

SOCI 388 - Sociology of Food and Eating

Instructor: Dr. Susanna Klassen

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Fall 2024, Monday & Thursday 4:30-5:50pm

Fully online and synchronous

Description

This course will explore some of the ways to think sociologically about food, eating and agriculture, including socio-political, economic and ecological dynamics and how they intersect. We will learn to understand and use concepts such as food system, food security, food system sustainability and food sovereignty, and the ways that capitalism and colonialism shape food system dynamics. We will also explore debates and concepts related to food that have emerged in sociology, but that have broad applicability to other fields and to our lives as eaters, citizens and community members. Overall, this course will give you a starting point to think about the food on your plate in new ways, and the opportunity to explore ideas and concepts that excite you. My hope is that this course will leave you feeling inspired by the richness of insights related to food available in sociology and related fields!

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a deep understanding of a variety of concepts related to the food system
- Be familiar with several important critical debates and inquiries around food and eating that have emerged in Sociology and related fields
- Have a more nuanced view of food itself as an entry point to understanding a plethora of sociological dynamics
- Be able to discern individual and collective ways of thinking about and acting within the food system

Possible topics

Food systems; foodscape; food labour and work; food security; food sovereignty; food system sustainability; capitalism; colonialism; Indigenous food sovereignty; local food systems; place-based food systems; corporate concentration; food futures; agri-food tech; food waste.

There are no required textbooks for this course. All reading materials will be available online via the UVic Library or on Brightspace.