

Parish Farming Internship Syllabus

March 20-22, 2013

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Dinner -- *Introductions; Food and Memory*

7:30 p.m. Discussion 1

*[Theological Foundations, Part 1] **Food and Memory: The Formation of God's People in the Old and New Testament***

9:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Friday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Discussion 2

*[Theological Foundations, Part 2] **"And God Saw that it Was Good"..."and Made his Dwelling Among Us:" Food and the Created World, the Incarnation, and the Resurrection***

9:40 a.m. Discussion 3

*[Theological Foundations, Part 3] **Imago Dei: Bearing the Image of the One who Created us to Eat***

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Gardening Together

5:00 p.m. Dinner at *Moriah Pie*

8:00 p.m. Movie and Discussion

Saturday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Discussion 4

Eating and Consuming: Our Collective and Individual Relationships with Food

9:40 a.m. Discussion 5

"Culture and Agriculture:" Our Societal Relationships with Food and the Land

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Gardening Together -- *Lament and Hope*

6:00 p.m. Mindful Meal -- *A "Placed" Meal*

May 22-24, 2013

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Dinner -- *Check in, Catch up*

7:30 p.m. Discussion 1

Organic, Local, Fair Trade, and Fat Free: Contemporary Responses to our Current Eating Predicament

9:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Friday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Discussion 2

The Challenge of Complicity: Examining the Hidden Costs of our Modern Food System (and beyond).

9:40 a.m. Discussion 3

Being Human in the Urban Environment: the Challenge of a Creaturely Life in the City

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Gardening Together

5:00 p.m. Dinner at *Moriah Pie*

After dinner will be the beginning of a 24-hour fast, kept (as students are able) until Saturday's evening meal.

8:00 p.m. Movie and Discussion

Saturday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Discussion 4

The Economics of Life: A Great and Costly Gift

9:40 a.m. Discussion 5

Leaving Pharaoh's Pots: Our Need for a "Prophetic Imagination"

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Gardening Together -- *The Lives that Sustain Us*

6:00 p.m. Mindful Meal -- *Breaking the Fast: The Lives Given for our Life*

July 24-26, 2013

Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Dinner -- *Check in, Catch up*
- 7:30 p.m. Discussion 1
The Parish Church: A People Planted
- 9:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Friday

- 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Discussion 2
Parish Farming, Part 1: The Formation of the Farmer
- 9:40 a.m. Discussion 3
Parish Farming, Part 2: "The Means and the End Is Love"
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Gardening Together
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner at *Moriah Pie*
- 8:00 p.m. Movie and Discussion

Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Discussion 4
Parish Farming, Part 3: Ora et Labora: Prayerful Presence and Mission
- 9:40 a.m. Discussion 5
Parish Farming, Part 4: Cultivating A Life-Giving Economic and Embracing a Costly Way
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Gardening Together -- *Ora et Labora*
- 6:00 p.m. Mindful Meal -- *Humble Offerings*

September 19-21, 2013 *Field Trip to Isidore's Plough in Adam's County*

Friday

4:00 p.m. Gather at *Moriah Pie*

8:00 p.m. Movie and Discussion

Saturday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer; Leave for Isidore's Plough

10:30 a.m. Discussion 1

Journey into the Wilderness: A Meditation on the Temptations of Christ

Part 1: "Give us this Day, our Daily Bread:" Living into Deeper Dependence on God and One Another

Part 2: Reconsidering Home Economics: Poverty, Wealth, and the Gift of Limitations

Part 3: Food as a Reminder of our Finitude: Tasting Hope as we Taste our Mortality

1:30 p.m. Lunch

3:00 p.m. Open Time (for walking, swimming, sleeping, praying)

7:30 p.m. Dinner and Discussion 2

Being Reoriented to God, Creation, and Ourselves

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Morning Chores, Breakfast, Prayer

10:30 a.m. Boat Journey on *Amarie*

Discussion 3

"For the Life of the World:" Working and Praying on Behalf of All and With All

**For those interested and able, we will plan to camp overnight at Isidore's Plough*

November 13-15, 2013

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Dinner -- *Check in, Catch up*

7:30 p.m. Discussion 1

The Hospitality of Abraham: Liberated to Love by the God who Provides

9:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Friday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Discussion 2

Receiving the Gifts: The Eucharist as a Way of Life

9:40 a.m. Discussion 3

Homecoming in a Homeless Society: Extending God's Hospitality through our Gardens and Tables

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Gardening Together

5:00 p.m. Dinner at *Moriah Pie*

8:00 p.m. Movie and Discussion

Saturday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Discussion 4

Sabbath: Rest and Reformation of our Memory, Hope, and Identity

9:40 a.m. Discussion 5

"Teach them to your Children and to their Children" (Deut. 4:9): Cultivating a memory of God's Faithfulness and Provision

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Gardening Together -- *Receiving the Gifts*

6:00 p.m. Mindful Meal -- *A "Storied" Meal*

Assignments

1. **Reading:** Students are asked to have read the appropriate readings (as the syllabus will indicate) before each class discussion. **A reading list will be available by March 1.**
2. **Journal and Reflections:** Students will keep a journal over the nine months of the Parish Farming Internship, reflecting on class discussions, activities, and meals, as well as on the process of their Lived Projects (see below). Two-page reflections will be due in May, July, September, and November. These reflections will give students a chance to expand on and respond to emerging themes from their journal entries, course reading, and experiences.
3. **Mindful Meal:** Students will work together in small groups to plan, prepare, present, and serve a meal (as designated in the course schedule above). The presentation (which may take place before, during, or after the meal) will take into account some of the stories behind the foods served. These “stories” may be historical, ecological, biological, cultural, theological, or so-on, depending on the assigned theme.
4. **Biblical Study:** Students will be asked to write a 3-4 page essay, which does **one** of the following:
 - Outline and reflect on a significant and recurring food motif in the Bible.
 - Choose a passage or group of passages from scripture and reencounter it with “Agrarian Eyes” (as we will discuss in class).
5. **Lived Project:** Students will be asked to apply class themes in their own neighborhoods, homes, and/or churches by implementing a “lived project” over the 9-month course of the Parish Farming Internship. The specific outworkings of this project will be largely up to the students to decide, as long as they are somehow integrating class-related ideas with their personal/neighborhood/church lives at home. Examples of the Lived Project might be...
 - Organize the planting and/or tending of a vegetable garden on your church grounds. How does the church community participate? How are people (those who tend, those who observe from the surrounding neighborhood, those who receive the vegetables) shaped by the work? What will be done with the harvest?
 - Reflect on the relationship your family has with food, meals, the land, or your surrounding neighborhood. What practices do you like? What might you want to change or expand? Choose one practice (gardening together, eating intentional meals at the table, changing your diet in some way) to incorporate into your family’s weekly routine. How does this affect the way your family gathers around the table? Encounters creation? Understands God?
 - Grow a few potted vegetables on your back stoop. Write reflections throughout the growing season as you tend and harvest, succeed and make mistakes.
 - Plan a series of “mindful meals” for friends, neighbors, and/or your church community.
 - Come up with your own idea!

Students are encouraged to take creative initiative with this project, and to have fun. Their Lived Project should require 1-2 hours of their time each week from March until November. We will plan to share these projects with each other during our final weekend in November.

General weekend schedule*

Thursday

- 4:00 p.m. Students arrive, check into rooms, greet each other
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Discussion 1
- 9:00 p.m. Evening prayers, bed

Friday

- 6:00 a.m. Students wake, eat breakfast on their own; individual prayer time
- 8:00 a.m. Morning prayer and discussion 2
- 9:30 a.m. Tea break
- 9:40 a.m. Discussion 3
- 11:00 a.m. Break for lunch prep (meal crew)
- 12:00 p.m. Simple lunch, followed by midday prayers
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch clean-up (meal crew)
- 1:30 p.m. Work in the gardens (led by Erin)
- 3:30 p.m. Clean up; open time before dinner; guided reading or journaling
- 4:30 p.m. Students come to eat at Moriah Pie (any time before 8pm)
- 8:00 p.m. Themed movie, followed by evening prayers

Saturday

- 6:00 a.m. Students wake, eat breakfast on their own; individual prayer time
- 8:00 a.m. Morning prayer and discussion 4
- 9:30 a.m. Tea break
- 9:40 a.m. Discussion 5
- 11:00 a.m. Break for lunch prep (meal crew)
- 12:00 p.m. Simple lunch, followed by midday prayers
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch clean-up (meal crew)
- 1:30 p.m. Work in the gardens
- 4:00 p.m. Clean up; open time before dinner; guided reading or journaling
- **Preparations for mindful meal**
- 6:00 p.m. Mindful meal
- 8:00 p.m. Time of sharing (stories, journal entries, reflections, poems) and wine, possible campfire. **Weekend will be officially over at this point. Some students may choose to return home after dinner.*

Sunday (optional)

- morning Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Worship at Vineyard Central
- 12:00 p.m. check out

**Depending on weather (most likely in July), the Saturday schedule may be reversed, with garden work in the morning and discussion in the afternoon, to avoid the heat of the day. As well, September's schedule will be adjusted to incorporate a field trip to Isidore's Plough in Adam's County.*