

Faculty of Higher Education

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| Subject Code | FDS601 |
| Subject Name | Agriculture and Farming Systems |
| Credit points | 6 |
| Study Level | Year 2 |
| Delivery mode | On campus |
| Location | Melbourne |
| Prerequisites | FDS559 |

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| Subject Coordinator |
| Lilly Cleary |
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| Subject Overview | It is increasingly recognised that modern food systems disconnect consumers from food production. This subject considers what it means to produce food in industrial and alternative settings. Through an applied approach to understanding food production, students will examine significant historical and technological revolutions in agriculture as well as the current differences between various modes of production and their environmental, economic and social costs. Key areas of focus include the basic principles of soil health and ecosystem diversity, indigenous modes of production, farming ecologies, water and land resources, plants and animals and production technologies. Through farm visits and excursions, students will also reflect on the sensory nature of farming. Future challenges to food production in the age of the Anthropocene will be explored. |
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| Learning Outcomes | Examine the key differences from an ecological, economic and cultural perspective between various agricultural practices and modes of farming. |
| | Evaluate existing problems in, and alternatives to, industrial food production. |
| | Examine the role of humans and non-humans as agents of change in landscapes and food chains over short and long time scales. |
| | Analyse historical and contemporary transitions to farming and food systems in the context of their implications for human and ecosystem health. |

| Assessments | Details | Weighting |
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| | Essay | 40% |
| | Group project | 30% |
| | Reflection | 30% |

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| Graduate Attributes addressed in this subject | Ethical and social understanding |
| | Systematic and coherent body of knowledge |
| | Cognitive skills to synthesise and consolidate knowledge |
| | Scholarly skills |