

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the principles and practices of urban agricultural design, exploring how cities can integrate sustainable food systems into urban environments.

### **Textbook**

We will use the following free, online references as well as extension and other government agency bulletins, research articles, and videos to provide the course content. Other documents/handouts, articles, and videos will be provided through D2L. The online version of each may be accessed through the hyperlink provided.

Cabannes, Y., & Marocchino, C. (Eds.). (2018). *Integrating Food into Urban Planning*. UCL Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv513dv1>

De Zeeuw, H. & Drechsel, P., Eds. (2015). *Cities and Agriculture: Developing Resilient Food Systems*. RUAF Foundation and International Water Management Institute. Routledge. <https://ruaf.org/document/cities-and-agriculture-developing-resilient-urban-food-systems/>

Raja, S., Campbell, M. C., Judelsohn, A., Born, B., & Morales, A. (Eds.). (2024). *Planning for equitable urban agriculture in the United States: Future directions for a new ethic in city building*. Springer. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-32076-7>

### **Course Organization**

The course is designed in an 8-module format that can be used in a sub-term, full semester, or summer course. Each module, except Module 1, will have the content and instructional equivalent to a minimum of 6 hours.

This is a new course, and I want to make sure that we address the most important/relevant topics. I know that importance and relevance are not always the same and may differ among individuals. Online discussion prompts for each module and assignments have been created to allow you the opportunity to synthesize and apply the content in context to your current and future professional and interests.

Some of the topics related to urban food systems design and conditions may touch on issues such as racial or economic disparity or discrimination. Although, this is not the primary content of the course, it is essential that you understand how to work with stakeholders from across the urban spectrum. Recognizing and understanding different perspectives of those involved in planning urban food systems, and especially urban agriculture enterprises, is a key course expectation.

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**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to-

- a. **Learning Outcome 1:** Students will be able to demonstrate *knowledge* of the urban food system as well as the need for alternative designs.
- b. **Learning Outcome 2:** Students will be able to *apply* knowledge about urban food systems as evidenced through course activities and assignments.
- c. **Learning Outcome 3:** Students will be able to view themselves as *engaged* change agents/educators within the context of urban planning and its relevance to urban food security, improved community health, and greater economic opportunity for local residents.

The following instructional objectives will guide course content to achieve these outcomes.

1. Recognize historical and contemporary issues relevant to urban food systems.
2. Examine ecological, economic, and ethical impacts of urban agriculture.
3. Identify, analyze, and utilize various sources/types of information and:
  - a. Discuss *case studies* and examples of urban food systems.
  - b. Distinguish between urban agriculture and urban food systems.
  - c. Compare planning theories/practices associated with urban food systems.
  - d. Recognize agencies/organizations supporting urban food systems.
4. Develop and deliver informative presentations.
5. Consider the *human conditions* associated with urban food systems.
6. Recognize the role of livestock/poultry/fish in urban food systems.
7. Identify sources of influence in the development of regulations and policies affecting urban food security.
8. Examine municipal and/or regional food systems plans for domestic and international cities/metropolitan areas.

**Grade Determination:**

|                                                    | Possible Points |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Completion of online discussions (8 @ 15 pts each) | 120             |
| Introductory video                                 | 80              |
| Video presentation over an assigned reading        | 100             |
| Research article summary and reflection (2 @ 100)  | 200             |
| Review/reflection over municipal/regional UFS plan | 100             |

$$\text{Your Grade (\%)} = \frac{\text{Points Earned}}{600} \times 100$$

A = 90-100    B = 80-89    C = 70-79    D = 60-69    F = below 60%

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## **Participation in Online Discussions**

There will be a minimum of one discussion prompt for each module. The discussion prompt is provided to allow you to demonstrate through your response that you understand key aspects presented in the module. This is formative assessment, which is used to “check for understanding” as well as determine if the effectiveness of course content in providing relevant information.

## **Introductory Video**

Student will prepare and submit a 30-45 second video introducing themselves in D2L. The specific directions should be followed in preparing and delivering the video. This allows students and professor become familiar with each other and better understand the educational/professional context each student brings with them.

## **Research Brief (2)**

Students will select and read two research articles related to some aspect of urban food systems and summarize key points in 2-3 paragraphs. In the final paragraph, the student will describe how this research relates to one or more topics presented/discussed in class and whether or not the results could be put into practice in North Texas or DFW area.

## **Video Presentation Over Assigned Reading**

Each student will create a *video presentation* elaborating on an article or book chapter assigned by the professor. Presentations will be submitted in D2L.

## **Review and Reflection Over Case Study**

Student will review and reflect (written/discussion/video TBD) over a specific city or regional plan (or plans) for Urban Agriculture and/or Food Systems.

Research summaries and presentations should be written in a format compatible with the *American Psychological Association (APA) Manual for Publication*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. A synopsis and tutorial on scientific writing, including the use of APA format is available from the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>). Personal face-to-face assistance with editing and format suggestions is available from the on-campus Writing Center at East Texas A&M.

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**Syllabus Addendum** for Dr. Bob Williams for the Fall 2026 Semester**OFFICE HOURS**

Office hours are available for student conferences with the professor for additional course support and, if applicable, academic/career advisement. The following hours will be maintained for this purpose, provided they are not circumvented by administrative assigned tasks beyond the professors control, professional travel to conferences or meetings, or medical appointments for professor or his household dependents.

|           |                                                       |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 9:00-11:00 a.m. (available for in-office appointment) |
| Tuesday   | 9:00-11:00 a.m. (available for in-office appointment) |
| Wednesday | 9:00-11:00 a.m. (available for in-office appointment) |
| Thursday  | appointment only                                      |
| Friday    | appointment only                                      |

**COUNSELING**

**The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)**

**TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course.

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "[click here](#)" to submit an issue via email.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT*****Interaction with Instructor Statement***

The professor will be accessible to students via email as well as the professor will have specific office hours and times when students may schedule an appointment. Email is the most effective form of correspondence with the professor. Do not attempt to text, Skype, or Facetime the professor. Response to emails, except for the weekends or during times which the professor may be in remote area conducting research, will normally occur within 24 hours or receipt of the original message.

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## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### ***University Specific Procedures***

#### ***Student Conduct***

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

#### ***Attendance***

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

#### ***Academic Integrity***

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### ***ADA Statement***

#### ***Students with Disabilities***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

*Office of Student Disability Resources and Services*

East Texas A&M University

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Website: <https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

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***Nondiscrimination Notice***

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

***Campus Concealed Carry Statement***

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url:  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all ETAMU campuses. Report violations to University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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