This seminar is an anthropological exploration of the multifaceted local and sustainable food movements that have emerged in the past two decades in many parts of the world. We will focus particularly on the varied historical roots of these movements in earlier utopian, agrarian, and reform projects; some of their internal complexities and contradictions; relationship to a wider cluster of environmental, political, educational, place-making, and other movements; existing and emerging patterns of labor, exchange, and access to land; changing relationships between and within rural and urban food production; and an assessment of the potential or limitations of the new food activism for consequential critique and a transformative politics. Field trips, guest speakers, films, and case studies will allow us to connect to a range of issues and venues within contemporary food relocalization efforts in the Boston area, the northeastern U.S., and beyond. Students will strengthen their bibliographic and related research skills by systematically compiling sets of links and resources on selected topics, with the goal of assembling a collective “snapshot” of the dynamic realm of present-day food activism and discourse, along with individual explorations of areas of particular student interest.

Images (clockwise from top left): 1918 war garden at Tufts (http://sites.tufts.edu/dca/2011/05/); 2007 PETA demonstration in Thailand, “All animals have the same parts” (http://www.peta.org/b/thepetafiles/archive/2007/03/22/Naked-Demonstration-in-Thailand.aspx); Pre-Big-Dig image of Haymarket, Blackstone Street, Boston (http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2012/05/15/haymarket-pushcart-vendors-need-embrace-change/wDZTKPTMMzIzN3U549XrPN/story.html); “This is not a Trojan horse,” a 2011 project in Abruzzo, Italy by FutureFarmers (http://www.futurefarmers.com/thisisnotatrojanhorse/july3.html)
Readings and resources:

The main readings for the class are all online and can be accessed through the syllabus on the main course blog (http://sites.tufts.edu/newfoodactivism/).

You will also need to purchase (or find at the library) one additional book from the list below, which you’ll read and discuss with a group of other students. You’ll sign up for these in the first class session.

- Amy Trubek, *The Taste of Place: A Cultural Journey into Terroir* (2009) – April 1 class

Assignments and grading:

Individual student blogs

- Each person will maintain an individual blog throughout the semester, using any platform you prefer (WordPress is available through Tufts’ Spark suite of tools or on the open web at WordPress.com; Blogger is Google’s free blog platform).
- You’ll post at least one short piece each week, reflecting on something related to the class; five of these posts will be graded. Graded posts should be at least 500 words and a link to them should be uploaded in Trunk so I will know to grade them.
- While the choice of post topics is open, your blog will probably be stronger if you identify an area of interest within the overall course subject and concentrate on that.
- Your blog should also include an annotated set of links, resource page, webliography, or some other compilation of sources relating to your area of interest.
- To cap off your blog at the end of the semester, you’ll write and post a longer (1500-2000 word) “state of the field” piece that contextualizes and takes stock of current developments within the area you focused on.
- Blogs may be visible only to class members or open to all readers (recommended). Your blog will be included in our class blogroll in the main course site, which you can peruse to see what others are writing about.
- We’ll talk in the first class about blog platforms, writing style, hyperlinks, images, tags, and other aspects of doing this kind of writing.

5 graded blog posts @ 5% each 25% of grade
“State of the field” summary in blog 20%
Annotated resource list/webliography in blog 20%

Short critical review of the book you’ll discuss in class (see list above). Due by class time on the day of the class discussion about the book. Upload in Trunk and post in your blog if you wish. (500-800 words – 15% of grade)

Participation (20% of grade) – The participation grade will be based on attendance, quality and quantity of contributions to class discussions, contributions to the book discussion session you’re part of, and overall engagement with and commitment to the course materials and activities. The overall quality, depth, and cohesiveness of your individual blog will also be assessed as part of your participation grade.
Learning objectives:

This seminar addresses the following departmental learning objectives:

- Collaborative, team-based approaches to research and analysis
- Thinking internationally and culturally
- Thinking locally, and in terms of diversity
- Critical thinking
- Building an argument
- Civic engagement
- Personal initiative
- Writing

In addition, we will address these course-specific objectives:

- Developing skills at writing short, journalistic, academically-informed blog posts
- Thinking historically and critically about contemporary culture and discourse, including locating ourselves as anthropologists and active citizens within contemporary food politics
- Sharing questions, ideas, and written work horizontally within the class

CLASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Jan. 23 (Monday schedule) Introductions and overview

Monday, Jan. 28 A conceptual stew: Nature, culture, agriculture
Readings: Hagenstein, Donahue, and Gregg, Table of Contents and “American Agrarianism in the Twenty-First Century” from American Georgics: Writings on Farming, Culture, and the Land (2011)
Cathy Stanton, “Plant Yourself in My Neighborhood”: An Ethnographic Landscape Study of Farming and Farmers in Columbia County, New York” (National Park Service, 2012), pp. 78-89
Rachel Slocum, “Race in the Study of Food” from Progress in Human Geography (2011)
Joanna Blythman, “Can vegans stomach the unpalatable truth about quinoa?” The Guardian (1/16/13) and PETA response, “Eating quinoa may harm Bolivian farmers, but eating meat harms us all” (1/22/13)

Monday, Feb. 4 Beyond the binaries: The (re?)emergence of the urban farm
Film (in class): “The Garden”
Readings: David Lepeska, “Betting the Farm: Is there an Urban Agriculture Bubble?” in Next City (2013)
and selected urban farm websites/articles (see links in blog)
Monday, Feb. 11  **Campus and encampment: Platforms for change**

Readings: Jeffrey Haydu, “Cultural Modeling in Two Eras of U.S. Food Protest: Grahamites (1830s) and Organic Advocates (1960s–70s),” *Social Problems* (2011)
Eric Holt Gimenez, “Occupy the Food System: Construction or Protest?” in Huffington Post (2/24/12)
Interview excerpts, Cora Roelof/Emily Wyner
Skim the Real Food Challenge website to familiarize yourself with RFC
Minyoung Song, “New farmers’ market brings local food to Tufts community” in *Tufts Daily* (2010)

Presentation: Emily Wyner
Guest: Patti Klos, Tufts Director of Dining and Business Services

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Monday, Feb. 18  **No classes (Presidents Day holiday)**

Thursday, Feb. 21 (Monday schedule)  **Decentering the human: Interspecies approaches**

Anna Tsing, “Unruly Edges: Mushrooms as Companion Species”

Discussion: *Botany of Desire* discussion group
Presentation: Mae Humiston

For this class session, bring any food item you wish (but preferably a “whole” food—i.e. something in its fairly-close-to-raw or unprocessed state) and be prepared to speak briefly about the politics of your relationship to it.

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Monday, Feb. 25  **Ecofeminism and Farmer Jane: Gender in food politics**

Angel Flinn and M. Butterflies Katz, "To be a Feminist is to be a Vegan" (5/29/12 - read all four sections)
Laura Kane, "Young, city-born women buck Ontario’s aging farmer trend" in Toronto Star (8/13/12)
Read at least two of the profile articles in Featured Farmer Jane (FarmerJane.org)

Discussion: *The Sexual Politics of Meat* discussion group
Monday, March 4  Rebuilding regional infrastructure: Boston’s market district
Field trip to downtown market district (Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market, Haymarket, Boston Public Market)
Nicholas Dagen Bloom, “American Midas: Rouse and Festival Marketplaces” from Merchant of Illusion: James Rouse, America’s Salesman of the Businessman’s Utopia (2004)
Diana Limbach Lempel, “Scenes from Haymarket”
Jeremy C. Fox, “Haymarket vendors and customers have mixed feelings about upcoming development,” Boston Globe, 5/25/12
Casey Ross, “Finalists chosen for one of last prime Greenway sites,” Boston Globe, 11/1/12
Guest: Mimi Hall, Operations Manager, Boston Public Market Association

Monday, March 11  Peasants, yeoman, pioneers: Farm work and social status
David Danbom, “The Agricultural Experiment Station and Professionalization: Scientists’ Goals for Agriculture” in Agricultural History (1986)
Dona Brown, Introduction from Back to the Land: The Enduring Dream of Self-Sufficiency in Modern America (2011)
Jean-Paul Courtens, “Letter from a Farmer” (9/6/10)
John Gerber, “Land Grant Revitalization at UMass” (5/4/12)
Amy DuFault, “Millenials suit up as next-generation farmers” (12/28/12)
“Programs in US match fledgling farmers, landowners” (AP, 11/17/12)
National Young Farmers Coalition press page - skim at least a few of the many articles here!
Film (in class): The Greenhorns
Discussion: Back to the Land discussion group

Monday, March 18 – SPRING BREAK
Monday, March 25 – No class (Tuesday event, below, substitutes for this class)

Tuesday, March 26 – Reintegrative approaches: Art in food activism
- Gallery visit/artist talk at Boston University: Amy Franceschini, FutureFarmers
- Exhibit: *Alternative Visions/Sustainable Futures*
- From FutureFarmers website:
  - "Soil Kitchen" (main page, About page, Documentation, and Don Quixote)
  - "This is Not a Trojan Horse" (main page, About page, Tour page)

Meet at Davis Square subway turnstiles at 4:15 p.m. OR at 808 Gallery (808 Commonwealth Ave/BU West stop on Green Line B) between 5 and 5:30 p.m.OR at artist talk (Morse Auditorium, 602 Commonwealth Ave/Blandford St. stop on Green Line B) at 6:30 p.m.

For those not able to make it due to scheduling conflicts, meet with Cathy during our normal Monday class time on March 25 to talk about alternative assignments for the session.

Monday, April 1 Finding our place (and eating it too): The politics of *terroir*
- Reading: Laura DeLind, “Place, Work, and Civic Agriculture: Common Fields for Cultivation” in *Agriculture and Human Values* (2002)
- Guest: Amahl Bishara, Tufts University
- Discussion: *The Taste of Place* discussion group

Monday, April 8 Making farming public(s): Education, tourism, therapy
- Reading: Stanton, “‘Plant Yourself in My Neighborhood’” pp. 133-36, 171-76, and 184-92
- Allen Salkin, "Leaving Behind the Trucker Hat" in *New York Times* (3/16/08)
- Look at J. Crew "The Naturals" ad campaign (particularly the farmers)
- Guests: Perri Meldon, Tufts University
  - Anna Duhon, Farmscape Ecology Program/Hawthorne Valley Farm
  - Schuyler Gail, Climbing Tree Farm
  - Heidi Stucker, Tufts University
Monday, April 15 – No classes (Patriots Day)

Monday, April 22 – Farm/garden work day (Location t.b.d.)

No later than the end of the day on Thursday, April 25, send me your top choice from your own blog for inclusion in our “best of the blogs” compilation, which we’ll discuss in the final class.

Monday, April 29 – Best of the blogs & state of the field(s)

Complete your resource list/webliography and post your “state of the field” summary essay (1500-2000 words) in your blog by class time. Come to class prepared to make a very short presentation (2-3 minutes) with the main takeaways from your “state of the field” reflection.