Fundamentals of U.S. Food and Agriculture

Do you care about where your food comes from? Ever wonder about agriculture policy? This introductory food course provides a big picture understanding of American agriculture. This class will explore American grown food through history, policy, society, business innovation, and environmental sustainability. How does USDA really work? How are tools, like the US Census of Agriculture, helpful in understanding the realities of American production? How is the impasse in immigration reform impacting farms and food service organizations? These are just a few examples of the many questions explored in this class.

The course is taught by Dr. Kathleen Merrigan, Executive Director of the ASU Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems. Dr. Merrigan wrote the Organic Foods Production Act in 1990 and oversaw its implementation. She served as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture from 2009-2013. Her previous work at Tufts and George Washington University focused on educating the next generation of leaders, empowering them to understand the complex interconnections of food, policy, agriculture and environmental science. Former students now serve in various leadership roles in the food industry, non-profit organizations, at think tanks and in government.

Course Details:
- Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) 294
- Agribusiness (AGB) 294
- 3 Credit Hours
- Fall 2019

Instructor:
- Kathleen Merrigan
- Arizona State University
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This course will be listed as SFS/AGB 294 this semester but will be listed as SFS 215 in future semesters; it will be required for the proposed Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food Systems degree.