



**STOCKBRIDGE**  
SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE

**UMASS**  
**AMHERST**

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***Introduction to Sustainable Food and Farming***  
**STOCKSCH 118 – Agricultural Engineering Bldg. room 308**  
**Thursday 4:00pm-5:15pm**  
**Fall 2016**

**Instructors**

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**Purpose of the Course**

Sustainable Food and Farming is an interdisciplinary field, bringing together aspects of science, practice, economics, sociology, art and politics. This course is a one-credit seminar designed to give students an overview of the field of study, an introduction to the major, and a chance to explore internship and employment opportunities. The class includes readings and discussions as well as reflective writing and guest speakers. The class is participatory and intended to help build community among new students in the major. The class fulfills the freshmen seminar requirement for SFF majors.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- 1...begin to have a sense of community within the major and the Stockbridge School of Ag,
- 2...have explored multiple options for a course of study within the major and begun to develop a plan leading to graduation, and;
- 3...have explored internship and work opportunities leading to a career in some aspect of sustainable food and farming.

**Grading:** Students are expected to attend class and participate on a regular basis as most of the learning occurs by sharing among a community of peers. Two unexcused absences will be allowed. Students will do a self-evaluation and suggest a grade for the semester.

**Format:**

The tentative outline for the semester is below. We will “build the road while walking” – that is discussion topics and guest speakers will be determined based on interests of the students in the class and opportunities that arise during the semester. Attendance is required.

## **Tentative Course Outline**

**September 8** – Introduction to the course and each other; what is sustainable agriculture?

**September 15** – Walking Field Trip to the **Agricultural Learning Center**

Meet at the Wysocki House (911 North Pleasant St.) at 4:00pm. If you are late go back through the parking lot and follow the dirt road up into the field. If it is raining, check your email around noon to find out the plan for the afternoon. We will be outside unless it is clearly too wet! Dress appropriately and if it is hot bring water!

Homework due – review before class:

- Check out <https://www.facebook.com/UMassALC/>
- Check out <http://stockbridge.cns.umass.edu/SFF-student-projects>

**September 22** – Building community within the SFF major; learning to mind map

**September 29** – Tentative Work Day at the Food for All Garden (meet at the ALC)

**October 6** – Social Justice and Sustainable Agriculture

HW – reading before class

**October 13** – Getting started creating your personal goal statement

HW – complete pages 1-5 before class and bring your work to class

Guest Speaker – former student with experience using the personal goal statement

**October 20** – Science and Sustainable Agriculture

HW – read and answer questions for discussion on: “*How Sustainable Agriculture Can Address the Environmental and Human Health Harms of Industrial Agriculture*”

**October 27** – Planning a 4-year degree in Sustainable Food and Farming

HW – review your ARR and be prepared to propose courses for fall and beyond

Guest Speaker – current student (senior) to discuss experience in the major

**November 3** – Update on your Personal Goal Statement (second draft)

HW – practice making a decision using your personal goal (p. 11-12 in the workbook)

Guest Speaker – former student with to discuss “life after college”

**November 10** – What are the employment and internship opportunities?

HW – search for three apprenticeship/internships, post to the Stockbridge web page and be prepared to report on your findings in class

Guest Speaker – former student with to discuss “life after college”

**November 17** – Getting involved in your major; opportunities

Guest Speakers – multiple speakers from the various clubs and projects

**November 24** – No class; Happy Thanksgiving!

**December 1** – Complete Holistic Goal and share your experience with others

**December 8** – Evaluation and grading