

**HIST 498/670: “EDIBLE ENVIRONMENTS: IN AND BEYOND MONTREAL” – 3 credits**

5 – 13 July 2018

**John Molson Building Classroom MB5.215**

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This intensive 7-day summer course examines the ecological, economic, political, & cultural dimensions of urban food provisioning in & beyond Montreal, since about 1800. The main focus will be on thinking about how the city has managed its food supply as a problem of environmental governance. In seminar discussions, lectures from visiting experts, and guided site visits, we will study the history and manifold contemporary manifestations of how Montreal’s food supply came to be comprised of a complex network of local, regional, national, and global provisioning chains, thereby connecting it to near and distant natural resources. Students will be sent readings to complete ahead of the course. During the course there will be one group assignment, which is mandatory but not marked with a grade. The main written work for submission will be to develop a proposal for a research project and bibliography, which will be workshopped collectively on the final day. The projects may focus either on some specific aspect of Montreal’s food provisioning history or agro-ecology, a critical analysis of another locale (in any time period), or a comparison between Montreal’s food landscape with that of another place. A final paper describing the proposed research, including situating it in existing scholarly conversations, will be due one month later.

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**Assignments:** *Detailed instructions for all assignments will be distributed on course website.*

1. **Readings.** All the readings or videos listed by date available as PDFs or links on the course website (the so-called Moodle platform). Due by day listed, but try to read as much as possible before July 5.
2. **Food desert or mecca?** This is a quick-and-dirty group activity, July 7-9. Mandatory but not graded.
3. **10-minute presentation about final project + Q&A.** In class on July 13.
4. **Preliminary proposal + bibliography.** 1 page abstract + minimum 8 secondary sources. Due July 16.
5. **Final project proposal.** 15-20 double-spaced pages + notes + bibliography. Due August 13.

<b>Grading:</b>  Active course participation: 50% Presentation (July 13): 10% Preliminary bibliography (due July 16): 10% Final project proposal (due August 13): 30%	<b>Note on missed classes and overdue work:</b>  Except in case of dire medical or family emergency, this brief course requires your full attendance every day.  Requests for extensions must be submitted <i>before</i> the due date.
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**Logistics:**

**City Map with Field Trip Destinations:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1EOBKawYX3NDyLINZqbepXfVh6ok9iEX6&usp=sharing>

**Map of the Metro System:**

<http://www.stm.info/en/map>

**Transit Fares:**

<http://www.stm.info/en/press/press-releases/2016/stm-fare-adjustments>

**Concordia University SGW Campus Map:**

<https://www.concordia.ca/maps/sgw-campus.html>

KEY: • = readings \* = invited lecturer → = field trip

### THURSDAY, JULY 5:

- [In French: D. Fyson, “Du pain au madère : L’alimentation à Montréal au début du XIXe siècle”, *Revue d’histoire de l’Amérique française* (1992).]
- “What is ‘Being Done’ at the General Hospital (Grey Nuns) of Montreal: Souvenir from the Children’s Welfare Exhibition, Montreal,” (October, 1912).
- B. Bradbury, “Pigs, Cows, Boarders: Non-Wage Forms of Survival among Montreal Families, 1861-91,” *Labour/Le Travail* (1984).
- C. Muldrew, *Food, Energy, & the Creation of Industriousness, 1550-1780* (2011), preface, introduction, ch. 2.
- C. Parenti, “Environment-Making in the Capitalocene,” in *Anthropocene or Capitalocene: Nature, History, and the Crisis of Capitalism* (2016), ch. 7.

MORNING: 9:45 – 11:45 in MB5.215

- Introductions and course overview
- Discussion of Muldrew and Parenti

AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 3:45 p.m. in MB5.215

- \* Peter Gossage, History Dept., Concordia University  
“The Grey Nuns’ Mother House: Children, Charity, and Social Change in Montreal”
- \* Donald Fyson, Dépt. des sciences historiques, Université Laval / CIEQ  
“Food Regulation & Local Governance in Urban Quebec, 18<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries”
- \* Sebastián Di Poi, Internal Coordinator, Concordia Food Coalition  
→ 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. Concordia Greenhouse tour, 13<sup>th</sup> floor of Hall Building.

### FRIDAY, JULY 6

- S. Freidberg, “Vegetables: Hidden Labor,” in *Fresh: A Perishable History* (2009), chapter 5.
- G. Baics, “Is Access to Food a Public Good? Meat Provisioning in Early New York City, 1790-1820”, *Journal of Urban History* (2012)
- Apparicio et al., “The Case of Montréal’s Missing Food Deserts: Evaluation of Accessibility to Food Supermarkets”, *International Journal of Health Geographics* (2007).

MORNING: 10:00– 11:30 a.m. beginning at Rialto Theater on Parc Ave., just below Bernard Ave.

**9:30 a.m. shuttle leaves Grey Nuns; meet at the Rialto Theatre 9:55 a.m.**

- \* Katherine Romanow, Museum of Jewish Montreal  
Tour of Mile End and Plateau

AFTERNOON: Noon – 3:00 p.m.

- **12:00 shuttle to Jean Talon Market**, eat lunch and explore Little Italy
- **1:30 p.m. shuttle to Lufa Farms in Ahuntsic**
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Lufa Rooftop Gardens tour
- 3:15 p.m. shuttle returns to Grey Nuns**

### SATURDAY, JULY 7 – SUNDAY, JULY 8

→ **Weekend assignment: Food Deserts of Montreal.** Working in small groups, you will visit, observe, and take notes on two neighborhoods discussed in the article by Apparicio et al., which will form the basis of our discussion Monday afternoon. Detailed guidelines will be distributed in class & online.

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### MONDAY, JULY 9

- E. Hoover, *The River Is in Us: Fighting Toxics in a Mohawk Community* (2017), preface & chapter 4
- A. Case, *The Organic Profit: Rodale & the Making of Marketplace Environmentalism* (2018), chapter 5

MORNING: 9:30 a.m. – noon in MB5.215

\* Kahente Horn-Miller, School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies, Carleton University,  
“She Sows The Seeds: The Generative Rematriation of Sky Woman’s Story”

\* Daniel Rück, History Dept./Institute of Canadian & Aboriginal Studies, U. of Ottawa  
“Mohawk Edible Environments and the Imposition of Colonial Environmental Logics”

AFTERNOON: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. in MB5.215

- Discussion of food deserts assignment and readings

### TUESDAY, JULY 10

- W. Cronon, *Nature’s Metropolis: Chicago & the Great West* (1991), prologue, chs. 1-3.
- V. Hugo, “The Intestine of the Leviathan,” Book II, *Les Misérables* (1862).
- N. Tošaj, “Weaving the Imperial Breadbasket: Nationalism, Empire and the Triumph of Canadian Wheat, 1890-1940,” *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* (2018).
- A. Merleaux, *Sugar and Civilization: American Empire and the Cultural Politics of Sweetness* (2015), ch. 2.
- Watch: “From Cane to Cube” (1950).

MORNING: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in MB5.215

\* David Singerman, History Dept., University of Virginia  
“Purity, Power, and Sugar”

\* Sherry Olson, Geography Dept., McGill University  
“Models of the Edible Environment: The Hub, the Surge, the Feedback, and the Funnel.”

AFTERNOON: 12:45 – 3:00 p.m.

→ 12:45 p.m. Walk as a group to Atwater Market & stop there for lunch (BYO or purchase)

→ \* Steven High, History Dept., Concordia

1:45 – 3 p.m., Post-industrial Lachine Canal granaries, railroad depots, Griffintown

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

- S. Ross, “Hidden Water in the Landscape: Covered Reservoirs of Mt Royal” in *Metropolitan Natures* (2011).
- A. Tsing, *The Mushroom At the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins* (2015), vii-14, ch. 17.
- A. Zilberstein, “Inured to Empire: Wild Rice and Climate Change” *William & Mary Quarterly* (2015).

MORNING: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. meet at Rutherford Park, corner McTavish and Dr. Penfield

→ \* Susan Ross, School of Indigenous & Canadian Studies, Carleton University  
“Exploring the Mountain’s Role as Urban Water Tower”

12:30 – 1:30: Lunch break at Beaver Lake Pavilion (BYO or purchase)

AFTERNOON: 1:30 – 3: p.m. meet in front of Beaver Lake Pavilion

→ \* Shawn Kearney, Mycoboutique

“Fungi, Wild Plants, and the Urban Microbiome”

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**THURSDAY, JULY 12**

- A. Tsing, *The Mushroom At the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins* (2015), ch. 4.

MORNING: 10:30 a.m. – noon in MB5.215  
- Wrap-up discussion of course readings and field trips.

AFTERNOON: Noon – 6 p.m. in MB5.215  
- 15 minutes one-on-one meetings w/me to discuss presentations/project.

**FRIDAY, JULY 13**

ALL DAY: 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in MB5.215  
- 25 minutes per student for brief presentations & group discussion of each proposal  
(with breaks at regular intervals; coffee and snacks will be provided)

EVENING: 6:00 p.m. at Le Jardin de Panos, 521 Ave. Duluth E. (Metros Sherbrooke or Mont-Royal)  
- Conviviality & farewells

**MONDAY, JULY 16: Brief proposal due.**

Upload your brief proposal and bibliography to moodle and I will send you feedback within one week.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 16: Final proposal due.**

Upload your final project proposal and bibliography to moodle.