

Faculty of Higher Education

Subject Code	FDS559
Subject Name	Understanding Food Systems 1
Credit points	6
Study Level	Year 1
Delivery mode	On campus
Location	Melbourne
Prerequisites	None

Subject Coordinator
Kelly Donati
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Subject Overview	<p>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.</p>
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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	Details	Weighting
	Essay including a proposal and Annotated bibliography	45%
	Media analysis presentation	20%
	Farmers market report	35%

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