

Global Food and Agricultural Politics

ERS 462 -Course Outline

Winter 2017

Course Instructor: Helena Shilomboleni, PhD Candidate, SERS

Class Time and Location: Mondays 11:30am -2:20 pm in HH 227

Office Hours: Mondays 3-5 pm, or by appointment

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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.¹

Introduction: We will examine the various mechanisms that gave rise to a globalized food system and their impact on food security, the environment and farmers' livelihoods around the world. The current debate over how best to produce and distribute food is highly contested. Some actors argue that feeding the world sustainably will require more scientific and technical interventions in farming, and trade. Others point to alternative agricultural systems on a smaller and more local scale, which, they argue, are sufficient to meet the world's food needs and foster equity and justice in the food system. We will explore these debates in detail and come to understand well the roles of various actors shaping the food system, including states, corporations, philanthropies, multilateral institutions and social movements.

Marks Distribution:

Weekly Summaries 20%

Participation 15%

Policy Brief 30%

Book Review or Research Paper 35%

Weekly Summaries: For 10 of the weeks (after week 1), you are to write a one page document for that week's readings, which outlines the following components for each article or chapter:

1. A list of key concepts and terms (five to seven)
2. A summary of the author's main argument (s) (four sentences maximum) stated in your own words.
3. One or two questions (or a comment) about the readings that are important and can prompt or spark a discussion.

¹ Please note, GEOG 462/ERS 462/PSCI 488 is a PACS Approved course for all PACS academic plans and fulfills a requirement for a Peace and Conflict Studies major or minor.

The weekly summaries are intended to help students understand the readings well. Critical analysis of the readings will follow in class during discussions. **Each weekly summary must be submitted on LEARN (to the appropriate dropbox) before class (by Monday, 11:20 am).** Late submissions will not be credited. Students should also bring their summaries to class.

Class Participation: You are expected to be present and to participate in all class sessions. A mark out of 5 will be given for attendance. A mark out of 10 will be given for participation in discussions. Good participation involves contributions that demonstrate strong engagement and connection with the course materials, and/or current events. This includes discussing how the content and ideas in the readings are helpful to your understanding of the global food system, what information you agree with or take issue with and why, and how new concepts or ideas make you think about food politics in a different way. Each week, you are expected to come prepared to discuss your thoughts and ideas with your classmates in a constructive and respectful manner.

Policy Brief: You are to write a policy brief on a particular problem, issue, or initiative in the global food system, and convince the reader of its urgency. You should outline the history and background to the topic, the key debates with which it is associated, and offer some policy advice on the best way to move forward. The policy brief should be directed to a specific audience (e.g. government, non-governmental organization, or international organization). The length of this assignment should be about 1000-1500 words (excluding references). Please cite your evidence appropriately, 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 5% penalty per day for late submissions. **This paper is due on February 17th (Friday, 11:59 pm)** and must be submitted on LEARN.

Book Review or Research Paper: *Book Review Essay:* You are to write a review of one of the books listed at the end of this course outline. The first section of the review (must be no more than one third of the length of the essay) should describe the key ideas or central argument(s) of the book. The remainder of the essay should assess the book's arguments in the context of the readings and discussions in this course (which should be properly cited). This assignment should be approximately 2500-3000 words in length (excluding references).

Or Research Essay: You are to write a research paper on an important aspect of the global food politics and agriculture. This assignment is intended to help you gain an in-depth understanding of a particular issue or trend by conducting a substantive review of the literature. Your paper should have a clear research question and argument accompanied by analysis tied to the key topics and themes covered in the course. This assignment should be approximately 2500-3000 words in length (excluding references). Please support your arguments with the use of literature from the course readings (link to at least four sources) as well as additional research from various sources (there must be a minimum of eight academic references).

The due date for this assignment (either a Book Review or a Research Paper) is on April 10th (Monday, 11:59 pm), and must be submitted on LEARN. There will be a 5% penalty per day for late submissions.

Course Materials and Communication:

Text Book: Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. *Food*. Second Edition. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press [available at the UW bookstore; also on Course Reserves via the library]

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.

Questions regarding course material are best answered during office hours or in class.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

January 9

1. State of the Global Food System: Introduction to the Course

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. “Unpacking the World Food Economy”. *Food*. Chapter 1.
- Lang, Tim. 2010. “Crisis? What Crisis? The Normality of the Current Food Crisis.” *Journal of Agrarian Change* 10(1): 87–97.
- Lappé, Frances M. and Joseph Collins. 2015. “World Hunger: Ten Myths”, Food First, Backgrounder: <https://foodfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Summer-2015-Backgrounder-10-Myths.pdf>.

Film: *The Global Banquet: Politics of Food* (50 minutes)

January 16

2. The Rise of a Global Food System: A History

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. “The Rise of a Global Industrial Food Market.” *Food*. Chapter 2.
- Boyd-Orr, John. 1943. “Food and the People”, in *Food and the people: Target for Tomorrow*. London: Pilot Press.
- Friedmann, Harriet, and Philip McMichael. 1989. “Agriculture and the State System: The Rise and Decline of National Agricultures, 1870 to the Present.” *Sociologia Ruralis* 29(2): 93–117.

Film: *80/20: The Developing World* (128 minutes—we’ll only see a portion)

January 23

3. Agricultural Trade and Markets

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. "Agricultural Trade Liberalization." *Food*. Chapter 3.
- Laborde, David and Will Martin. 2012. "Agricultural Trade: What Matters in the Doha Round?" *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 4: 265–83.
- Elliott, Kimberly. 2015. "Food Security in Developing Countries: Is There a Role for the WTO?" <http://www.cgdev.org/publication/food-security-developing-countries-there-role-wto>.

Film: *The Cotton Wars* (53 minutes)

January 30

4. Corporate Role in Food and Agriculture

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. "Transnational Corporations." *Food*. Chapter 4.
- Scrinis, Gyorgy. 2016. "Reformulation, Fortification and Functionalization: Big Food corporations' nutritional engineering and marketing strategies." *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 43(1), 17–37.
- ETC Group. 2015. "Breaking Bad: Big Ag Mega-Mergers in Play: Dow + DuPont in the Pocket? Next: Demonsanto?" http://www.etcgroup.org/sites/www.etcgroup.org/files/files/etc_breakbad_23dec15.pdf.

Film: *Merchants of Grain* (60 minutes)

February 6

5. The New Green Revolution and Small-Scale Producers

- Sanchez, P., Denning, G., and Nziguheba, G. 2009. "The African Green Revolution Moves Forward." *Food Security* 1:37–44.
- Bezner-Kerr, Rachel. 2012. "Lessons from the Old Green Revolution for the New: Social, Environmental and Nutritional Issues for Agricultural Change in Africa." *Progress in Development Studies* 12:2&3; pp. 213-229.
- McMichael, Phillip. 2013. "Value-Chain Agriculture and Debt Relations: Contradictory Outcomes." *Third World Quarterly* 34 (4): 671-690.

Film: *Sowing For Need, Sowing for Greed* (58 minutes)

February 13

6. Food Sovereignty and Resistance

- McMichael, Phillip. 2014. "Historicizing Food Sovereignty." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol. 41:6, 933-957.
- Claeys, Priscilla. 2013. "From Food Sovereignty to Peasants' Rights: an Overview of Via Campesina's Struggle for New Human Rights." in *La Via Campesina's Open Book: Celebrating 20 Years of Struggle and Hope*.
<http://viacampesina.org/downloads/pdf/openbooks/EN-02.pdf>.
- Agarwal, Bina. 2014. "Food Sovereignty, Food Security and Democratic Choice: Critical Contradictions, Difficult Conciliations." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 41(6), 1247–1268.

Film: *Growing Change: A Journey inside Venezuela's Food Revolution* (60 minutes)

February 20: Winter Study Week!

February 27

7. Land Grabs and Tenure Rights

- Wolford, W., Borras, S. M., Hall, R., Scoones, I., & White, B. 2013. "Governing Global Land Deals: The Role of the State in the Rush for Land." *Development and Change*, 44, 189–210.
- GRAIN. 2016. "The Global Farmland Grab in 2016: How Big, How Bad?"
<https://www.grain.org/article/entries/5492-the-global-farmland-grab-in-2016-how-big-how-bad>.
- Byamugisha, Frank. 2013. Overview 1-38. *Securing Africa's Land for Shared Prosperity: a Program to Scale up Reforms and Investments*, Africa Development Forum series. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Film: *No Land, No Food, No Life* (75 mins –we'll only see a portion)

March 6

8. Meatification of Global Diets

- Herrero, M., Wiersenius, S., Henderson, B., et al. 2015. "Livestock and the Environment: What Have We Learned in the Past Decade?" *The Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 40:177–202.
- Weis, Tony. 2013. "The Meat of the Global Food Crisis." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 40 (1): 65–85.
- Soil Association. 2010. "Telling Porkies: The Big Fat Lie about Doubling Food Production". https://www.soilassociation.org/media/4906/policy_telling_porkies.pdf.

Film: *Cowspiracy* (90 minutes- we'll only see a portion)

March 13

9. Financialization in the Food System

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. "Financialization of Food." *Food*. Chapter 5.
- Isakson, S. Ryan. 2014. "Food and Finance: The Financial Transformation of Agro-Food Supply Chains." *Journal of Peasant Studies* Vol. 41, No. 5, 749–775.
- Ghosh, Jayati. 2010. "The Unnatural Coupling: Food and Global Finance." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 10(1): 72–86.

Film: *The Corporation* (145 minutes—we'll only see a portion)

March 20

10. Transforming the Food System 1: Sustainable Practices

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. "Can the World Food Economy be Transformed?" *Food*. Chapter 6.
- Godfray, Charles, & Garnett, Tara. (2014). "Food Security and Sustainable Intensification." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences* 369(1639), 20120273.
- Nyéléni (Declaration of) (2015) "Declaration of the Forum for Agroecology", <http://ag-transition.org/3663/declaration-of-the-forum-for-agroecology/>.

Film: *Seed- The Untold Story* (90 minutes—we'll only see a portion)

March 27

11. Transforming the Food System 2: Governance Reform

- Barling, David & Jessica Duncan. 2015. "The Dynamics of the Contemporary Governance of the World's Food Supply and the Challenges of Policy Redirection." *Food Security* 7:415–424.
- De Schutter, Olivier. (2014). "The reform of the Committee on World Food Security: The Quest for Coherence in Global Governance", in N. C. S. Lambek., P. Claeys, A. Wong & L. Brilmayer (Eds.), *Rethinking food systems: Structural Challenges, New Strategies and the Law* (pp. 219– 238). New York: Springer.

- McKeon, Nora. (2015). “Building a Better Food System from the Top Reaching Downwards” in *Food security governance: Empowering communities, regulating corporations*. London: Routledge.

April 3

12. What Way Forward for the Global Food System?

Discussion: No Readings

Course and University Policies:

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. Refer to Academic Integrity website (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for details.

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, (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>) Read Policy 70 Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>) Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties>).

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. Note for Students with

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. Once registered with AccessAbility, please meet with the professor, in confidence, during office hours to discuss your needs.

Religious Observances: Please 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.

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.

Unclaimed assignments will be retained 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](#).²

Potential Books for Book Review Essay:

- Akram-Lodhi, Haroon. 2013. *Hungry for Change: Farmers, Food Justice and the Agrarian Question*. Halifax, Canada: Fernwood Books.
- Andree, Peter. 2008. *Genetically Modified Diplomacy: The Global Politics of Agricultural Biotechnology and the Environment*. Vancouver: UBC Press.
- Breger Bush, Sasha. 2012. *Derivatives and Development: A Political Economy of Global Finance, Farming, and Poverty*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Carolan, Michael. 2013. *Reclaiming Food Security*, London: Earthscan.
- Claeys, Priscilla. 2015. *Human Rights and the Food Sovereignty Movement: Reclaiming Control*. London: Routledge.
- Conway, Gordon. 1998. *The Doubly Green Revolution: Food for all in the 21st Century*. Cornell University Press.
- Cotula, Lorenzo. 2013. *The Great African Land Grab? Agricultural Investments and the Global Food System*. London: Zed Books.
- David, Christina. 2005. *Food Fights over Free Trade: How International Institutions Promote Agricultural Trade Liberalization*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Desmarais, Annette. 2007. *La Via Campesina Globalization and the Power of Peasants*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.
- Duncan, Jessica. 2015. *Global Food Security Governance: Civil Society Engagement in the Reformed Committee on World Food Security*. Oxon: Routledge.

² Since we are using UW LEARN to upload assignments, shredding will not be necessary. However, the files will be deleted.

- Eaton, Emily. 2013. *Growing Resistance: Canadian Farmers and the Politics of Genetically Modified Wheat*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press.
- Gottlieb, Robert and Anupama Joshi. 2010. *Food Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Guthman, Julie. 2011. *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism*. California Princeton Press.
- Juma, Calestous. 2011. *The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kimura, A. H. 2013. *Hidden Hunger: Gender and the Politics of Smarter Foods*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Kinchy, Abby. 2012. *Seeds, Science, and Struggle: The Global Politics of Transgenic Crops*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Kloppenburg, Jack. 2004. *First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Lang, T., and Heasman, M. 2015. *Food Wars: The Global Battle for Mouths, Minds and Markets*. London: Earthscan Second Edition.
- Lang, Tim, David Barling, and Martin Caraher. 2009. *Food Policy: Integrating Health, Environment and Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- McKeon, Nora. 2015. *Food Security Governance: Empowering Communities, Regulating Corporations*. London: Routledge.
- McMichael, Philip. 2013. *Food Regimes and Agrarian Questions*. Halifax and Winnipeg: Fernwood.
- Nestle, Marion. 2015. *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition, and Health*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Nestle, Marion. 2015. *Soda Politics: Taking on Big Soda (and Winning)*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Paarlberg, Robert. 2009. *Starved for Science: How Biotechnology Is Being Kept Out of Africa* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Paarlberg, Robert. 2010. *Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ross, Sandy. 2011. *The World Food Programme in Global Politics*. Boulder: Reinner.
- Scrinis, Gyorgy. 2013. *Nutritionism: The Science and Politics of Dietary Advice*. New York, Columbia University Press.
- Sen, Amartya. 1983. *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*. Oxford University Press.
- Shiva, Vandana. 2000. *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky.
- Shiva, Vandana. 2016. *Who Really Feeds the World? The Failures of Agribusiness and the Promise of Agroecology*. Berkeley: North Atlantic Books.
- Tansey, Geoff and Rajotte, Tasmin. 2008. *The Future Control of Food: A Guide to International Negotiations and Rules on Intellectual Property, Biodiversity and Food Security*. London: Routledge.
- Timmer, Peter. 2014. *Food Security and Scarcity: Why Ending Hunger is So Hard*. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Vernon, James. 2009. *Hunger: A Modern History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

- Weis, Tony. 2007. *The Global Food Economy: The Battle for the Future of Farming*. London: Zed.
- Weis, Tony. 2013. *The Ecological Hoofprint: The Global Burden of Industrial Livestock*. London: Zed.
- Winders, Bill. 2009. *The Politics of Food Supply: U.S. Agricultural Policy in the World Economy*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Winson, Anthony. 1993. *The Intimate Commodity: Food and the Development of the Agro-Industrial Complex in Canada*. Garamond Press.
- Winson, Anthony. 2013. *The Industrial Diet: The Degradation of Food and the Struggle for Healthy Eating*. Vancouver: UBC Press.