Our food system is a cumbersome problem, but it is intimately linked to our struggle to become more sustainable in our use of the Earth’s resources. In this class we will examine food production systems of several types as we explore what it takes energetically, structurally, and physically to produce food at the scale of our current system. This course will be intimately linked to the UW Student farm as it will explore the behind the scenes thought and planning that goes into balancing budgets, creating crop plans and managing communication with potential customers. Our exploration with the farm will serve as a microcosm for gaining a deeper understanding of the struggles of the modern American farmer.

This class will build heavily off of two required weekend field trips in which we will visit larger farms.

Course Goals:
- Explore food production on multiple levels (soil, energy, water, human resources)
- Integrate our deep knowledge of sustainability to these production systems
- Practice problem solving on the ground with production experts (AKA farmers).

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