



Anti-Racism and Food Sovereignty Working Group 2021

Proposal: BardEATS, Parkhurst team members, members of the Office of Sustainability, and any other interested community members will form a working group to participate in semester-long Anti-Racism and Food Sovereignty work. Those who choose to participate will be given one or two readings, videos, or podcasts each week and a reflection question where they will respond through a google form that is sent through email at the beginning of each week (Sunday evening). This working group is meant to be informative and uncomfortable as it will challenge us to work through the lifelong implicit biases of those who are non-Black folks. At the end of each month, the working group will meet at a chosen time where the co-chairs will use the google form responses to help create a focused agenda. This meeting will be used as a reflection period and a brainstorming session as to how we can bring these ideas into our work on campus. The tasks for each week should not take longer than an hour or two. However, the ideas from each task(s) should stay with you and continue to be reflected through daily and weekly tasks. Those in the working group should try to commit themselves to doing the work given each week. Readings, videos, and podcasts will range from new policy proposals, examining whiteness and privilege, equity and sustainability, spotlights on BIPOC farms in NYS, the reflections of these issues in our global food systems, and more.

[Sign-up Here!](#)

Goals:

1. *Knowledge is power and power is change:* Examine and understand the intrinsic relationship between equity work and sustainability work.
2. *Dig deep:* Examine our values, beliefs, assumptions, privileges, identities, and group memberships in relationship to others and how these contribute to personal biases.
3. *Decenter whiteness:* Create and brainstorm goals and generate program ideas for further anti-racism work during the semester and beyond.

Schedule (In Progress):

Week 1:

Reading/Video: [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack by Peggy](#)

Reflection Question: What ways may you experience white privilege and power in your own personal life? What may be in your own invisible knapsack?

Week 2:

Reading/Video: [Towards an equity competency model for sustainable food systems education programs](#) by Valley, W, et al. 2020. Read pgs 1-4, skim 5- 7, read pgs. 8-12

Reflection Question: This reading addresses that community needs must be centered in equity competency work. Therefore, what needs do you think the Bard community would want centered in the work we want to do?

Week 3:

Reading/Video: [Agrarian Questions and the Struggle for Land Justice in the United States by Eric Holt-Giménez](#) read pgs. 1-4 and 8- 13, if interested read pgs 4-8 for historical background and [Policy Update: Sens. Booker, Warren, and Gillibrand Release Justice for Black Farmers Act](#)

Reflection Question: In an ideal world how could you as a student, employee of an institution, an employee of a corporation, etc. advocate for land justice?

Week 4: [“The Great Land Robbery: This Land was Our Land” by Van R. Newkirk.](#)

Reflection Question: How much of this history were you aware of before this reading? Why do you think this is, and how can we work to educate ourselves and those around us?

Week 5: [“Identifying and Countering White Supremacy Culture in Food Systems.”](#) Duke Sanford World Policy Center. Read executive summary and terms, pages 1-4, and pages 9-10, “Learning and Unlearning White Supremacy Culture in Food Policy Work”

Reflection Question: Give an example of where you have seen white supremacy ideologies impact food policy in your community and provide one way in which you could work to counter this.

Week 6:

Reading/Video: [A statement from the board and staff of the National Young Farmers Coalition- Equity Statement](#) and [4 Not-So-Easy Ways to Dismantle Racism in the Food System by Leah Penniman](#) from Soul Fire Farm

Reflection Question: Based on this equity statement example, what is one value that you feel should be expressed in an equity statement of our own?

Week 6:

Reading: [Whyte, Kyle Powys. "Food Sovereignty, Justice and Indigenous Peoples: An Essay on Settler Colonialism and Collective Continuance." Edited by A Barnhill, T Doggett, and A Egan. *Oxford Handbook on Food Ethics*. 2017.](#)

Reflection Question: This reading addresses the possibilities of what food sovereignty for Indigenous peoples means, its connection to land and how it is visualized. As we learn more about the web through which food systems exist and how Indigenous food systems have been disrupted, how can we as students and community members prevent further acts of colonialism and support collective continuance?

Week 7:

Video: A Growing Culture [INDIGENIZE! | Blood Memory & Relational Food Systems \(Chris Newman & Rowen White\)](#) OR [INDIGENIZE! | The \(R\)evolution of Indigenous Food Systems in North America \(Chef Sean Sherman\)](#)

Reflection Question: Share what we learned from each.

Week 8:

Podcast: NPR ShortWave: [Biden Promises To Grapple With Environmental Racism](#)

Optional Reading: Jedediah Purdy's [Environmentalism's Racist History](#)

Reflection Question: This podcast talks about the pressing issue of environmental racism and how past administrations have promised to but ultimately failed to address it. How can we, as allies, press the current administration to take action? How can we use our privilege(s) to advocate for policy change?

Week 9:

Reading: NYT [The Activists Working to Remake the Food System](#) (need to login with a google account to access)

Optional Reading: [Whitewashed Hope: A Message from 10+ Indigenous Leaders and Organizations](#)

Reflection Question: This article, along with giving us background about some of the violences within our food systems, talks about issues with "elitism" and "white-washing"

within many popular food movements. How are these activists highlighted here working against these narratives? How can community- and reparations- based models of activism be more effective?

Week 10:

Podcast: [*The Intelligence of Plants*, Robin Wall Kimmerer](#)

Reflection Question: How can you implement allyship with plants in your own life? How can you connect these themes to other discussions on both racism and environmentalism?

Week 11:

Week 12: