Urban Agriculture

BLOG-ESSAYS ABOUT URBAN AGRICULTURE

Urban Agroecology Blog/Essay (600-1000 words):

Students will write two blogs (600–1000 words each) on topics related to urban agriculture discussed in lectures and/or course readings.

The first blog/essay must address critical perspectives in urban agriculture, while the second will focus on building sovereign/sustainable urban foodscapes.

Although written in a blog format, posts must be grounded in research rather than personal opinion. To receive an A, submissions must reference at least eight credible sources and integrate required course readings. Students with production skills may substitute a video or podcast, pending approval from Erik Chevrier.

Focus of Blogs/Essays

Blog 1 - Critical Perspectives in Urban Agriculture

- Why is urban agriculture important?
- What issues can urban agriculture address?
- What's wrong with local/global food systems?
- Why is biodiversity important in urban agriculture, beyond just food production?
- How do ecological interactions and climate challenges shape the design and function of urban farms?
- How does thinking about food as a commons challenge mainstream economic views of food?

Focus of Blogs/Essays

Blog 2 - Building Sovereign/Sustainable Urban Foodscapes

- What does it mean to “decolonize” or “decommodify” food systems, and how might that look in practice in our own context?
- How can urban agriculture solve ecological and/or social issues?
- What role does small-scale, food production play in creating sustainable urban foodscapes?
- How does permaculture shift the way we think about urban foodscapes beyond productivity alone?
- How can urban planning shape sovereign and sustainable foodscapes?
- What tensions exist between grassroots urban agriculture initiatives and top-down planning processes?
- What does a “resilient city” mean in the context of food systems, and how might urban agriculture help us get there?
- In what ways can urban agriculture foster justice-driven forms of food sovereignty?

Suggested Structure

Hook/Introduction

Main argument

Support

Evidence

Address counter-evidence

Hook/Conclusion

Rubric

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Example of Blog Post