

# ENV 190/ANTH 159

## Practicing in Food Systems

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Cody  
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Synchronous Meeting Time:  
Monday 1:30—4:00

Instruction Mode:  
Remote/Hybrid



### **Course Description:**

What does it mean to be a food system practitioner? What kinds of practices lend themselves to transforming the food system to make it more sustainable, equitable, and just? This course utilizes an agroecological framework designed to enable just such a transformation. We will enliven this framework by learning from a range of practitioners working on issues ranging from farmland conservation to food justice. In addition, you will engage in food system practice by working with New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, a program of Friedman School whose mission is to “improve our local and regional food systems by training the next generation of farmers” (nesfp.org).

The course serves as the capstone practicum for the Food Systems and Nutrition minor and also counts toward the Food Systems, Nutrition and Environment track in the Environmental Studies major as well as the Anthropology major.

### **Course outcomes:**

This class contributes to the following outcomes identified as priorities for Environmental Studies students:

- Appreciate the importance of interdisciplinary knowledge and approaches when evaluating and/or seeking solutions to environmental issues
- Effectively communicate to different audiences
- Work collaboratively by organizing teams to analyze and solve environmental problems

In addition, it works toward the following course-specific outcomes:

- Reflect more deeply on our own roles and positions within food systems practice
- Learn about work taking place locally and regionally to improve the food system
- Gain practical experience working with an organization deeply engaged in food system transformation
- Utilize an agroecological framework to understand and address critical issues in the food system

## Course/Class Structure:

This course has three main components:

1. A guiding text we'll be using throughout the course called [Agroecology Now!](#) frames our thematic content and offers a roadmap for food system transformation.
2. Guest speakers who have unique perspectives and engagements with the food system will be featured each week for 6 weeks in the middle of course.
3. Special projects and assignments that have you working directly with New Entry staff (including your professor) to provide real-world experience that integrates academic learning objectives.

Each of our class sessions will incorporate one or more of these components working together as a class and in small groups. **As it stands, we will be meeting online synchronously each Monday from 1:30-4:00. More on possible in-person meetings/field trips will be discussed in class.**

## Course Assignments (in brief):

### *Literature Review (25%)*

In March New Entry will be submitting a grant to the USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher Development program. This assignment will support New Entry grant writers by compiling relevant articles and literature related to the proposal. It will also be an opportunity to refine your skills at compiling and synthesizing materials into your own literature review.

(Due 3/8)

### *Practitioner Interview (25%)*

You will practice the art of asking questions, listening, and learning with our guest speakers who work in the food system. You will then apply these lessons to an interview you conduct on your own with an individual you have identified doing work related to food systems.

(Due 4/12)

### *Tufts/New Entry Proposal (25%)*

As a final project for the course, you will submit a well-researched proposal suggesting possible avenues for deepening the integration between Tufts University and New Entry. From research and teaching to community engagement initiatives, we will discuss a range of options for you to consider. Your experience and expertise acquired as a student at Tufts will play a central role in crafting the proposal.

(Due 5/13)

### *Special Projects (15%)*

You will be tasked with a range of projects specific to a program area at New Entry which include Farmer Training, Food Hub, and FIELD Network. (The network involves collaborations with similar organizations across the country.) Specific assignments and workplans will be developed in coordination with New Entry staff and accomplished throughout the course.

### *Group Presentation/Facilitation (10%)*

Your group of 3-4 students will present on a chapter from the text, facilitate a discussion on the chapter's theme, and lead an interview with our guest speaker(s).

**Course Schedule:**

For class:	Agroecology Now	Additional reading	Guests	Assignments Due
2/1	-	-	-	-
2/8	Ch.1	New Entry docs (TBD) Calo for New Entry context	-	-
2/16 Tues.	Ch. 2	Civil Eats-Antonio FAO 10 Elements	New Entry staff	-
2/22	Ch. 3	Student choice, prep for Lit Review	-	Anno bib entries x 2
3/1	Ch 4 (A) Access/Nature	Farms Under Threat	Laura Barley (AFT)	Literature Review
3/8	Ch 5 (B) Knowledge/ culture	TBD	Agroecology Commons?	
3/15	Ch 6 (C) Systems economic exchange	Take back the economy section...	Jessika Brennan (UEP) & Jacob Weiss (New Entry)	
3/22	Ch 7 (D) Networks	Carlisle et al	Jennifer Hashley (New Entry) & Tracy Lerman (NESAWG)	
3/29	Ch 8 (E) Equity	Urban ag "Boston Food Solidarity"	Nakia Navarro (Building Audacity) & Apolo Catala (Oasis on Ballou)	
4/5	Ch 9 (F) Discourse	Intro Food Justice Now Just sust?	Josh Sbicca (CSU), Julian Agyeman (Tufts)	
4/12	Party III Chs. 10, 11, 12	-	-	Interview assignment
4/19 Pday	-	-	-	
4/26	Student-led research		Farmer panel (I)	
5/3	Student-led research		Farmer panel (II)	
New Entry/Tufts Integration Proposal Due May 13				

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Tufts University values the diversity of our body of students, staff, and faculty and recognizes the important contribution each student makes to our unique community. Tufts is committed to providing equal access and support to all qualified students through the provision of reasonable accommodations so that each student may fully participate in the Tufts experience. If a student has a disability that requires reasonable accommodations, they should please contact the StAAR Center (formerly Student Accessibility Services) at [StaarCenter@tufts.edu](mailto:StaarCenter@tufts.edu) or 617-627-4539 to make an appointment with an accessibility representative to determine appropriate accommodations. Please be aware that accommodations cannot be enacted retroactively, making timeliness a critical aspect for their provision.

**Academic integrity policies:**

Tufts holds its students strictly accountable for adherence to academic integrity. The consequences for violations can be severe. It is critical that you understand the requirements of ethical behavior and academic work as described in Tufts' Academic Integrity handbook. If you ever have a question about the expectations concerning a particular assignment or project in this course, be sure to ask me for clarification. The Faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering are required to report suspected cases of academic integrity violations to the Dean of Student Affairs Office. If I suspect that you have cheated or plagiarized in this class, I must report the situation to the dean.