

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Global Studies Participatory Project

Course Number and Section

CGS

3203F - 550

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course is a community-engaged, experiential learning opportunity in which students combine the academic study of community economies and sustainable agriculture with hands-on experience working with a local, small-scale, biodynamic farm. Students will spend the first 5 weeks on pre-departure preparation. This includes reading literature on community/regional economies, sustainable/regenerative agriculture and agroecology to identify key critical issues. Students will spend a full week (READING WEEK) at New Moon Community Homestead, a biodynamic farm 35 km Northwest of London. During this time, they will participate in farm work along with daily ideation sessions, identifying areas of strength, weakness and community need. In the remaining seven weeks, students engage in post-return debriefing, produce a community resource and write a critical reflection paper. Throughout the semester, we will focus on two key questions: How can we create scalable and durable socially sustainable agricultural systems? And how can the small-scale, agroecological or regenerative farm be a site from which to build resilient community economies and counter-hegemonic movements? In this regard, the course explores how small-scale farmers in North America are actively addressing problems of ecological crisis, economic precarity, social responsibility and scalability. Our work with New Moon will help us to see how farmers are also striving to build community and regional economies based on ethical concerns for sustainability and equity. Overall, this course provides the theoretical foundation for rethinking economies through the lens of agricultural systems and practical skills for organizing community-engaged development interventions.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify UN Sustainable Development Goals relevant to agricultural food systems and understand how they can be localized.
2. Recognize and define community economies and regional economies and explain how they are different from the dominant economy.
3. Outline the principles and aims of agroecology and regenerative agriculture and explain how they respond to globalized capitalist agriculture.
4. Explain the importance of community economies and regional economies for sustainable agriculture.
5. Provide a rationale for building a new agricultural economy and identify barriers to its development.

6. Participate in farm work and ideation sessions with the community partner, identify the needs of the partner organization and potential barriers to their fulfillment.
7. Develop a resource for the community partner that will help to fulfill one or more of the needs identified.
8. Critically reflect on the field experience and praxis of community engagement.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Students will read a variety of academic articles, selections from books and anthologies, and policy documents covering the topics of community economies, sustainable development, and regenerative agriculture.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Group Assignment 1	various	15%
Field Report	October 22	20%
Group Assignment 2	December 6	40%
Critical Reflection Paper	December TBA	25%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lu̓naapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.