitarians, and the New Southern food movement. *Food, Culture & Society*. DOI: 10.1080/15528014.2021.1884417.

Kelting, Lily. 2016. The Entanglement of Nostalgia and Utopia in Contemporary Southern Food Cookbooks. *Food, Culture & Society*. 19(2):361-387.

11/17: Food Justice Activism

Sbicca, Introduction, chapters 1-5, Conclusion, Appendix.

12/1: Food Justice Activism, continued

Garth, Hanna. 2020. Blackness and “Justice” in the Los Angeles Food Justice Movement. Garth Hanna and Ashanté Reese, eds. *Black Food Matters: Racial Justice in the Wake of Food Justice*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Pp. 107-130.

Mares, Teresa M. and Devon C. Peña, “Environmental and Food Justice: Toward Local, Slow, and Deep Food Systems,” Alkon and Agyeman.

Gottlieb and Joshi, chapters 9 & 10.

Cooks, Leda. 2019. Food Savers or Food Saviors? Food Waste, Food Recovery Networks, and Food Justice. *Gastronomica*. 19(3):8-19.

Alkon, Alison Hope, Yahya Josh Cadji and Frances Moore. 2020. "You Can't Evict Community Power": Food Justice and Eviction Defense in Oakland. Alkon, Alison Hope, Yuki Kato, and Joshua Sbicca, eds. *A Recipe for Gentrification: Food, Power, and Resistance in the City*. New York: New York University Press. Pp. 223-241.

Gross J. 2014. Food activism in western Oregon. Counihan C, Siniscalchi V, eds. *Food Activism: Agency, Democracy, and Economy*. London: Berg. Pp. 15-30.

Research essays due, 12/8.