This is my last class at Oxy and it’s appropriately about food. These are issues I’ve been deeply engaged with for nearly 25 years since a group of my students at UCLA convinced me that food could provide a powerful social and environmental justice framework for understanding how change can come about.

This class is organized somewhat differently than my prior courses on food issues. While I have always utilized my research and connections to various food movements and food researchers in Los Angeles and elsewhere, this course (as a last class) will focus more directly about my work, my connections, and my own evaluation of the food movement. I especially want to engage with students who have already participated or would like to engage with the food movement – and with other, related social justice movements.

The class will have five components: a) the sharing of my research and experiences; b) presentations by fellow food researchers, food practitioners, and food activists with whom I’ve worked over the years; c) class discussions about the issues raised; d) the core class assignment which will include a final paper, with the possibility of undertaking an action research paper, and e) as an additional experimental component, a video-conferencing dimension with Oxy alumni from around the country. There will be one set of assigned readings for the course which will consist of my own writing, including my book *Food Justice*. In addition, class sessions will also include readings from the speakers or other writings related to the issues that the speakers will be raising. These readings will be posted on moodle in advance of each session. There will also be events during the semester that will be highlighted. Though this is not a requirement of the class, students will be encouraged to connect with food justice groups in Los Angeles, whether by way of internships, volunteering, or participating in a particular campaign or program, and/or through their research or action research paper.

By the first week of class there will be a list of speakers and themes. These may include, subject to speaker availability:

- FOOD POLICY (INCLUDING FOOD POLICY COUNCILS)
- FOOD AND HEALTH
- FOOD AND LABOR
- SCHOOL FOOD
- FOOD AND HUNGER
- GLOBAL FOOD (INCLUDING FOOD IN CHINA)
- FOOD MOVEMENTS – NEW PLAYERS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LINKAGES
- URBAN AGRICULTURE
- STUDENT FOOD RESEARCH
The research paper assignment is the major requirement (aside from participation) for the class. In the first couple of classes, we’ll discuss potential topics (and possible connections to groups such as UEPI, the L.A. Food Policy Council, Hunger Action L.A., etc.) to identify a relevant (action-oriented) topic. Students also have the ability to do a more intense internship with a group during the semester and develop a paper based on that experience.

There will be one assigned text for the course— the book “Food Justice that I co-authored. As described above, other additional readings will also be assigned. Students will have responsibility to identify (and post on moodle and present in class) at least one question and/or comment related to the topic and the speaker so that students also become part of the dialogue discussions.

My office hours will be Tuesday 11:00-12:30 and 2-3 but best to make an appointment in advance, including for other possible times. My extension is 2712 and email is gottlieb@oxy.edu.