

Urban Agriculture Systems
Fall 2012
Syllabus

Instructor: Katherine Lieberknecht, Ph.D.

01613 CRP 384 | M, W 12:30-2:00 in Sutton 2.114

Office hours: M, W 2:05-3:00 in Sutton 2.118 | Regular office: West Mall Building, 4.122

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Course description: This course introduces students to the planning and development of urban agriculture systems. It begins with an examination of the human health, ecological, social justice and economic problems stemming from “mainstream” food systems. We will then focus on frameworks for addressing these challenges, such as urban metabolism, municipal and regional planning, equity planning, and food security analysis. In the next quarter of the course, we will learn about the elements needed for successful urban agriculture programs. This section will cover an overview of land tenure and access; urban gardening, farming, gleaned and edible landscaping; processing, transportation, storage, distribution, and markets; community and economic development models; approaches for managing conflicts stemming from urban agriculture; and strategies for advancing urban agriculture from the backyard to the metropolitan scale. In the final part of the course, we will link urban agriculture systems to planning practice.

This course focuses on the local and regional scale, but our scope will also include the role of state and federal policies and funding in shaping urban agriculture systems. We will pay specific attention to urban agriculture’s potential for inclusion of demographic groups sometimes left out of local economic development and planning processes. Class readings and discussions will draw on examples of urban agriculture systems in the US and abroad.

Course goal: The purpose of this course is to: 1) provide an introduction to urban food systems and planning, including a definition of urban agriculture systems, how they are structured, and what they need to function; 2) understand and apply frameworks for planning to urban agriculture systems; 3) learn what urban agriculture systems need to function well; and 4) critically examine how planners can support and facilitate these systems.

Course objectives: At the end of this course, you will be able to identify, evaluate, and begin to design planning tools needed to support and facilitate urban agriculture systems.

Course requirements: The class includes a mix of lectures, discussion, guest speakers and field trips. Students are expected to do all of the assigned readings, participate in class discussions in an active and informed manner, and attend all field trips.

Details on assignments will be handed out in class and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of five assignments and overall class participation:

1. Three class assignments: 10% each, for a total 30% of final grade;

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2. Midterm exam: 30% of final grade;
3. Final exam: 30% of final grade;
4. Class participation: 10% of final grade. Class participation will be based on class attendance and active and informed participation in class discussion.

Class grading:

Please review UT Austin's Academic Integrity policies http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Late policy: Late assignments will be docked one grading +/- per day late (e.g., an “A-” assignment would be docked to a “B+” if you turned it in one day late and to a “B” if you turned it in two days late, etc.).

Disability statement: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Services for Students with Disabilities at 512.471.6259 (voice) or 512.232.2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>

Required readings:

(**Note:** some readings may be changed or updated as the semester progresses. I will let you know about changes in class and on Blackboard.)

Books:

de la Salle, Janine and Mark Holland. 2010. *Agricultural Urbanism: Handbook for Building Sustainable Food & Agriculture Systems in 21st Century Cities*. Green Frigate Books. 250 pp.

Hodgson, Kimberly, Marcia Caton Campbell, and Martin Bailkey. 2011. *Urban Agriculture: Growing Healthy, Sustainable Places*. APA Planning Advisory Service. 148 pp.

Ladner, Peter. 2011. *The Urban Food Revolution*. New Society Publishers. 290 pp.

Articles: Reserve readings on Blackboard <https://courses.utexas.edu>

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
		Readings should be completed and ready to discuss by the indicated class date. *Items due*
PART I: INTRODUCTION TO FOOD SYSTEMS AND PLANNING		
WEEK 1		
W Aug. 29	<i>Introductions; course and syllabus overviews</i>	
WEEK 2		
M Sept. 3	No class Labor Day	-----

<p>W Sept. 5</p>	<p><i>How do we get our food now?</i></p>	<p>Books— de la Salle and Holland, “Chapter 3: Waking from the Coma: The End of the 20th Century Food System,” p. 21-29. Ladner, “Chapter 1: What’s the Matter with Food?” p. 1-10. Articles (Blackboard)— Pothukuchi, K. and Kaufman, J.L. 2000. “The Food System: A Stranger to the Planning Field.” <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i>. 66: 2, 113-124. FAO. Price surges in food markets, June 2010. Canning P. et al. Energy use in the US food system, at http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR94/ (read the report summary only—two pages)</p>
<p>WEEK 3</p>		
<p>M Sept. 10</p>	<p><i>What are urban agriculture systems, how are they structured, and what do they need?</i></p>	<p>Books— Hodgson et al., “Chapter 1: Introduction,” p. 1-7; “Chapter 2: What is Urban Agriculture?” p. 9-34. de la Salle and Holland, “Part I: Introduction,” p. 11-48, except for p. 21-29; “Chapter 7: Agricultural Production,” p. 50-60; “Chapter 8: Artisan Agriculture,” p. 61-67. Ladner, “Chapter 2: Past Forward to Local? Let’s Get Real,” p. 11-24. Articles (Blackboard)— if you haven’t already read it: Moloch, H. 1976. The City as a Growth Machine. <i>The American Journal of Sociology</i>. 82:2, 309-332.</p>
<p>W Sept. 12</p>	<p><i>Why should planners care about urban agriculture systems?</i> Guest speaker: Joy Casnovsky, The Happy Kitchen/La Cocina Alegre™ director, Sustainable Food Center (confirmed)</p>	<p>Articles (Blackboard)— Campbell, Marcia Caton. 2004. “Building a Common Table: The Role for Planning in Community Food Systems.” <i>Journal of Planning Education and Research</i>. 23: 341-355. FAO Policy Brief 10: Fighting poverty and hunger: what role for urban agriculture? www.fao.org/docrep/012/al377e/al377e00.pdf Please browse the Sustainable Food Center website.</p>
<p>PART II: FRAMEWORKS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS PLANNING</p>		
<p>WEEK 4</p>		
<p>M Sept. 17</p>	<p><i>Metabolic rift</i> Guest speaker: Robyn Metcalfe, Lecturer, Department of History (confirmed)</p>	<p>Articles (Blackboard)— John Bellamy Foster & Fred Magdoff. 2000. “Liebig, Marx, and the Depletion of Soil Fertility: Relevance for Today’s Agriculture.” In F. Magdoff, J. B. Foster and F. H. Buttel (eds). <i>Hungry for Profit: The Agribusiness Threat to Farmers, Food and the Environment</i>. New York: Monthly Review Press, p. 43-60. Reese, William. 2003. “Understanding Urban Ecosystems.” In Berkowitz, Alan et al. (eds). <i>Understanding Urban Ecosystems</i>. New York: Springer-Verlag.</p>

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		McClintock, Nathan. 2009. "Urban Agriculture and Bridging the 'Metabolic Rift.'" <i>Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society</i> .
W Sept. 19	<i>Equity: age, class, gender, race</i>	Racial Equity Tools (click on and read all four concepts) http://www.racialequitytools.org/ci-concepts.htm Guthman, Julie. Bringing good food to others: investigating the subjects of alternative food practice. <i>Cultural Geographies</i> ,15(4): 431-447. Cunningham, Brent. 2010. Food fighter: Grist's Tom Philpot on why class needs to be a part of the food debate. Columbia Journalism Review, May 4. http://www.cjr.org/behind_the_news/food_fighter.php?page=all Greg Bloom, "Another World Is Possible" (2010). http://dcfoodforall.com/2010/06/another-world-is-possible-a-view-from-detroit/
WEEK 5		
M Sept. 24	<i>(possible) field trip: City of Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board meeting</i>	TBD depending upon class schedules and transportation options
W Sept. 26	<i>Food security and justice</i>	*class assignment due* Books— Ladner, "Chapter 14: Getting Food to Hungry People," p. 197-215; "Chapter 15: Ending Food Deserts," p. 217-229 de la Salle and Holland "Chapter 14: Food Security," p. 94-99. Articles (Blackboard)— Pothukuchi, Kami. 2004. "Community Food Assessment." Wekerle, Gerda. 2004. "Food Justice Movements." Coleman-Jenson A, et al. Household Food Security in the United States, 2010. USDA, September 2011. Read summary and first chapter, p. 1-18. FAO. Price Surges in Food Markets, June 2010.
WEEK 6		
M Oct. 1	<i>Municipal planning</i> Guest speaker: Jake Stewart, Director, Sustainable Urban Agriculture, City of Austin (confirmed; date may change)	Hodgson et al. "Chapter 3: Facilitating Urban Agriculture Through Planning Practice," p. 35-60. Ladner, "Chapter 4: Converting Urban and Suburban Lands for Growing Food," p. 35-48.
W Oct. 3	<i>Regional planning</i>	Books— Ladner, "Chapter 3: Preserving Rural Agricultural Land for Food Production," p. 25-34.

		<p>Hodgson et al., “Appendix 4: Urban Agriculture Components in Regional Plans,” p. 118-119. de la Salle and Holland “Chapter 22: Agriculture on the Edge: Abating Urban Encroachment by Promoting Agriculture as an Integral Element of Urbanization,” p. 178-185. Articles (Blackboard)— Samina, Raja et al. 2008. Community and Regional Food Planning, p. 34-41.</p>
WEEK 7		
M Oct. 8	The Garden film showing and discussion	<i>The Garden</i> film showing and discussion
W Oct. 10	<i>*no class today* instead, class held on Saturday at HausBar farm</i>	<p>*midterm exam due* HausBar farm field trip (Sat. Oct. 13) details TBA Please read and watch the following before Saturday’s field trip: Wood, Virginia. “Back to the Future.” <i>Austin Chronicle</i>. April 9, 2010 Gillespie, Spike. “Farm Diary: Raising the HausBar.” <i>Edible Austin</i>. HausBar farm KUT video http://youtu.be/VddkLt6AkFo</p>
Saturday, October 13	Field trip to HausBar Farm	Field trip to HausBar Farm details TBA
PART III: URBAN AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS—NUTS AND BOLTS (NUTS AND BERRIES?)		
WEEK 8		
M Oct. 15	Growing and management	Articles (Blackboard) — TBD; readings to be posted on Blackboard.
W Oct. 17	Growing and management, continued	<p>Books— Ladner, “Chapter 7: Economic Sustainability: Making the Economics of Agricultural Urbanism Pay,” p. 81-100; Chapter 16: Is Local Food Safe?” p. 231-237. Articles (Blackboard)— Cobb, Tanya Denckla. 2011. <i>Reclaiming Our Food</i>, glean case study.</p>
WEEK 9		
M Oct. 22	Processing, transportation and storage	Books — Ladner, “Chapter 9: Rebuilding the Lost Food-Producing Infrastructure,” p. 119-132.

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		de la Salle and Holland, “Food Processing, Packaging and Distribution,” p. 68-70.
W Oct. 24	<i>Distribution and markets</i> Guest speaker: Evan Driscoll, Green Gate Farm/Running with Pitchforks/Texas Young Farmer Coalition (confirmed)	Books— Ladner, “Chapter 12: Farmers Markets and CSAs: Making the Most of Direct Sales,” p. 167-180. de la Salle and Holland, “Food Sales, Wholesale and Retail; Restaurants and Food Services,” p. 71-81. Articles (Blackboard)— Please browse GreenGate Farms http://greengatefarms.net/ ; Running with Pitchforks http://runningwithpitchforks.com/ ; Texas Young Farmer Coalition http://www.texasyoungfarmers.org/ . Dubbeling, Hoekstra, and van Veenhuizen. 2010. “From Seed to Table,” http://www.ruaf.org/node/2263 Kummer, Corby. 2010. “The Great Grocery Smackdown.” Driscoll, Evan. 2011. <i>Greenhorns</i> chapter.
WEEK 10		
M Oct. 29	<i>Distribution and markets, continued: food deserts</i>	Articles (Blackboard)— Reardon et al. 2003. “The Rise of Supermarkets in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.” White, Monica. 2010. “D-Town” Giang et al. 2008. “Closing the Grocery Gap in Underserved Communities.” Check out the Food Desert Locator from the USDA Economic Research Service; look up two places important to you: http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-desert-locator/go-to-the-locator.aspx
W Oct. 31	<i>Resource recovery (waste disposal)</i>	Books— Ladner, “Less Waste, More Soil,” p. 133-150.
WEEK 11		
M Nov. 5	<i>Eating, celebrating, learning (in schools)</i> Guest speaker: Max Elliot, executive director, Urban Roots (confirmed; date may change)	Books— Ladner, “Chapter 11: Starting Young: Healthier Local Food in Schools, Colleges and Universities,” p. 151-165. de la Salle and Holland, “Broad-based Education on Food and Agriculture,” p. 83-88.
W Nov. 7	<i>Eating, celebrating, learning (in neighborhoods) (aka community development)</i> Guest speaker: Paige Hill, executive director, Urban Patchwork (confirmed)	Books— de la Salle and Holland, “Chapter 13: The Celebration of Food and Agriculture,” p. 89-93; “Chapter 23: The Public Opportunity,” p. 186-197. Ladner, “Chapter 13: Growing Community with Community Gardens,” p. 181-195.

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WEEK 12		
M Nov. 12	<i>Urban Agriculture System examples</i>	*class assignment due* (10% total grade)
PART IV: LINKING URBAN AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS WITH PLANNING PRACTICE		
W Nov. 14	<i>Linking urban agriculture systems and planning practice</i>	Books— de la Salle and Holland, “Part III: Planning & Design for Agricultural Urbanism,” p. 101-177.
WEEK 13		
M Nov. 19	<i>The Power of Community film showing</i>	<i>The Power of Community</i> film showing and discussion
W Nov. 21	No class Thanksgiving	-----
WEEK 14		
M Nov. 26	<i>Linking urban agriculture systems and planning practice, part II</i>	Books— Hodgson et al., “Chapter 4: Linking Urban Agriculture with Planning Practice,” p. 61-104; “Appendix 2. Urban Agriculture Components in Local Comprehensive Plans,” p. 112-115; “Appendix 3. Urban Agriculture Components in Local Sustainability Plans,” p. 116-117; “Appendix 7. Other Municipal Policies Supporting Urban Agriculture,” p. 130-132.
W Nov. 28	<i>Campus field trip</i>	Campus field trip
WEEK 15		
M Dec. 3	<i>Wrap up and going beyond the pilot project</i>	*class assignment due* (10% total grade) Books— Hodgson et al., “Chapter 5: Planning for Urban Agriculture” Lessons Learned,” p. 105-110; de la Salle and Holland, “Conclusion,” p. 199-203. Ladner, “Chapter 8: Economic Development through Urban Agriculture: Chasing the Local Job Dream,” p. 101-117; “Chapter 17: What We Can Do: System Changes, Personal Choices,” p. 239-257.
W Dec. 5	<i>Growing abundant cities</i>	Books— de la Salle and Holland, p. 220-239 (Appendices) Articles (Blackboard)— Viljoen, Andre ed. 2005. <i>CPULs</i> Chapters 1 and 25. Despommier, Dickson. 2009. “A farm on every floor.” Wilson, Alex. 2009. “Growing food locally.” Jacke, Dave. 2005. <i>Edible Forest Gardens, Volume 1</i> , Chapters 1, 3, and 4.