

MNST 7190 Stewarding Creation: Justice, Food & Health

Fall semester 2018 3 credits

Meeting Saturday September 15, October 6, & November 17

Faculty:

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Course Description:

This blended course is framed around issues of food production, distribution and consumption to explore biblical perspectives of justice, stewardship and community health. Recognizing that whatever exists belongs to God and our role as stewards, we will consider how faith and food relate to matters of justice and health for individuals and communities. This course meets the cultural diversity requirement for all seminary degrees and contributes to achieving learning outcomes of intercultural competency and contextual communication as well as building ministerial identity and skill.

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze practices and concepts of food justice, stewardship and health and their implications for sustainable living through communal discernment.
2. Experience three diverse environmental contexts in Chicago in order to analyze socio-economic, cultural and faith-based factors impacting the causes of justice, stewardship and health through engaging with local church and community narratives.
3. Critique faith-based models of sustainable living in the areas of justice, stewardship and health through our individual and communal relationship with food.
4. Creatively communicate an issue of faith and food for a ministry context synthesizing course learning.

Class format:

This blended class will engage three diverse environmental contexts to explore responsible living in the areas of food justice, stewardship and health. We will meet on three Saturdays from 8 am - 7pm, each time at a different Chicagoland church. In addition, there will be online work and weekly assignments. While contact time is focused on three weekend days, each week you should anticipate 9-10 hours of class work. It is expected that students will be able to participate in each Saturday session. In the case that a student misses one session a substantive alternative assignment will be completed relevant to the topic of that day.

Required Texts:

Alkon, A. H. & Agyeman, J. (2011). *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. ISBN-13: 978-0262516327

Bowens, N. (2015). *Color of Food: Stories of Race, Resilience and Farming*. Gabriola Islands, BC: New Society Publishers.

Wirzba, N. (2011) *Faith and Food: A Theology of Eating*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

A reader of articles and online materials has been compiled to integrate diverse perspectives. This will be available on the course Canvas shell.

Recommended Texts:

Ayres, J. (2013). *Good Food: Grounded Practical Theology*. Waco, Texas : Baylor University Press.

Bliss, L. (2013). *Environmental Missions: Planting Churches and Trees*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library.

Fields, L. ed (2010) *The Spirit of Food: 34 Writers on Feasting and Fasting toward God* . Eugene, Or. Wipf & Stock.

Kent, George. (2005). *Freedom from Want: The Human Right to Adequate Food*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Mendez-Montoya, A. (2009). *The Theology of Food: Eating and the Eucharist*. New York: Wiley-Blackwell.

Peck, Alice (2008). *Bread, Body, Spirit: Finding the Sacred in Food*. Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths Publishing.

Woodley, R. (2012). *Shalom and the Community of Creation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Note: The full syllabus will be available by June 30