

# SOCI 388 – Sociology of Food and Eating<sup>1</sup>

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**Instructor:** Dr. Martha McMahon

## **Course Description and Goals:**

This course will look at how sociologists try to make sense of what is often called the food system. It will look at the food on our plates as embodying complex networks of social and ecological relations rather than seeing it as simply lettuce, carrots, fish or meat. It will examine efforts to change the food system, in particular by localizing food. The course will centre not just the perspectives of urban consumers but also farmers' perspectives and the efforts of global peasant, fishers and small farmers' movements to make social change. Particular attention will be paid to gender and to interrogating the assumptions about nature and society that underlie much of food social movement in Canada and the US. The course is designed to help bridge divides between local activism and academic analysis. Framing the course will be the question of how food and agriculture can be organized in ways that are ecologically sustainable and socially just. The course is designed to learn about, respect and appreciate the diversity of multiple kinds of relationships with land and (often multi-species others) who help feed us, communities and others and study issues of food in ways that de-centre privilege and our geo-political location within the University of Victoria on the un-ceded and traditional **territory** of the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples.

## **Mode of Delivery:**

At this time, this course will be on-line and will involve a mix of synchronous and asynchronous delivery.

## **Course Pre/Co-requisites:**

- SOCI 215 recommended prior to SOCI 388

## **Required Resources May Include:**

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Wise, Timothy A. *Eating Tomorrow: Agribusiness, Family Farmers, and the Battle for the Future of Food*. The New Press, 2019.

Carolan, Michael S. *Embodied food politics*. Routledge, 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.