

Governing Global Food and Agriculture
ERS-PSCI 606/GGOV 621 Course Outline
Winter 2011

Course Director: Jennifer Clapp

Office: ES2 Rm. 2016

Office Hours: Thursdays 1-3pm, or by appointment

Email: jclapp@uwaterloo.ca

Times and Location: The course is scheduled as one 3 hour slot – 9:30-12:30 on Thursdays in room AL 209. The course is scheduled for 3 hours in order to allow us time to watch videos, but we may only use two hours to two and a half hours of the class depending on video materials. We will have a break half way through each class.

Course Information:

Calendar Description: This course examines the international rules and organizations that have emerged to govern the increasingly global system of food and agriculture. Specific themes to be covered include governance issues related to the rise of global food corporations, agricultural trade liberalization and the WTO, food aid distribution, international agricultural assistance, the global agro-chemical industry, and agricultural biotechnology.

Detailed Description: We will examine the globalization of the agro-food system and the various mechanisms that have arisen to govern it at the global level. We will begin by addressing the current debate on the state of global food security and food sovereignty. The recent ‘food crisis’ has fuelled the debate over how best to address access to and production of food in the global system. Some argue that more scientific and technical intervention, combined with a more globalized food system, is the only option. Others argue that alternative agricultural systems on a smaller and more local scale are sufficient to feed the world's growing population. With this debate in mind, we will trace the historical trajectory of the globalization of the industrial and scientific agricultural model and its current manifestation of the push for genetic engineering in agriculture. We will then turn to look at broader issues with respect to agricultural trade and the WTO agriculture agreement, the rise of corporate actors in the global food system and recent debates over food aid. The last three weeks of the course turns to look at alternatives as well as new challenges for the global governance of food and agriculture. We will examine alternative agricultural models, such as organic, fair trade and food localism, and assess their viability in today's globalized world. We will then look at the current debate over the future of food and agriculture governance, as played out in the recent reports by the World Bank and the International Assessment of Agricultural Science, Technology and Development. Finally, we will look at recent challenges that the global system of food and agriculture governance has yet to determine how to address: biofuels, the global ‘land grab’ and the ‘financialization’ of food and agriculture. The final weeks of the course are set aside for student research presentations.

Marks Distribution:

Reading Responses (3) 30% (10% each)

Participation: 10%

Research Essay Proposal (10%)

Research Essay: 40%

Presentation: 10%

Reading Responses: For 4 of the weeks (after week 1), you are to write a 1-2 page (single spaced) 'editorial' which responds to that week's readings. Please try to develop an argument regarding the topic we are studying that week, and try to incorporate the following in your reading response: 1) What information, ideas or content in the readings did you find helpful or useful to your thinking about global governance and/or the global food system, and in what way? (i.e. did the readings provide new information or concepts that made you think about these issues in a different way? Or did they reinforce your thinking on that topic?) 2) What information, ideas or content in the readings did you disagree with or take issue with, and why? You will be called upon to present your editorial comments to the class. The schedule for reading responses will be determined in the first class. These papers are worth 10% each.

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 5 will be given for participation in discussions. Good participation is not simply a matter of speaking out in class. It involves contributions that demonstrate your engagement and connection with the course materials. This might include showing that you are making connections between different parts of the course materials and also between course materials and current events and external readings, as well as demonstration that you have carefully weighed the arguments and viewpoints expressed in readings and in class and have incorporated them into your own analysis. Each week, you are expected to have read and thought about that week's readings, and come prepared to discuss your thoughts and ideas with your classmates in a constructive and respectful manner.

Research Essay Proposal: You are to write a 2 page single-spaced proposal for your research essay. This is to include: the key research question you are examining and your potential hypotheses. Please also include a brief list of key sources that you expect to consult. A rough outline (at least main headings and title) of the structure of the essay would also be good to include. **This proposal is due on March 3.**

Research Essay: You are to write a research paper on one aspect of the global food system and its governance. A detailed information sheet including a list of suggested and potential topics will be circulated in class near the start of the term – however, you can choose your own topic so long as it fits within the scope of the course. The paper is to be approximately 3500-4000 words in length (around 15-20 pages, double spaced). Your paper should have a clear research question and argument accompanied by analysis tied to the key issues and themes covered in the course. Your argument should be backed up with the use of literature and data, and should be properly referenced. You should refer to readings assigned for this course as well as additional research from a variety of sources. We will discuss research topics in class mid-way through the course. More information on this assignment will be handed out in class. **This paper is due April 7.**

Research Presentation: the last two sessions of the course, each student will present his/her research findings in a short minute presentation to the rest of the class. You should be organized, clear, and persuasive in presenting your findings. Presentations will be organized by theme to approximate panels at a conference; chairs and discussant roles will also be assigned. The schedule for these presentations will be determined in class.

Course Materials:

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.

Policies:

Academic Integrity: To create and promote a culture of academic integrity, the behaviour of all members of the University of Waterloo is based on honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/policies/policy70.html>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, 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. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.html>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.html>

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term. Once registered with OPD, please meet with the professor, in confidence, during my office hours to discuss your needs.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

January 6

1. Global Governance of Food and Agriculture: Introduction to the Course

Key topics for discussion: defining food security and food sovereignty, globalization of food and agriculture, distancing, the global governance architecture for food and agriculture.

Film: *The Global Struggle for Food*

January 13

2. Global Food Crises

- Freidmann, Harriet. 1993. "The Political Economy of Food: A Global Crisis." *New Left Review* 197, pp.29-57.
- Heady, Derek and Shenggen Fan. 2008. "Anatomy of a Crisis: The Causes and Consequences of Surging Food Prices", *Agricultural Economics*, 30: 375-91.
- Collier, Paul. 2008. "The Politics of Hunger: How Illusion and Greed Fan the Food Crisis" *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec.2008, pp. 67-79.
- Weis, Tony. 2010. "The Accelerating Biophysical Contradictions of Industrial Capitalist Agriculture." *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 10 (3), pp. 315–341.

Film excerpts from: *The Politics of Food, Seeds of Hunger*

January 20

3. Green Revolution – Driving Forces and Impacts

- Shiva, Vandana. 1991. "The Green Revolution in the Punjab." *The Ecologist*, 21(2), pp.57-60.
- Evenson, R. E. and D. Gollin. 2003. "Assessing the Impact of the Green Revolution, 1960-2000", *Science*, 300, pp.758-762.
- Parayil, Govindan. 2003. "Mapping Technological Trajectories of the Green Revolution and the Gene Revolution from Modernization to Globalization", *Research Policy* 32, pp.971-990.
- Easterbrook, Gregg. 1997. "Forgotten Benefactor of Humanity." *Atlantic Monthly*, January 1997, pp.74-82.
- Holt Jiminez, Eric. 2008. "Out of AGRA: The Green Revolution Returns to Africa." *Development*, 51(4), pp. 464–471.

Film: *Seeds of Plenty, Seeds of Sorrow*

January 27

4. Gene Revolution: The Politics of Seeds and Agricultural Biotechnology

- Borlaug, Norman. 2004. "Biotech Can Feed 8 Billion", *New Perspectives Quarterly*, 24 (4), pp.97-102.
- Wield, David, Joanna Chataway and Maurice Bolo. 2010. "Issues in the Political Economy of Agricultural Biotechnology" *Journal of Agrarian Change*. 10 (3), pp. 342-366.
- Paarlberg, Robert. 2010. "GMO Foods and Crops: Africa's Choice". *New Biotechnology* 27 (5), pp.609-613.
- Jansen, Kees and Aarti Gupta. 2009. "Anticipating the Future: 'Biotechnology for the Poor' as Unrealized Promise?" *Futures* 41 (7), pp. 436-445
- Falkner, Robert. 2007. "The Global Biotech Food Fight: Why the United States Got it So Wrong." *Brown Journal of World Affairs*; 14(1), pp.99-110.

Film: *The Future of Food, The World According to Monsanto*

February 3

5. Agricultural Trade and the WTO

- Aksoy, M. Ataman. 2005. "Global Agricultural Trade Policies" in *Global Agricultural Trade and Developing Countries*, edited by M. Ataman Aksoy and John C. Beghin 37-54. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGAT/Resources/GATfulltext.pdf>
- Oxfam International. 2005. "The Impact of Dumping on Developing Countries" and "The Agreement on Agriculture: An Analysis", in Oxfam, *A Round for Free: How Rich Countries are Getting a Free Ride on Agricultural Subsidies at the WTO*, pp.8-22. http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/trade/downloads/bp76_modalities_and_dumping.pdf
- Martin, Will and Kym Anderson. 2008. "Agricultural Trade Reform under the Doha Agenda: Some Key Issues." *The Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 52, pp. 1-16.
- Wise, Timothy A. 2009. "Promise or Pitfall? The Limited Gains from Agricultural Trade Liberalisation for Developing Countries." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 36 (4), pp.855-870.

Film: *Trade Trap*

February 10

6. Corporate Influence and Private Standards in the Global Food Supply Network

- Kneen, Brewster. 2002. "Mutant Giants" and "Cargill Inc, The Numbers." In Brewster Kneen, *The Invisible Giant*. Pluto Press: London, pp.1-19.
- Murphy, Sophia. 2008. "Globalization and Corporate Concentration in the Food and Agriculture Sector." *Development*, 51(4), pp.527-533.
- Fuchs, Doris and Agni Kalfagianni, 2010. "The Causes and Consequences of Private Food Governance." *Business and Politics* 12 (3), pp. 1-34.

- Henson, Spencer and Humphrey, John. 2010. "Understanding the Complexities of Private Standards in Global Agri-Food Chains as They Impact Developing Countries." *Journal of Development Studies*, 46 (9), pp.1628-1646.

Film: *Merchants of Grain*

February 17

7. The Political Economy of Food Aid

- Barrett, Christopher and Daniel Maxwell. 2006. "Towards a Global Food Aid Compact", *Food Policy*, 31, pp.105-118.
- Clay, Edward. 2003. "Responding to Change: WFP and the Global Food Aid System", *Development Policy Review*, 21 (5-6), pp.697-709.
- Zerbe, Noah. 2004. "Feeding the Famine? American Food Aid and the GMO Debate in Southern Africa", *Food Policy* 29, pp.593-608.
- Hoddinott, John, Marc Cohen and Christopher Barrett. 2008. "Renegotiating the Food Aid Convention: Background, Context and Issues." *Global Governance* 14(3): 283-304.

Films: *The Price of Aid, The Hunger Season*

February 24: Reading Week!

March 3

8. Global Food Governance and Alternatives to the Dominant Food System

- Raynolds, Laura. 2000. "Re-embedding Global Agriculture: The International Organic and Fair Trade Movements." *Agriculture and Human Values*, 17, 297-309.
- 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), pp.111-147.
- Patel, Raj. 2010. "What Does Food Sovereignty Look Like?" *Journal of Peasant Studies* 36 (3), pp.663-673 (plus Nye' le'ni Declaration on Food Sovereignty in same issue).
- Borras, Saturnino M. Jr. 2010. "The Politics of Transnational Agrarian Movements." *Development and Change* 41(5) pp.771-803.

Films: *The Future of Food, Food Fight, Black Gold*

March 10 and March 17 – Professor Clapp has to be away these two Thursdays: These classes will be re-scheduled for these weeks, in consultation with the members of the class (Probably on the Monday morning of each of those weeks).

Date TBA Week of March 7

9. Mapping out Directions for the Future of Food and Agriculture Governance: Competing Visions of the WDR and IAASTD?

- IAASTD. 2008. *Executive Summary of the Synthesis Report*. pp.1-11
[http://www.agassessment.org/reports/IAASTD/EN/Agriculture%20at%20a%20Crossroads_Executive%20Summary%20of%20the%20Synthesis%20Report%20\(English\).pdf](http://www.agassessment.org/reports/IAASTD/EN/Agriculture%20at%20a%20Crossroads_Executive%20Summary%20of%20the%20Synthesis%20Report%20(English).pdf)
- World Bank. 2007. "Overview." *World Development Report 2008. Agriculture for Development*. pp.1-25.
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2008/Resources/2795087-1192112387976/WDR08_01_Overview.pdf
- Scoones, Ian. 2009. "The Politics of Global Assessments: the Case of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 36 (3), pp.547-571
- McMichael, Philip. 2009. "Banking on Agriculture: A Review of the *World Development Report 2008*." *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 9 (2), pp. 235–246.

Date TBA Week of March 14

10. New Challenges for Global Food Governance Emerging from the Crisis: Biofuels, Land Grabs and the Financialization of Food

- Dauvergne, Peter and Neville, Kate J. 2010. "Forests, Food, and Fuel in the Tropics: the Uneven Social and Ecological Consequences of the Emerging Political Economy of Biofuels." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 37(4), pp.631-660.
- Zoomers, Annelies. 2010. "Globalisation and the Foreignisation of Space: Seven Processes Driving the Current Global Land Grab", *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 37(2), pp. 429-447.
- Cotula, Lorenzo and Sonja Vermeulen. 2009. "Deal or No Deal: the Outlook for Agricultural Land Investment in Africa." *International Affairs* 85 (6), pp.1233-1247.
- Ghosh, Jayati. 2010. "The Unnatural Coupling: Food and Global Finance." *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 10 (1), pp. 72–86.

March 24

Student Presentations

March 31

Student Presentations