

RELST/ENVSC 372: Judaism, Justice, and Food

Just Kosher Project

Introduction

Imagine that a group of rabbis heard about this course and they know you are all now well versed in the issues of injustice in the food system, as well as the intricacies of the kosher food laws. They are excited to get your input as they work to figure out how to make kosher food more just. They would like each of you to design a new hechsher as a certification for just kosher food. They would like each of you to focus your hechsher on one area of injustice in particular, though they understand that moving towards justice in one area will likely require moving towards justice in others. The rabbis will likely only be able to move forward with one new just kosher hechsher, so be sure to write a compelling case for the hechsher you are proposing.



Things to Think About Before Choosing a Hechsher

- What types of products will your hechsher certify? Is this a hechsher for meat? For processed foods? For fruits and vegetables? For some or all of these things?
- What will the certification process look like for your hechsher? Who/what will it involve?
- What are the cost implications of your certification? Is there a way to remedy them?
- What Jewish organizations and potential partners are already working in this area or related areas that may be able to help the rabbis if they decide to move forward with your hechsher?

Assignment Options

Option A

1. Write a 1000 word essay describing your hechsher and the injustice(s) it will address. Your essay should be driven by a strong thesis that details why you chose the injustice you did and why you think moving towards justice in this particular area is vital. Rabbis love evidence so be sure to cite course readings and other academic sources you find useful as you describe your hechsher and your reasons for creating it.

2. Include a set of guidelines for the certification process that details what producers would have to do to achieve certification under your hechsher. This should be about a page long and can be in list form.
3. Include 2 different 150 word press releases for your hechsher. One should be geared towards food producers to interest them in seeking out this certification. The other should be geared towards consumers to interest them in seeking out products with this hechsher. Each press release should have a bold headline and describe the who, what, where, when, and why of your hechsher.
4. Include a design for your hechsher that would allow consumers to recognize that the product is just and kosher.

Option B

1. Write a 1000 word essay describing your hechsher and the injustice(s) it will address. Your essay should be driven by a strong thesis that details why you chose the injustice you did and why you think moving towards justice in this particular area is vital. Rabbis love evidence so be sure to cite course readings and other academic sources you find useful as you describe your hechsher and your reasons for creating it.
2. Include a set of guidelines for the certification process that details what producers would have to do to achieve certification under your hechsher. This should be about a page long and can be in list form.
3. Include a design for your hechsher that would allow consumers to recognize that the product is just and kosher.

Option C

1. Write a 1000 word essay describing your hechsher and the injustice(s) it will address. Your essay should be driven by a strong thesis that details why you chose the injustice you did and why you think moving towards justice in this particular area is vital. Rabbis love evidence so be sure to cite course readings and other academic sources you find useful as you describe your hechsher and your reasons for creating it.

Guidelines

You should combine all the parts of the assignment you completed into one document when you upload it on Canvas. The written parts should be typed, 12pt font, and have standard margins. The essay portion should be double-spaced. You should adhere to all the conventions of a recognized citation format (Chicago, MLA, APA, etc). Any recognized citation format is acceptable as long as you cite all your source materials.

Due: Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 11:59 PM (this is the end of the Module 1 exam period)