Community Development Studio
Food in the Trenton Community

Spring 2005

970:511:2: 50522
CSB 243 Lab, 1:10 – 3:50

Instructors

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td>Office Hours: Tues 10:00-12:00</td>
<td>Wed 1:30-4:30; Fri 1:30-4:30</td>
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Purposes of Course

(1) Learn about community development
(2) Provide applied research assistance to a community-based organization
(3) Develop a community food system report for Trenton

Project Description

We will be working with Isles, Inc., a community development corporation, in Trenton. Created in 1981, Isles has become a leader in the community development movement. Isles’ citywide scope and broad approach to community development sets it apart from other community based organizations. Among its many programmatic areas, Isles addresses environmental improvement, neighborhood planning, regional organizing,
housing development, and community gardens. Community gardening, the organization’s first program, was intended to improve community food security by making good food more accessible. Today, Isles has forty-three gardens, engages youth through urban ecology, exercise, nutrition, and educational programs; it also tackles brownfield redevelopment, and develops strategies to otherwise improve community health especially around lead and asthma. Isles is concerned about community access to healthy food in Trenton.

Isles’ staff asked for our assistance to develop a report about access to healthy food in Trenton. Isles will use the report to better understand food availability and consumption in Trenton. The organization will also use the report to work for change to improve the delivery of healthy, affordable food to all Trenton residents.

To create the report, we will:

- Determine the extent of hunger in Trenton
  - Gather Census data on income, school lunch and breakfast usage, and public food assistance use
  - Conduct focus groups to understand resident perceptions of hunger

- Explore what people know about food and how they behave
  - Do people have time to shop and cook?
  - What do people want to eat?
  - Do people know how to cook? Are there cooking classes in Trenton?
  - Identify where people get food

- Can people access the food that they want?
  - How does the cost of food differ from the suburbs?
  - What sorts of food are available?
  - Conduct a food store survey

- Document the food delivery system in Trenton
  - Map food distribution networks
  - How does food get to Trenton consumers?
  - Where are the decisions made about what food reaches consumers? What choices are available to shopkeepers?
  - Could access to quality food be improved?

- Identify and map the points of food delivery
  - Where are the supermarkets, small stores (bodegas), restaurants, food pantries, soup kitchens, community gardens, emergency food providers, public/private schools, and farmers markets?

- Document the public food assistance system
  - How do WIC, USDA food vouchers, and Food Stamps work?
- Map stores that accept WIC and USDA food vouchers and food stamp acceptance locations
- What food options do people have with this assistance?
- Why aren’t more people who qualify for these programs using them?

### Time Line

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Meet the Client</td>
<td>Form Research Teams</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Community Food Assessment</td>
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<td>February 8</td>
<td>Community Food Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Public Food Assistance Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Food Distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Project Work</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Project Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Mid-semester Meeting with Isles</td>
<td>First Draft Reports</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Project Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Tour Rutgers CSA, Share our Project with Urban Ecology students</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Polish Reports and Start Presentation</td>
<td>Second Draft Report</td>
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<td>First Draft Presentation</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Complete Reports and Polish Presentation</td>
<td>Final Draft Report</td>
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<td>Draft Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Dry Run Through</td>
<td>Final Report</td>
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<td>Final Presentation</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Presentation to EJB Community</td>
<td>Practice and dry run</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>In Trenton at Isles</td>
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### Course Materials, Resources, and Information

#### Course Pack
Available at Pequod Copy on Somerset Street

#### Course Websites
Information and Resources [http://policy.rutgers.edu/food](http://policy.rutgers.edu/food)
Document Sharing [http://www.rutgersonline.edu](http://www.rutgersonline.edu)

#### Server
Common/511S05
- GIS files
- PDF documents
Course Listserv

Foodstudio_05@rams.rutgers.edu
If you are not automatically added to the listserv or want to use a different email address, please send a note to knewman@rci.rutgers.edu

Listservs that may be of interest to you...
Commfood-L (community food security coalition listserv)
https://elist.tufts.edu/wws/info/comfood

Grading

20% Class Participation
20% Draft Work Products & Field Notes
50% Final Work Products
10% Presentation
January 18. Studio Overview

*Introductions and interests*—yours, ours  
*Expectations*—yours, ours  

**Project Overview**  
*Background on Isles, Community Food Planning, and Trenton*

Isles Literature packets (distributed in class)

Isles Interactive Mapping Website  
[http://map2.gismap.us/isles](http://map2.gismap.us/isles)


**Films:** *The Story of Isles; Dust Does Not Discriminate.* Trenton: Isles.

January 25. Visit and Tour of Isles and Trenton  
*Meet in Trenton at Isles, meet Isles staff, discuss the project and tour Isles and Trenton (bring your cameras and notepads!)*

Isles’ website.  
[http://www.isles.org](http://www.isles.org)


*Access Denied.* Sustainable Food Center. Austin, TX.  
[http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/publications.asp](http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/publications.asp)


Additional Resources


_Work product: Form Research Teams_

**February 1. Community Food Assessment**

_Speaker: Ralph Coolman, Urban Ecology, Rutgers University_


Recommended Resources: Assessment Examples

Community Food Security Coalition
http://www.foodsecurity.org/cfa_outsideca.html
- Links to Assessments
- Links to Resources for Doing Assessments

Detroit

Hartford
- http://www.hartfordfood.org/

Los Angeles

Madison, Wisconsin

Milwaukee
- Varela, Olmedo. 1996. “Socio-spatial Relationships and Food Programs in Milwaukee’s Food System.” Milwaukee: Center for Urban Initiatives and Research. (from KN)

New York City


Portland, Oregon


Work product: Research teams identify research questions and methodological tools to answer research questions

February 8. Community Food Security

Speaker: Anne Bellows, Research Associate, Food Policy Institute (3pm)

Special Issue of Progressive Planner (Course Pack)


Recommended Resources

Grocery Store Survey Studies


Other


February 15. Food Distribution

*Speaker: Rick Vanvranken, Atlantic County Agricultural Agent (1:10)*

Food Distribution Team Leads Class

www.smlr.rutgers.edu/faculty/122500D_BookR.pdf


Resources

Food Bank of New Jersey
http://www.njfoodbank.org/

Mercer Street Friends Food Cooperative  
Food warehouse in Lawrence provides emergency food distribution  
http://www.mercerfriends.org/home.asp?uri=1000&frst=1000

Economic Census  
http://www.census.gov

February 22. Public Food Assistance Programs

*Speaker: Phyllis Stoolmacher, Director, Mercer Street Friends*

Food Assistance Team Leads Class


United States Department of Agriculture.


Recommended Resources

Food Research and Action Center
http://www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/federal_index.html
  • Reports on WIC, Food Stamps, School lunch and breakfast

Federal Food Assistance Program Information
http://www.fns.usda.gov
  • Food stamps, WIC, USDA Farmers’ Market coupons, Child Nutrition Programs

Rutgers University. Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program
http://www.Rutgers.njfsnep.org

State of New Jersey. Child Nutrition Programs
http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/markets/childnutrition.htm

March 1. Health and Nutrition


March 8. Project Work

CUPR style guide
Norm’s grammar sheet 101

Basic how to for graphic design.
http://graphicdesign.about.com/library/weekly/aa012700a.htm?once=true&
March 15. SPRING BREAK

March 22. Mid-Semester Meeting with Isles Staff
Review progress and address any questions, problems, etc
First draft reports – materials for Isles staff to review

March 29. Project Work

April 1. Tour Rutgers CSA

April 5. Polish Reports and Start Presentation
Second draft reports
First draft presentation

April 12. Complete Reports and Polish Presentation
Final draft reports
Draft presentation

April 19. Dry Run Through
Final report
Final presentation

April 26. Presentation to Bloustein Community
Practice and dry run for constructive criticism from Bloustein community

May 3. Final Presentation
Final Presentation in Trenton
Additional Resources

Literature


Organizations and Websites

*Just Food*
- [www.justfood.org](http://www.justfood.org)
  - NYC area food system website

*Green Guerillas*
- [www.greenguerillas.org](http://www.greenguerillas.org)
  - NYC community gardening website resources

*The Food Trust*
- [www.TheFoodTrust.org](http://www.TheFoodTrust.org)
  - Philadelphia

*Community Food Security Coalition*
- [www.foodsecurity.org](http://www.foodsecurity.org)
  - National organization
  - Great publications
  - Fabulous links

*Food Share*
- [http://www.foodshare.net/index.htm](http://www.foodshare.net/index.htm)

*Center for Budget and Policy Priorities*
- [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)
  - excellent reports on food stamp programs, school lunch, and other state food assistance programs
Food Research and Action Center
- www.frac.org
- data on food stamp use, childhood nutrition, and food insecurity
- Excellent reports on state use of federal food assistance programs

NJ Department of Agriculture
- Community Farmers Markets
  http://www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh/searches/urban.htm

Added Value (Red Hook)
http://www.added-value.org

B-Healthy
http://www.b-healthy.org

East New York Farms

Community Food Resource Center, NY
http://www.cfrcnyc.org