
SOC 3460: Building a Community Commons K01 & T03

Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba
Summer Term/2016 (6 Credit Hours)

Instructor: Evan Bowness, MA Cell #: _____
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Office: 301 I Isbister Building
Office Hours: By appointment only.
Course Website: UMLearn
Class Schedule: May 16 – June 13: Mondays, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
(no class Victoria Day)
Room 202 Isbister Building
June 20 – June 30: Monday - Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Riverview Community Centre, 90 Ashland Ave.
(unless specified otherwise)

Course Overview

Welcome to *Building a Commons*. This community-based, experiential-learning, applied-sociology course is about urban agriculture and food sovereignty. It's critical, public and situated in the context of ecological and social problems in the food system. You'll spend time in existing, and design not-yet existing, public permaculture spaces. You'll organize a community event and learn about how to garner support for grassroots initiatives. You'll learn to develop community project proposals and make short promotional videos. Then you'll critically reflect on this experience and confront the challenging question of what our role is in food-system and social change. Most of this will happen in the South Osborne Permaculture Commons – part of which is a legacy left by past students in this course. And you'll contribute to it.

Community Sociology

This course offers an engaging approach to developing your 'sociological imagination' – seeing the connection between personal troubles and public issues. We'll relate local struggles to global crises in food and agriculture. We will critique the agri-food system and consider the ways it shapes lives and experiences of individuals, from field to fork. We'll also discuss the role of sociologists and education in creating a just and sustainable food system, all while actively participating in the transformation of community spaces – both on and off campus. Community Partner Organizations: Sustainable South Osborne Community Cooperative Inc. (SSOCC) and the South Osborne Permaculture Workers' Cooperative Ltd. (SOPWC).
(website: www.SouthOsborneCommons.ca)

Course Readings

- Bollier, David. (2014). *Think Like a Commoner: A Short Introduction to the Life of the Commons*. Gabriola Island: New Society. [whole book]
- Burawoy, M. (2005). For Public Sociology. *American Sociological Review*, 70(1), 4–28.
- De Tavernier, J. (2012). Food Citizenship: Is there a duty for responsible consumption? *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, 25(6), 895–907.
<http://doi.org/10.1007/s10806-011-9366-7>
- Dimitri, C., Oberholtzer, L., & Pressman, A. (2016). Urban Agriculture: Connecting producers with consumers. *British Food Journal*, 118(3), 603–617.
<http://doi.org/10.1108/BFJ-06-2015-0200>
- Gottlieb, R., & Joshi, A. (2010). An Emerging Movement. In *Food Justice* (pp. 1–12). Cambridge: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Levkoe, C. Z. (2011). Towards a Transformative Food Politics. *Local Environment*, 16(7), 687–705. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2011.592182>
- Magdoff, F. (2012). Food as a Commodity. *Monthly Review*, 63(8).
<http://monthlyreview.org/2012/01/01/food-as-a-commodity/>
- Martellozzo, F., Landry, J.-S., Plouffe, D., Seufert, V., Rowhani, P., & Ramankutty, N. (2014). Urban Agriculture: A global analysis of the space constraint to meet urban vegetable demand. *Environmental Research Letters*, 9(6), 1–9.
<http://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/9/6/064025>
- McClintock, N. (2014). Radical, Reformist and Garden-Variety Neoliberal: Coming to terms with urban agriculture's contradictions. *Local Environment*, 19(2), 147–171. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2012.752797>
- Mills, C. W. (1959). The Promise. In *The Sociological Imagination* (pp. 1–14). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Morley, A., McEntee, J., & Marsden, T. (2014). Food Futures: Framing the crisis. In T. Marsden & A. Morley (Eds.), *Sustainable Food Systems Building a New Paradigm* (pp. 1–33). New York.
- Vidgen, H. A., & Gallegos, D. (2014). Defining food literacy and its components. *Appetite*, 76(C), 50–59. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2014.01.010>
- Wittman, Hannah, Annette Aurélie Desmarais & Nettie Weibe. (2011). *Food Sovereignty in Canada: Creating Just and Sustainable Food Systems*. Black Point: Fernwood. [whole book]
- Wright, E. O. (2010). The Tasks of Emancipatory Social Science. In *Envisioning Real Utopias* (pp. 1–12). London.
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Assignments and Grading

Reading Journal (20%)	June 13
Group Video (15%)	Part 1 (5%) June 13 Part 2 (10%) June 29
Group Project Proposal (15%)	Part 1 (5%) June 13 Part 2 (10%) June 29
Group Presentation (10%)	June 24
Critical Reflection (20 %)	June 30
Participation (20%)	

Assignment Descriptions

Reading Journal – Write a summary (max 150 words) for each of the course readings.

Critical Reflection Assignment – Pick one of your reading journal entries and expand on it. Using the What/So What/ Now What? format described in class, apply your answer to experiences from class (max 1000 words).

Participation – Factors include peer-evaluations for group projects, instructor evaluation of contributions to course activities and discussions and attendance.

Group Projects – You’ve been placed in one of three groups in which you will work on a number of projects (below). At the beginning of the course, each group will complete a ‘Team Charter’ which lays out the rules for group work and expectations for participation. At the end of the course, each member will complete a peer-evaluation to evaluate the contribution of other members of the group (and be evaluated by them). Detailed assignment descriptions will be distributed in class.

Group Video - Create a short (< 4 mins) participatory film in collaboration with course partner organizations: Sustainable South Osborne and South Osborne Permaculture Workers’ Cooperative. Each group has a different film topic.

Project Proposal – With the help of permaculture designer Stacey Tress, your group will create a design for a common urban agriculture site on the Fort Garry campus (to be built during Building a Commons in 2017). In addition to the design, each group will write up a proposal, budget, and will submit specified accompanying materials.

Group Presentation – Each group will present on a selection of the course readings, organized by theme. As a group, you will address the following **reading questions**:

Group 1: Applied/Critical/Public Sociology and the Commons

What is the sociological imagination? (Mills)

How can sociology extend the imagination beyond the sociology department? (Wright; Buroway)

What is the ‘commons’? (Bollier)

What can sociologies contribute to community-based resource management?

Is food a ‘commons’? (Magdoff)

Group 2: Food Sovereignty

What are the key features of the food crisis? (Morley McEntee & Marsden)

What is food sovereignty? What does ‘sovereignty’ mean in the context of food systems? What does food sovereignty look like in Canada? Are we ‘there’ yet? (Wittman, Desmarais & Weibe)

In your assessment, what needs to change about the global food system? What can we change locally?

Group 3: Urban Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation

Does urban agriculture contribute to food security? (Martellozzo et al)
What are the major concepts that describe the ways in which we can affect the food system the food system? (Vidgen & Gallegos; De Tavernier; Gottlieb, Robert & Anupama Joshi). Critique each of them with an eye towards their potential as ‘transformative food politics’ (Levekoe)
How is urban agriculture related to Food Literacy, Citizenship, Justice and Transformative Food Politics? (Dimitri, Oberholtzer & Pressman)
What are the limitations to Urban Agriculture’s transformative potential? (McClintock)

Note: more detailed assignment descriptions will be made available first week of class.

Final Grades:

A+= 90-100%	C+ = 65-69%
A = 80-89%	C = 60-64%
B+ = 75-79%	D = 50-59%
B = 70-74%	F = Below 50%

Note: Rounding up is at instructor discretion

Submission Guidelines:

Double-space, 12-point font, number pages. Use APA style. All written assignments will be submitted through the course website. No e-mail or hardcopy submissions unless arranged in advance. For all written assignments that require an online submission, be sure to **carefully** follow these instructions—failing to do so will result in a loss of marks:

1. Include the following on a title page (not counted in page/word count limits):
 - The Course Name (e.g. SOC 2200 (A01): Sociology Through Film)
 - The Assignment Name: (e.g. Critical Reflection 1)
 - Your Name **and** Student Number, OR the Names **and** Seven-Digit Student Numbers of all group members if it’s a group assignment.
 - The Date and Year (e.g. Oct 25, 2013)
 - My Name (Evan Bowness)
2. Save the file as a **.doc** or **.docx** file on your computer, *not any other format*.
3. Use the following filename format for individual assignment submissions: “Firstname_Lastname_Assignment Title.” Use the following filename format for group submissions: “Group Number_Assignment Title” for group submissions.
4. Sign into UMLearn. For group submissions, select one group member to submit the assignment on behalf of the group.

5. Click on the “Assessments” Tab. Click “Dropbox.” Find the appropriate folder (e.g., In-Class Discussion Activity #1).
6. Click on “Add File.” In the popup window that opens, make sure that “My Computer” is selected on the left hand side. Click “Upload.” Locate and select your file. Click “Open. Click “Add.” Click “Submit.”

You will receive an e-mail confirming that your Dropbox submission was received. If you do not, try again. If that doesn't work, then you can contact me.

Note: Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day late (including weekends). Failure to hand in an assignment will result in a grade of zero

Other Considerations:

Conduct: Come to class prepared to participate in class discussions. Be respectful – disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify me at the onset of class if you need to leave early or if you have to come late to the next class.

E-mails: The best way to reach me is through an e-mail containing the following:

1. *A salutation* (e.g., “Hi Evan,”)
2. *Mention of course that your e-mail is about* (e.g., “I'm in your SOC 2200 class.”)
3. *A clear purpose for your e-mail* (e.g., “I would like to ask for an extension...”)
4. *Your signature* (e.g., “Thank you, Tina Weymouth, Student Number 1234567”)

E-mails must also be sent from your institutional UM account and include the course name in the subject line. If any of these elements is missing, you can expect this in response:

*“Please fix this e-mail, then resend.
I will get back to you as soon as I have a complete e-mail inquiry to work with.”*

If your e-mail is written using text shorthand, bad grammar and/or spelling, or was otherwise overly informal, you'll get a reply like this one:

“Lol. Pls fix dis!?!?!?! Thaksssss. G2G! :P”

Keep an Open Mind: Sociology can be frustrating. Often it requires us to face the root of misconceptions that we (often unconsciously) hold about the social world. Be open to taking on a diversity of perspectives and challenge your own thinking.

Late Assignments: Assignments submitted after the deadline (without my prior arrangements) will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends and holidays.

Extensions: I am open to granting extensions for assignments where they are warranted. Note that documentation (such as a doctor's notes) will usually be required. Except under exceptional circumstances, I will not entertain requests for extensions after the fact – you have to make your request *in advance of the deadline in question*.

Unclaimed Term Work Disposal: Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

VW Deadlines: May 30 2016 is the last day to withdraw and not be assessed a "VW." June 27 2016 is the last date for Voluntary Withdrawal without academic penalty (see refund schedule, published on the Registrar's Office website, for financial implications)

Special Needs: Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time, aids or other supports) should discreetly identify themselves to me at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation.

Religious Holidays: The University recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. At my discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. Again, please notify me via e-mail if you need to miss a class.

Academic Dishonesty: Don't do it. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("Personation at Examinations" (Section 5.2.9) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission (found here: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html). Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them. In particular, **everyone should read this document on avoiding plagiarism:** umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/dafoe/media/plagiarism.pdf. Anyone found to have committed academic dishonesty will be punished.

Tentative Schedule: (subject to change)

Monday May 16 (U of M)	Session1: Course overview	Session 2: Intro to video equipment	Session 3: Get to know your group
Monday May 23	NO CLASS		
Monday May 30 (U of M)	Film: Pre- production	Proposal Workshop 1	Group Work (Video, Presentation, Proposal)
Monday June 6 (U of M)	Film: Production	The Permaculture Orchard (film)	
Monday June 13 (U of M)	Film: Post- production	Proposal Workshop 2	Group Work
Monday June 20 RVCC	AM SSO Tour	PM 1 Funding Workshop	PM 2 Discussion: Readings
Tuesday June 21 U of M	Design workshop w. Stacey Tress		
Wednesday June 22	<i>Trip to Clearwater MB</i>		
	AM Group Work/ Travel	PM 1 Work Party	PM2 Pizza. Discussion: Critical Reflections
Thursday June 23 U of M	AM Group Work	PM 1 Budget workshop	PM 2 Group Work
Friday June 24 U of M	AM Group Work	PM Group Presentations	
Monday June 27	AM2 Indigenizing & Decolonizing Community Projects	PM Permablitz 1	
Tuesday June 28	Group Work	PM Permablitz 2	
Wednesday June 29	Group Work	PM Permablitz 3	
Thursday June 30	Prep for Celebration@ People Garden	Celebration @ 1:00 PM	Bonfire after @ Evan's mom's

