PLAN 548Z: FOOD SYSTEM POLICY & PLANNING
The University of British Columbia
School of Community and Regional Planning

“We need utopia. Its energy and drive, its optimism that things could be better than they are” (Kingwell, 2005, p.59).

INSTRUCTOR:
Wendy Mendes, PhD
Contact: mendesw@interchange.ubc.ca
http://www.scarp.ubc.ca/users/wendy-mendes
http://www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity/who/people/mendes/index.html

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<th>DATES</th>
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<td>Monday, May 17, 2010</td>
<td>6:30 PM - 9:30 PM</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 20, 2010</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 25, 2010</td>
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<td>Friday, May 28, 2010</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 3, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 5, 2010</td>
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KEYWORDS:
Food systems; food system planning; public involvement; public realm; social inclusion; participatory planning; environmental, economic and social sustainability; local governance; policymaking.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Food policies involve a host of issues and jurisdictions ranging from the regional and provincial (e.g. public health, nutrition, anti-hunger), to the national (e.g. agriculture, food safety, food labelling), to the global (e.g. international trade agreements, food aid). Although typically associated with “higher” jurisdictions and scales, the past decades have seen a growing recognition of food policy as an issue of municipal governance and planning.

Urban food policies can be understood as decisions that affect the ways that people in cities produce, obtain, consume and dispose of their food. Food decisions affect whether opportunities to grow food in the city are supported; whether a city’s most vulnerable populations have access to nutritious and affordable food; whether neighbourhoods have grocery stores or farmers’ markets within walking distance; and whether strategies exist to divert food waste from landfills. Although local governments have little direct authority to govern food, it is in cities where the most mouths to feed are found, and where many of the most far-reaching policy innovations in urban food systems are being developed.

This course will explore key issues related to the current practice of food system planning (the practice the developing and implementing food policies). Attention will be paid to the broader governance context within urban food system decisions are taken, including the role of politicians, community members, governing institutions, and other actors in shaping agendas and processes. At the same time, the course combines understandings of urban food systems with broader questions about how we plan and build cities; how we live in them; who is involved in their creation; and how more inclusive and imaginative processes for city-building can be achieved. A central theme will be attention to the role of urban food systems in moving beyond single-function planning.
Please Note: Course content and dates may vary due to unforeseen circumstances.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

(1) Time will not permit a comprehensive overview of all aspects of food systems planning. Rather, we examine select themes and core practices;

(2) The class includes some site visits that involve lengthy walking tours or neighbourhood-based exercises;

(3) Students may be asked to contribute minimal honoraria for site visits involving non-profit organizations;

(4) Except for reasons of illness or other extenuating circumstances, attendance at all class meetings is compulsory. Attendance will be reflected in grading.

OBJECTIVES:
By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Identify and critique major issues and debates in contemporary urban food policy and planning (approaches, innovations, opportunities, barriers);
- Connect these issues to broader trends in urbanization and planning innovations, including in particular, multiple-function planning for sustainable, inclusive cities;
- Understand the legislative, political and institutional context of local governments in Canada, and the tools and techniques relevant to food system planning activities.

CONTENT:
Course material is organized around select topics and case examples. The course will draw on food system planning approaches of individuals and agencies in the Lower Mainland (including numerous guest speakers and site visits). The course will also examine perspectives from other cities worldwide. The course is taught in seminar format. Although there will be formal lecture components, students are expected to read the required readings thoroughly for each class and be prepared to fully participate in a discussion about the class topic based on the readings.

PREREQUISITES:
Non-SCARP students who wish to take the course must obtain permission from the instructor.

COURSE COMPONENTS:
Component 1: What is food system policy and planning?
Component 2: Food production in the city: Urban agriculture and beyond
Component 3: Food system planning, social inclusion and participatory governance
Component 4: Food processing, distribution, waste management, and the local food economy

The course will conclude with presentations of the group policy briefs, and a final discussion of whether urban planners should care about food systems; whether food system planning should be a core function of local governments; and the role of urban food systems in enabling multiple-function planning.

READINGS:
Where possible, readings will be available through on-line sources. In addition, there will be a course kit available for purchase in the UBC Bookstore. Readings will include a combination of academic articles; technical and policy reports; and case studies. There will be an average of four required readings per week (not including optional readings).

Students are expected to complete the first week’s readings prior to the beginning of classes.
Please Note: Course content and dates may vary due to unforeseen circumstances.

SCHEDULE: COMPONENTS, READINGS, SITE VISITS & GUEST SPEAKERS

COMPONENT 1: WHAT IS FOOD SYSTEM POLICY AND PLANNING?

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<th>SITE</th>
<th>GUEST SPEAKER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 17, 2010</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>IN CLASS</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>6:30 – 9:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 20, 2010</td>
<td>Food systems, planning</td>
<td>IN CLASS</td>
<td>Janine de la Salle</td>
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<td>6:30 – 9:30 PM</td>
<td>and design in cities</td>
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<td>Director of Food Systems Planning, HB Lanarc</td>
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Key topics:
- What is policy?
- An introduction to urban food system policy and planning: Main actors, concepts and approaches;
- Urban food systems: A new concern or back to the future?
- Urban food policy and planning in the North American context;
- Why should urban planners care about food?
- Should food system planning be a core function of local governments and planners?

Readings (required):


Multimedia (required viewing):

Carrot City Exhibit – Design and urban food systems: http://www.ryerson.ca/carrotcity/

Supplementary:


DRAFT


Centre for Studies in Food Security (Ryerson University): http://www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity/

Sustain / London Food Link: http://www.sustainweb.org/

CRITICAL REFLECTION PAPER #1 DUE SATURDAY, MAY 22

COMPONENT 2:
FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE CITY: URBAN AGRICULTURE AND BEYOND

Key topics:

- Urban agriculture: main concepts, approaches, policies and regulatory tools;
- Achieving multiple urban development outcomes using urban agriculture;
- Thinking differently about urban agriculture: urban land uses, sustainable communities, social inclusion, healthy communities, public amenities and beyond.

Overview:

Urban agriculture is an umbrella term that refers to the practice of agriculture and related activities within and around cities. This can include community and private gardens; edible landscaping; fruit trees; food-producing green roofs; farmers markets; hobby beekeeping; and food composting. Although urban agriculture is only one aspect of an urban food system, it is one over which local governments potentially exert a great deal of influence, with far reaching consequences.

Urban agriculture provides the opportunity to analyse a food policy issue that has potential benefits beyond merely feeding people. Benefits associated with urban agriculture include the creation of vibrant green spaces, improved urban air quality, reduced distance that food travels from field to plate, economic development, the preservation of cultivatable land, cooler buildings and improved urban biodiversity. At the same time it is suggested that urban agriculture provides a host of social and health benefits including capacity building, community development, sense of place, community safety, physical activity, social inclusion and enhanced nutrition for community residents. This component of the course will provide an introduction to urban agricultural practices and policies with a focus on opportunities and challenges associated with aligning urban agriculture with other municipal and regional goals.

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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 22, 2010</td>
<td>Community-based urban agriculture lead by</td>
<td>Collingwood Neighbourhood House Food</td>
<td><strong>Stephanie Lim</strong>&lt;br&gt;Coordinator, CNH Food Security Institute</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>neighbourhood food networks</td>
<td>Security Institute</td>
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<td><strong>Ian Marcuse</strong>&lt;br&gt;Coordinator, Grandview Woodland Food Connection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 22, 2010</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>The role of local government in enabling urban agriculture: The big picture</td>
<td>Vancouver City Hall</td>
<td>Councillor Andrea Reimer, Former Chair, Vancouver Food Policy Council</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 22, 2010</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>City of Vancouver Urban Agriculture Steering Committee</td>
<td>Vancouver City Hall</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 25, 2010</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Urban agriculture and private developments</td>
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<td>Bob Estey, Vice President Development and Construction, Magellens 2020</td>
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<td>Urban agriculture and economic development</td>
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<td>Ward Tuelon, Owner &amp; Operator, City Farm Boy</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 25, 2010</td>
<td>7:45 PM</td>
<td>Community gardens: Navigating competing land use goals</td>
<td>Davie Village Community Garden</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 25, 2010</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Urban agriculture, social inclusion, placemaking, community capacity building</td>
<td>Mole Hill community gardens and “food lane”</td>
<td>Sean McEwan, Architect</td>
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Readings (required):


HB Lanarc Consultants (2009) Food and Agriculture Brief for the City of Edmonton, pp. 1 – 33. [Course kit]

Supplementary:


Food and urban agriculture on-line books IDRC: http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-23584-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security: http://www.ruaf.org
Please Note: Course content and dates may vary due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Diggable City: Making Urban Agriculture a Planning Priority: http://www.diggablecity.org
Sustain UK: The alliance for better food and farming: http://www.sustainweb.org/
City of London 2,012 gardens by 2,012 initiative: http://www.capitalgrowth.org/

CRITICAL REFLECTION PAPER #2 DUE SATURDAY, MAY 29

COMPONENT 3: FOOD SYSTEM PLANNING, SOCIAL INCLUSION & PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Key topics:
- Making the connections: Food system planning, social inclusion and participatory governance;
- Food system planning to achieve social justice and urban sustainability: Complementary or contradictory goals?
- Is food system planning an effective vehicle for enhancing civic engagement, community building and social inclusion?
- Municipal food charters;
- Food justice movements and the right to food: Is food a commodity or a public good?
- What is the role of planners in mediating competing food system goals?
- Food system planning and diversity.

Overview:
Before considering other aspects of the food system beyond food production, we will pause to examine how and why food system planning has been associated with goals of social inclusion, equity and participatory local governance. It has been claimed that because food system planning necessarily involves multiple stakeholders in decision-making about the food system, it is an area in which policies and programs are more likely to meet the needs of citizens, particularly marginalized and minority groups (i.e. the process becomes just as important as its outcomes). As a result, food system initiatives in cities are often identified as exemplary forms of citizen-lead movements in which “grassroots” solutions prevail. But do these assertions live up to reality? This component of the course will examine the promise and the challenges embodied in the coupling of food planning with goals of social inclusion, equity and participatory governance. Topics will include Municipal Food Charters, food as a right of citizenship, equitable food access, and food systems and cultural diversity.

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<th>DATES</th>
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| Friday, May 28, 2010 10:00 AM | Course recap, discussion, and introduction to component 3 | TBA | Cease Wyss  
|                     | Food system planning and diversity: Urban Aboriginal food programs    |                       | Aboriginal Youth Worker, Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA) |
|                     | Vancouver Intercultural Garden                                        |                       |         |
| Friday, May 28, 2010 1:00 PM  | Whose right to food? Examining the contrasting foodscapes of the Downtown Eastside | Downtown Eastside Walking Tour | Nathan Edelson  
|                     |                                                                       |                       | Adjunct Professor, SCARP |
Readings (required):


*Vancouver Food Charter* and *Backgrounder on the Food Charter* (2007) City of Vancouver:
On-line access: http://vancouver.ca/COMMSVC/SOCIALPLANNING/initiatives/foodpolicy/policy/charter.htm

Multimedia (required viewing):
Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RSn9d9pMN8

Toronto Environmental Alliance Locally Grown Cultural Food Guides
http://www.torontoenvironment.org/campaigns/greenbelting/foodguide

Supplementary:
Food planning in Belo Horizonte, Brazil: http://www.alternatives.ca/auteur1122.html

**COMPONENT 4:**
**FOOD PROCESSING, DISTRIBUTION, WASTE MANAGEMENT & THE FOOD ECONOMY**

Key topics:
- Food processing
- Food distribution
- Food waste and food recovery
- The local food economy

Overview:
In the final component of the course we examine additional elements of the urban food system spectrum including food processing, distribution, food waste management and food recovery. We will ask what is missing from our urban infrastructure (both “hard” and “soft”) to address and repair food system vulnerabilities. At the same time we will pay attention to the policy and regulatory tools required to address current challenges. Finally, we will examine the economic development case for food system planning in cities.
Please Note: Course content and dates may vary due to unforeseen circumstances.

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| Monday, May 31, 2010 6:30 - 9:30 PM | Food hubs: Centres for food processing and distribution  
Vancouver’s local food economy | IN CLASS  
| Herb Barbolet  
SFU Centre for Sustainability and Vancouver Food Policy Council | Thursday, June 3, 2010 6:30 – 9:30 PM | Food composting and food recovery | TBA  
TBA | Saturday, June 5, 2010 9:00 AM | Alternative food distribution models | Trout Lake Farmers Market  
Tara McDonald,  
Executive Director,  
Vancouver Farmers Markets | Saturday, June 5, 2010 1:30 PM | FINAL PRESENTATION OF GROUP PROJECTS | TBA  
N/A |

Readings [required]:
Sustain UK. *Building a sustainable community food hub.* [Course kit]

Sustain UK. *An investigation into the workings of small scale food hubs,* pp. 1 – 8. [Course kit]

Vancouver Food Policy Council (2006). *Vancouver Recovered Food Assessment.* Vancouver: Vancouver Food Policy Council, pp. 1 – 30. [Course kit]


Multimedia [required viewing]:
Farmers Market Nutrition & Coupon Project (10 minutes, 58 seconds)  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIxj-D_T-0Y

ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION:

Students are responsible for:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tr>
<td>I. Critical reflection paper #1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>May 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. Critical reflection paper #2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>May 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>III. Policy brief (group presentation)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>June 5</td>
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<td>IV. Policy brief (written submission including feedback from presentation)</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
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ETHICS OF SITE VISITS:
When participating in site visits, it is important that students conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times. Our guest presenters and guides are contributing their valuable time to share their knowledge and expertise. Please remember to express your appreciation to our guests. This is good professional practice! This includes being punctual (more on this below). Even more importantly, some of the sites we will visit, and programs we learn about, involve the life experiences of vulnerable populations. Do not treat the experience as a gawking exercise. Reflect on how you would feel if a group of outsiders arrived in your community, place of work or home to ‘observe’ you. Use your judgement. Be sensitive to your environment and the people in it. Disrespectful, disruptive or inattentive behaviour will not be tolerated. Photography will not be permitted without the permission of guest lecturers or guides.

PUNCTUALITY:
Prior to each site visit, students receive information by email including detailed information on meeting times and places (including a map). Out of respect for our guest speakers and your fellow students, it is very important that students arrive on time for each site visit. Please contact me if you are going to be late for any unforeseen reason.

MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS:
Our seminars are intellectual forums to explore issues from a range of perspectives. Everyone's voice and interpretations are welcomed. I will provide you with theoretical concepts, models and various interpretations of the issues we will study. Using these models and concepts, you will be encouraged and challenged to develop your own interpretations of the key course topics and themes. In other words, your perspectives do not need to match mine in order to succeed in this course. Freedom of thought and expression is strongly encouraged. You can expect me to come prepared for lectures. I expect the same from you. This includes regular attendance – this is particularly important for such a condensed course – and punctuality (both of which will be reflected in grading). Please turn off your cell phones before class. No video or audio recording devices are permitted without prior consent. If we all abide by this code mutual respect, we set the stage for a mature and intellectually stimulating forum. If you have problems or questions with any aspect of the course, please raise the issue with me. I am very approachable and I welcome your questions and constructive suggestions to make the class better!