Understanding Food Systems 1 examines the various components of a food system and their implications for health, environment and society from a multidisciplinary perspective. The subject examines the food system as a complex, adaptive system operating with a range of economic, biophysical, sociopolitical and cultural context. Conventional models of food production, provisioning and consumption in advanced capitalist economies are emphasised with regard to the implications of the dominance of the supermarket and emerging concerns about the environment, obesity, food insecurity, food safety, competing priorities between farming and other land uses and the impact of the structural dimensions of the food system on individual food choices. The subject also introduces students to the emergence of commercial and non-commercial circuits of production and exchange including community-based alternatives to the conventional food system such as farmers markets, community-supported agriculture, community gardens and food hubs. Students are encouraged to reflect on the implications of their personal and professional choices within the food system.

Learning Outcomes

- Discuss and explain the key components and characteristics of conventional and alternative food systems
- Identify and discuss community responses to issues associated with the industrial food system
- Analyse the representation of food system issues in the media
- Develop a reflective stance in relation to one’s personal and professional choices within the food system
- Undertake prescribed research activities related to food distribution systems and contemporary food issues

Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay including a proposal and Annotated bibliography</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media analysis presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers market report</td>
<td>35%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Attributes addressed in this subject

- Preparedness
- Ethical and social understanding
- Systematic and coherent body of knowledge
- Cognitive skills to analyse knowledge
- Scholarly skills
- Communication skills