

Global Food and Agricultural Politics
ERS/GEOG 462 - PSCI 488 Course Outline
Fall 2014

Course Instructor: Sarah Martin

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 pm, or by appointment.

Office: TBD

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Times and Location: The class will meet on Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30am. in EV2-2002.

Calendar Description: This course examines the global food and agriculture system. Specific themes to be covered include political and governance issues related to the Green Revolution, global food corporations, agricultural trade liberalization, food aid, international agricultural assistance, the global agro-chemical industry, and agricultural bio-technology.

Introduction: This course examines the politics of food and agriculture to gain insight in to global events and governance. It is an exciting time for food and agriculture politics. The production, distribution, and consumption of food are all highly contested by different communities of interest. We will explore issues related to the changing role of corporations, technology and agricultural markets, including the rules and practices of governance. In addition, we will explore how social movements are challenging the status quo of the global food system. These issues and themes are important to consider because they shape and influence our daily lives. Finally, as a student, this course will help you build and improve your skills in academic research, critical thinking and writing as well as debate and presentation skills.

Course Structure: The class will consist of lectures, and discussion; along with media such as documentaries from time to time.

Marks Distribution:

Participation: 20%

Policy Brief: 20%

Research Essay: 40%

Group Presentation: 20%

Class Participation: You are expected to be present at all classes and to participate in the majority of classes. A mark out of 5 will be given for attendance. A mark out of 15 will be given for participation in discussions. A good participation mark is earned when you demonstrate strong engagement with the material such as making connections to other course materials, or current events. Each week, you are expected to have read and reflected on that week's readings, and be prepared to discuss your thoughts and ideas with your classmates in a constructive and respectful manner. You will be called on to present your comments on the readings during the term.

Assignments

Policy Brief: A policy brief is a short summary document. The objective of this paper is to provide background to a particular problem in global food and agriculture politics, and convince the reader of its urgency. In addition, a policy brief provides the reader with potential actions, and finally makes a recommendation on the best way forward. The policy brief should be directed to a specific audience (e.g. non-governmental organization, government or international organization). This paper should be approximately 1000-1500 words in length (excluding references). Please include references to your key sources, as you would in an academic paper. Your sources should be varied – from academic articles and books, official websites, and NGO websites. There will be a 3% penalty per day for late submissions. **This paper is due October 21 in hardcopy at the beginning of class and on LEARN.**

Research essay: The objective of this paper is to present and advance an argument about an event, theme or trend of the global politics of food and agriculture. A good argumentative paper includes an introduction that presents the context of the paper in relation to global food and agriculture politics, a research question, and the paper's argument. The combination of a research question and an argument will help guide you as you write the paper. Make sure your paper is clearly written (proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation) and well organized (a logical presentation of the argument with supporting examples). Do not plagiarize - a well cited paper shows your mastery of the material and strengthens your research essay. Any citation style is acceptable as long as it is consistent. This review should be approximately 8-10 pages long (2500-3000 words). Please attach the policy brief (or a copy) to the paper - failure to do so will result in a 2% penalty. There will be a 3% penalty per day for late submissions. **This paper is due December 9th, 4pm in hardcopy and on LEARN.**

Group Presentation: Students will be giving group presentations and leading class discussions beginning in week 5 (in groups of 5) over 7 weeks. Working groups will introduce the week's theme (e.g. Week 7 - Alternatives: Food Sovereignty and The Right to Food, or Week 9 - Consumption/Production: The Case of Meat), and a specific case study to illustrate the implications for global food and agriculture politics. Presentations should draw from the week's readings as well as draw from additional research in order to explain the specific case study. In short, the working groups will be responsible for the second half of the class. Groups are encouraged to use media, Power Point and/or Prezi to present the material. Class time will be set aside in Week 2, 3, and 4 for working groups to plan and organize presentations. Half of your presentation grade will be a "group" grade based on my assessment of the working group's presentation, and the level and quality of discussion and engagement that you foster in the class. The remaining half of the mark will be based on the feedback provided by yourself and your peers in the working group.

Course Materials

Text Book: Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. *Food*. Cambridge, England; Malden, Mass.: Polity Press.

Readings: The required readings for this course are all freely available via the library or online. Assigned readings should be read *before* the relevant classes.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

September 9

1. Global Food and Agricultural Politics: Introduction to the Course

Key topics for discussion: defining food security and food sovereignty, the globalization of food and agriculture, commodities, markets and trade.

September 16

2. The Industrial Food System

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Unpacking the World Food Economy. *Food*. pp. 1-23.
- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. The Rise of the Global Industrial Food Market. *Food*. pp. 24-56.
- Friedmann, Harriet. 1999. "Remaking 'traditions': How We Eat, What We Eat and the Changing Political Economy of Food." In *Women Working the NAFTA Food Chain: Women, Food, and Globalization*, 36–60. (posted on LEARN, or here http://www.colorado.edu/geography/courses/geog_2002_sm03/friedmann99.pdf)

September 23

3. Trade and Markets

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Uneven Agricultural Trade Rules. *Food*. pp. 57-89.
- Josling, T., K. Anderson, A. Schmitz, and S. Tangermann. 2010. "Understanding International Trade in Agricultural Products: One Hundred Years of Contributions by Agricultural Economists." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 92 (2): 424–46.
- Wise, Timothy A. 2009. "Promise or Pitfall? The Limited Gains from Agricultural Trade Liberalisation for Developing Countries." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 36 (4): 855-870.

September 30

4. Alternatives 1: Fair Trade

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Can the World Food Economy be Transformed? *Food*. pp. 158-172.
- Bacon, Christopher M. 2010. "Who Decides What is Fair in Fair Trade? The Agri-environmental Governance of Standards, Access, and Price." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 37(1):111-147.
- Chi, Kelly Rae, James MacGregor, Richard King, International Institute for Environment and Development, and Oxfam GB. 2009. *Fair Miles: Recharting the Food Miles Map*. London: Published by IIED in association with Oxfam GB. <http://pubs.iied.org/15516IIED.html>

October 7

5. Corporations and Business – Tracey Wagner-Rizvi, Guest Lecture.

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Transnational Corporations. *Food*. pp. 90-124.

- Murphy, Sophia, David Burch, and Jennifer Clapp. 2012. *Cereal Secrets*. 5-20. <http://blogs.oxfam.ca/sites/blogs.oxfam.ca/files/rr-cereal-secrets-grain-traders-agriculture-03082012-en.pdf>,
- Mulholland, Kate. 2014. "Workers in Food Distribution: Global Commodity Chains and Lean Logistics" 19 (4): 534–58.

October 14

6. Technology: Green and Gene Revolutions

- Borlaug, Norman. 2004. "Biotech Can Feed 8 Billion", *New Perspectives Quarterly*, 24 (4): 97-102.
- Vanloqueren, Gaëtan. 2009. "How Agricultural Research Systems Shape a Technological Regime That Develops Genetic Engineering but Locks out Agroecological Innovations." *Research Policy* 38 (6): 971–83.
- Kloppenburg, Jack. 2010. "Impeding Dispossession, Enabling Re-possession: Biological Open Source and the Recovery of Seed Sovereignty." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 10 (3): 367–88.
- Paarlberg, Robert. 2010. "GMO Foods and Crops: Africa's Choice". *New Biotechnology* 27 (5): 609-613.

October 21

7. Alternatives 2: Food Sovereignty and The Right to Food

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Can the World Food Economy be Transformed? *Food*. 172-183.
- Declaration of Nyéléni - <http://www.nyeleni.org/spip.php?article290>
- De Schutter, Olivier. 2012. "Reshaping Global Governance: The Case of the Right to Food." *Global Policy* 3 (4): 480–83.
- Patel, Raj. 2010. "What Does Food Sovereignty Look Like?" *Journal of Peasant Studies* 36 (3): 663-673.

October 28

8. Production/Consumption: The Case of Biofuels

- Lima, Mairon G. Bastos, and Joyeeta Gupta. 2013. "The Policy Context of Biofuels: A Case of Non-Governance at the Global Level?" *Global Environmental Politics* 13 (2): 46–64.
- Gillon, Sean. 2010. "Fields of Dreams: Negotiating an Ethanol Agenda in the Midwest United States." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 37 (4): 723–48.

November 4

9. Consumption/Production: The Case of Meat

- FAO, Henning Steinfeld, T. Wassenaar, V. Castel, Mauricio Rosales, C. de Haan, and Pierre Gerber. 2006. "Introduction." *Livestock's Long Shadow* 3-20. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a0701e/a0701e00.HTM> .
- "Meat and Greens." 2014. *The Economist*, January 18. <http://www.economist.com/node/21594348>.
- Weis, Anthony John. 2013. "The Meat of the Global Food Crisis." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 40 (1): 65–85.

November 18**10. Markets: Food and Finance**

- Clapp, Financialization of Food, *Food*, pp. 125-157.
- Isakson, S. Ryan. 0. "Food and Finance: The Financial Transformation of Agro-Food Supply Chains." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 0 (0): 1–27.
doi:10.1080/03066150.2013.874340.

November 25**11. Land: Booms, Busts and Grabs**

- Fairbairn, Madeleine. 2014. "'Like Gold with Yield': Evolving Intersections between Farmland and Finance." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, January, 1–19.
doi:10.1080/03066150.2013.873977.
- Goetz, Ariane. 2013. "Private Governance and Land Grabbing: The Equator Principles and the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels." *Globalizations* 10 (1): 199–204.
- Neville, Kate J., and Peter Dauvergne. 2012. "Biofuels and the Politics of Mapmaking." *Political Geography* 31 (5): 279–89.

December 2**12. Revisiting the Food System: What Way Forward?**

- Discussion on papers.
- No readings.

Policies: University Requirements

Unclaimed assignments will be retained for until one month after term grades become official in quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's [confidential shredding procedures](#).

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/

Students who are unsure what constitutes an academic offence are requested to visit the on-line tutorial at <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/>

Research Ethics: Please also note that the 'University of Waterloo requires all research conducted by its students, staff, and faculty which involves humans as participants to undergo prior ethics review and clearance through the Director, Office of Human Research and Animal Care (Office). The ethics review and clearance processes are intended to ensure that projects comply with the Office's Guidelines for Research with Human Participants (Guidelines) as well as those of provincial and federal agencies, and that the safety, rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected. The Guidelines inform researchers about ethical issues and procedures

which are of concern when conducting research with humans (e.g. confidentiality, risks and benefits, informed consent process, etc.). If the development of your research proposal consists of research that involves humans as participants, the please contact the course instructor for guidance and see <http://iris.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/>

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Office located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AccessAbility Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Mental Health: The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and / or emotional. Please note that help is available. Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services (www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services) is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

Religious Observances: Student needs to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

Discipline (as noted above under 2a): A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 – (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is

a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm

LEARN: Users can login to LEARN via:

<http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/> use your WatIAM/Quest username and password Documentation is available at:

http://av.uwaterloo.ca/uwace/training_documentation/index.html