

August 17, 2007

Dear Students,

We hope your summer has gone well, and that you are beginning to get excited about this year's program, *Seeds of Change: Food, Culture and Work*. We have just finished a very productive time of planning for the coming year, so we thought this would be a good moment to update you on the latest details.

First let us introduce ourselves. You will be working with faculty members Alice Nelson, Martha Rosemeyer, and Tony Zaragoza, and your academic advisor (Core Connector) is Norma Alicia Pino. Alice has been teaching at Evergreen since 1992, often in programs combining Latin American cultural studies (with emphasis on literature), Spanish language, and gender studies. Her scholarly work has focused on the relationship between cultural production and grassroots social movements in Chile and other parts of Latin America; in this program, she is looking forward to exploring the roles of art and literature in agricultural labor movements. In her sixth year at Evergreen, Martha has taught sustainable agriculture, tropical cropping systems, sustainable development and food programs. She is currently writing a chapter on soil ecology and ecosystem processes for a book she is editing on the transition from conventional to organic agriculture worldwide. Having lived in Costa Rica for 8 years after her dissertation research, in this program she is interested in exploring agricultural labor on this side of the border. This will be Tony's fourth year at Evergreen and his second time teaching Core. He's just completing his dissertation on the history of labor, race, and technology in the early apple industry in Washington. He works in political economy (the study of power and money), popular education (learning that builds on what people already know) and American studies (examinations of culture, politics, and history in U.S. societies). Norma Alicia Pino is our "Core Connector," that is, the liaison between our academic program and student advising. This is Norma Alicia's second year working in academic advising at Evergreen; she will join us every Friday and for other program events. She is especially interested in farmworker issues and literature about Latina/Latino experiences.

You might recall from the catalogue description that we will be exploring several questions: where does our food come from? How was it grown? Who cultivated and harvested it? How did it arrive at our tables? Do we all have the same access to food? How have the migration of workers to harvest food, as well as their movements for social justice, created new forms of culture, from protest songs to *teatro campesino* (farmworkers' theater)? In order to look at these questions in some depth, fall quarter we will focus on three crops: apples, sugar and bananas. When we look at apples, several topics will come into focus: agricultural and labor history of the Pacific Northwest (PNW), sustainable agriculture and fruit structure, relationships between the local and global, PNW culture and labor history, immigration, farmworker art, and *teatro campesino*. With sugar we will explore slavery, conquest and colonialism, the botany of grasses, and the Columbian exchange of plants and animals between Europe and the Americas. With bananas we will examine the following: global trade and globalization, division of labor according to gender, rainforest ecology and the botany of herbaceous plants, pesticides, unionization, and fair trade.

## Rooms & Times

MONDAY	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
<i>Lecture / Film</i> 9am-noon • SEMINAR Bldg II A1107	<i>Lab / Workshop</i> 9am-noon • Laboratory Bldg I 1040 and 1050 and/or SEM II A1107	<i>Lecture / Film</i> 9am-noon • Lecture Hall 5
<i>Seminar</i> 1-3pm • SEM II A2107 (Martha) • SEM II A2109 (Tony) • SEM II A3107 (Alice)	<i>Field Work</i> 1:30-5pm • On location, but meet at Lab I 1040/1050	<i>Potluck</i> noon-1:30pm • Longhouse Cedar Room and Kitchen
		<i>Seminar</i> 1:30-3:30pm • Longhouse 1007 (Martha) • Longhouse 1007A (Tony) • Longhouse 1007B (Alice)

**We want to repeat changes or exceptions in the schedule and note one error in the previous letter (see number 3 below). If you did not get the first letter, it is posted on the academic program page for the course**

**<<http://academic.evergreen.edu/curricular/seedsofchange/>>. The key points are:**

- 1) The class will take a field trip to the Yakima Valley of Washington from Sunday, September 30 to Wednesday, October 3. Friday, October 5 will be class as usual.
- 2) Evergreen has scheduled the entire Thanksgiving Week as a break. However, in order to maintain academic momentum, we will meet two long days during Thanksgiving week (Monday, November 19, 9-5pm and Tuesday, November 20, 9-5pm). These are not optional days; you are required to attend.
- 3) Typically class would end December 7 and evaluation conferences would be the following week. However, since we will have met during Thanksgiving week, our classes will end one week earlier (November 30) and evaluation conferences will take place December 3-6. Please do **not** make plans to leave Olympia before December 6 (note that this was an error in the previous letter).

### **Here is the book list for fall quarter, in the order:**

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*. HarperCollins, 2007.

Valle, Isabel. *Fields of Toil*. Washington State University Press, 1994.

Valdez, Luis. *Early Works: Actos, Bernabe, and Pensamiento Serpentino*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 1990.

Mintz, Sidney. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. Penguin, 1986.

Samson, Jane. *Race and Empire*. Longman, 2005.

Toomer, Jean. *Cane*. Liveright, 1993.

Jenkins, Virginia Scott. *Bananas: An American History*. Smithsonian, 2000.

Vandemeer, John and Ivette Perfecto. *Breakfast of Biodiversity: The Political Ecology of Rainforest Destruction*. Food First; 2nd Revised edition, 2005.

Frank, Dana. *Bananeras*. South End Press, 2005.

There will also be online readings and reading handouts throughout the quarter.

**First Reading:** You need to have completed Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by the first day of class. The book is 370 pages, so be sure to allow enough time to get it done at a reasonable pace (e.g., 37 pages/day for 10 days). Please engage the book thoughtfully, taking notes and looking up any unfamiliar terms. Jot down questions that arise as you read, and note relevant page numbers for topics to explore further in seminar. Please also consider the following:

- What key issues about food, culture, and work does the book as a whole raise?
- The book has three narrators, and each has a certain kind of voice. How would you describe each voice? How does the story each tells differ? What does each add to the whole?
- Did reading this book change any ways you think about food? Did it change the way you obtain food, cook or eat? How?
- Could anyone undertake this experience? What enabled the Kingsolver family to disconnect from the industrial food system and live on locally produced food?

**Some of the supplies that you will need include:**

**Laboratory Notebook** - a bound (not spiral-bound) composition book with either lined or graph paper. Such a notebook can be purchased in the bookstore; we will have examples for you on the first day of the program. You will use this notebook in the laboratory throughout fall quarter.

**Field Notebook** - a pocket-sized field notebook (spiral or bound) for the field trip and outdoor exercises.

**Calculator** - a simple calculator for quantitative reasoning exercises.

**Sleeping bag** - If you have one, bring it, as it may be useful for field trips.

**Access services:** If you have a documented disability, please contact Evergreen's Access Services at (360) 867-6348. Access Services will help coordinate any reasonable accommodations that you will need throughout your education at Evergreen. If you have a disability and have not had it documented, Access Services can help you with the process of getting it documented. Please be sure to get this process underway as soon as possible. Keep in mind that there are some differences between how disabilities are addressed in high school and in college; Access Services will be able to help you with this transition. We are committed to the academic success of all students.

**So what should you be doing now?**

1) As indicated above, you need to have finished, taken notes on and thought about Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, which we will be discussing for the first day of class.

2) We also ask you to pay attention through the rest of the summer to newspaper, TV, music and movies concerning issues of food, agricultural work and immigration. You might start collecting images, headlines, articles and other examples to share in class.

3) You should be sure to access your my.evergreen.edu and your evergreen email account. If you have questions about computing at Evergreen, please see < <http://www.evergreen.edu/computing/home.htm>>.

4) Please plan to attend New Student Orientation Week activities September 17-21. These activities will introduce you to teaching and learning at Evergreen, and provide you with an opportunity to preview the tools and practical skills you will need to college level work. The schedule is posted at: <http://www.evergreen.edu/student-services/student-week-schedule.htm>. In particular, we look forward to seeing you at the *Seeds of Change* Program Preview, during the Monday of Orientation Week, Sept. 17, 9:00-10:30am in room SEM II C1105.

Our first class meeting is September 24 at 9am in Seminar II Room 1107. A detailed schedule including all class activities and assignments will be distributed at that time. We are looking forward to the school year, and we hope you are, too. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,

Alice Nelson, Martha Rosemeyer, Tony Zaragoza and Norma Alicia Pino