

Experiential Learning in Urban Agriculture

Experiential Learning Assignment

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For the final project, students will collaborate with a campus–community initiative to strengthen local foodscapes. They may work with projects Erik is directly involved in (e.g., CultivAction Solidarity Cooperative, Lachine Farms) or partner with another urban agriculture initiative in their community. Each student will contribute **10 volunteer hours** over the semester, gaining hands-on experience and learning directly from practitioners.

In addition to their fieldwork, students will write a **critical self-reflection** that connects their volunteer experience with course concepts, allowing them to analyze both the challenges and possibilities of urban agroecology in practice.

Critical Self Reflection

1. What did you do?

- Where did you volunteer, what is the goal of the initiative, and what tasks did you perform?

2. What did you learn?

- What did you learn about urban agriculture in practice (skills, challenges, community dynamics, labour, governance, land issues, etc.)?

3. How did the experience relate to *you*?

- How did your expectations, background, or values shape how you interpreted the experience? Were there moments that surprised, challenged, or changed you?

4. How does this connect to course readings and concepts?

- Using **at least 4 readings**, explain how ideas from the course helped you interpret your experience. Which concepts were reinforced, complicated, or contradicted?

5. What broader insights about urban agriculture systems emerge?

- What does your experience reveal about the social, political, or ecological dimensions of urban agriculture?
How does this initiative support or challenge food sovereignty, community development, equity, or sustainable planning?

Grading Rubric

[Here is a link to the grading rubric.](#)

Thanks!

Questions, Concerns, Comments?

