

**Governing Global Food and Agriculture/Global Food Systems**  
**ERS-PSCI 606/ERS-PSCI 489/GEOG 429**  
**Course Outline – Fall 2008**

**Course Director:** Jennifer Clapp

**Office:** ES2 Rm. 2016

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 2-3 pm, or by appointment

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**Times and Location:** The course is scheduled as two 1.5 hour slots – a lecture/film session on Mondays, and a discussion/seminar session on Wednesdays.

Lecture/Film sessions: Mondays 2:00-3:20pm, ES1 – 350 (for all students together)

Seminar Discussion sessions: Wednesdays: 11:00-12:20 ES2 2006 (undergraduate seminars)

Wednesdays 12:30-1:50 ES2- 2022 (graduate seminars)

**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. Some see an impending food crisis, which will require more scientific and technical intervention, combined with a more globalized food system. Others see abundance and argue that alternative agriculture at the local level is sufficient to feed the world's growing population. With this debate in mind, we will look at the current global food system, and the extent to which people around the world are increasingly 'distanced' from the production of the food they eat. We will then trace the historical trajectory of the globalization of the industrial agricultural model and the role that corporations have played in its diffusion globally. We will then turn to look at the global development of and trade in agricultural biotechnology (as part of a more general discussion of the agricultural input industry). Issues at the global trade level, such as the WTO agriculture agreement and recent debates over food aid, will also be covered. Finally we will look at alternative agricultural models, such as organic, fair trade and food localism, and assess their viability in today's globalized world.

**Marks Distribution:**

Reading Responses (4) 40% (10% each)

Participation: 10%

Book Review Essay: 40%

Presentation: 10%

**Reading Responses:** For 4 of the weeks (after week 1), you are to write a one to two 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 may 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:** Your participation grade will be based on your attendance, the quality of your contributions to group discussions (which demonstrates comprehension and constructive critique of readings), and your ability interact with your fellow classmates in a respectful manner.

**Book Review Essay:** You are to write a review of one of the books listed below. If you desperately want to review a book not on this list, please consult with me first. The review should analyse the key ideas presented in the book **and** clearly link them to the readings and discussions in this course (which should be properly cited where appropriate). This review should be approximately 10 pages long (3000 words). Your review is due on the day that you present it in class (last two weeks).

**Book Review Presentation:** You are to present your book review to the class in the final two weeks of the course. You will have 10 minutes to present your review. Aim for a presentation that gets across the main ideas of the book, and your main points of discussion in your review, in a brief and lively manner. Be prepared to answer questions from your audience.

**Books for Book Review Essay:**

- Pollan, Michael. 2006. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin Press.
- Michael Pollan. 2008. *In Defence of Food*. New York: Penguin Press.
- Patel, Raj. *Stuffed and Starved*. 2008. Brooklyn, NY: Melville House.
- Smith, Alisa and J.B. Mackinnon. 2007. *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating*. Toronto: Random House Canada.
- Lang, Tim and Michael Heasman. 2004. *Food Wars: The Global Battle for Mouths, Minds and Markets*. London: Earthscan.
- Barrett and Maxwell. 2005. *Food Aid After Fifty Years*. London: Routledge.
- Paarlberg, R. 2001. *The politics of precaution: Genetically modified crops in developing countries*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins
- Bernauer, Thomas. 2003. *Genes, trade and regulation: The seeds of conflict in food biotechnology*. Princeton: Princeton University Press

- Weis, Tony. 2007. *The Global Food Economy: The Battle for the Future of Farming*. London: Zed.
- World Bank. 2007. *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.
- Rossett, Peter. 2006. *Food is Different: Why the WTO Should Get out of Agriculture*. London: Zed
- Morgan, Dan. 1980. *Merchants of Grain*. New York: Viking.
- Jaffee, Daniel. 2007. *Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability, and Survival*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Fridell, Gavin. 2007. *Fair Trade Coffee: The Prospects and Pitfalls of Market-Driven Social Justice*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Oosterveer, Peter. 2007. *Global Governance of Food Production and Consumption: Issues and Challenges*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Vernon, James. *Hunger: A Modern History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Shaw, John. 2001. *The UN World Food Programme and the Development of Food Aid*. New York: Palgrave.
- David, Christina. 2005. *Food Fights over Free Trade: How International Institutions Promote Agricultural Trade Liberalization*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Nestle, Marion. 2005. *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition, and Health*. Berkeley: University of California Press
- Fowler, Cary and Pat Mooney. 1990. *Shattering: Food, Politics, and the Loss of Genetic Diversity*. University of Arizona Press.
- Perkins, John. *Geopolitics and the Green Revolution: Wheat, Genes, and the Cold War*. Oxford University Press.
- Sen, Amartya. 1983. *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*
- Andree, Peter. 2008. *Genetically Modified Diplomacy: The Global Politics of Agricultural Biotechnology and the Environment*. Vancouver: UBC Press.
- Murphy, Joseph and Les Levidow. *Governing the Transatlantic Conflict over Agricultural Biotechnology: Contending Coalitions, Trade Liberalisation and Standard Setting*. Routledge.
- Winson, Anthony. 1993. *The Intimate Commodity: Food and the Development of the Agro-Industrial Complex in Canada*. Garamond Press.
- Hough, Peter. 1998. *The Global Politics of Pesticides*. London: Earthscan.
- Kloppenburg, Jack. 2004. *First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Kneen, Brewster. 2002. *Invisible Giant: Cargill and its Transnational Strategies*. London: Pluto.

## **Course Materials:**

**Readings:** There is one required text for this course:

- ERS/PSCI 606 – ERS/PSCI 489 –GEOG 429 Course Reader

Assigned readings should be read *before* the relevant classes (or at the very least between the lecture/film session on Mondays and the seminar discussion meeting on Wednesdays).

**UW-ACE:** There will be a UW-ACE website set up for this course. Announcements, relevant web-links and optional readings will be posted on this site. You should check this site periodically for announcements, etc.

## **Policies:**

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from failure in an assignment to debarment from the University. Definitions, procedures, and penalties for dealing with plagiarism are set out on the University of Waterloo webpage (Policy #71 Student Academic Discipline Policy) at:

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

**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:**

**September 8/10**

**Global Governance of Food and Agriculture: Food Security or Food Sovereignty?**

Monday: Film: *The Global Struggle for Food*

Wednesday:

- Jean Dreze, and Amartya Sen, "Entitlement and Deprivation" in Hunger and Public Action (Oxford, 1989), pp.20-34.
- Amartya Sen "Why Half the Planet is Hungry", Observer of London, June 16, 2002. (online)
- Vandana Shiva, "The Real Reasons for Hunger", The Guardian, June 23, 2002. (online)

**September 15/17**

**The Current Global Food Situation: How Did We Get from Abundance to Crisis?**

- Lester Brown, “Pushing Beyond the Earth’s Limits” in Outgrowing the Earth (WW Norton: New York, 2004), pp.3-21.
- Francis Moore Lappé, et. al., “Myth 1: There’s Simply Not Enough Food” from World Hunger: 12 Myths (Grove Press: New York, 1998), pp.8-14.
- VonBraun, et. al, “High Food Prices: the What, Who, and How of Proposed Policy Actions” IFPRI Policy Brief, May 2008 (pp.1-12)
- Young and Mittal, “The Food Price Crisis: A Wake-up Call for Food Sovereignty”, Oakland Institute Policy Brief , May 2008. (pp.1-13).

Film excerpts from: *The Politics of Food* and *Food or Famine?*

**September 22/24**

**Globalization of the Food System - Agriculture, Food and Distancing**

- Brewster Kneen, “Distancing: The Logic of the Food System” in B. Kneen, Land to Mouth, (NC Press, 1992), pp.24-34
- Harriet Friedmann, “Distance and Durability: Shaky Foundations of the World Food Economy”, in P. McMichael (ed) The Global Restructuring of Agro-Food Systems, (Cornell University Press: Ithaca, 1994), pp.258-276.
- Michael Pollan, “The Processing Plant: Making Complex Foods”, in M. Pollan, The Omnivore’s Dilemma (Penguin: New York, 2006), pp.85-99
- Alastair Iles, “Learning in Sustainable Agriculture: Food Miles and Missing Objects”, Environmental Values, Vol.14 (2005), pp.163-183

Film excerpts from: *Jungleburger* and/or *Food*

**September 29/October 1**

**Green Revolution – Driving Forces and Impacts**

- Vandana Shiva, “Science and Politics in the Green Revolution”, in Vandana Shiva, The Violence of the Green Revolution (Zed: London, 1989), pp.19-60.
- R. E. Evenson and D. Gollin, “Assessing the Impact of the Green Revolution, 1960-2000”, Science, Vol.300, May 2003, pp.758-762.
- Govindan Parayil, “Mapping Technological Trajectories of the Green Revolution and the Gene Revolution from Modernization to Globalization”, Research Policy 32, (2003), pp.971-990.
- Gregg Easterbrook, “Forgotten Benefactor of Humanity”, Atlantic Monthly, January 1997, pp.74-82.

Film: *Seeds of Plenty, Seeds of Sorrow*

**October 6/8**

**Corporations and the Global Agro-Food Complex**

- William Heffernan, "Concentration of Ownership and Control in Agriculture", in F. Magdoff et. Al, Hungry for Profit: The Agribusiness Threat to Farmers, Food and the Environment (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000), pp.61-75.
- Tim Lang and Michael Heasman, "The Food Wars Business", in T. Land and M. Heasman, Food Wars: The Global Battle for Mouths, Minds and Markets (London: Earthscan, 2004), pp.126-167.
- Konefal, Jason, Michael Mascarenhas, and Maki Hatanaka. 2005. Governance in the Global Agri-Food System: Backlighting the Role of Transnational Supermarket Chains. Agriculture and Human Values 22 (3): 291-302.

Film: *Merchants of Grain*

**October 13/15 – No class – Thanksgiving week! Eat well.**

**October 20/22**

**Governing Seeds and Agricultural Biotechnology**

- Norman Borlaug, "Biotech Can Feed 8 Billion", in New Perspectives Quarterly, 24 (4), 2004, pp.97-102.
- Robert Paarlberg, "The Global Food Fight", Foreign Affairs, vol.79, no.3 (May-June 2000), pp.24-38.
- Robert Ali Brac de la Perriere and Franck Seuret, "The Battle Over Intellectual Property Rights", in R. A. Brac de la Perriere and F. Seuret, Brave New Seeds (Zed: London, 2000), pp.89-112.
- Robert Falkner, "International Cooperation against the Hegemon: The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety", in The International Politics of Genetically Modified Food: Diplomacy, Trade and Law (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), pp.15-33.

Film: *The Future of Food*

**October 27/29**

**Agricultural Trade Liberalization and the WTO**

- Jennifer Clapp, "WTO Agriculture Negotiations: Implications for the Global South", Third World Quarterly. Vol.27, No.4, 2006, pp.563-577
- Merlinda Ingco and John Nash, "What's at Stake? Developing Country Interests in the Doha Development Round", in World Bank, Agriculture and the WTO (2004), pp.1-22
- Oxfam International, "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. (2005), pp.8-22.

Film: *Trade Trap*

**November 3/5**

**Food Aid and Famine Relief**

- Peter Uvin “Regime, Surplus and Self-Interest: The International Politics of Food Aid”, International Studies Quarterly, Vol.36, 1992, pp.293-312.
- Christopher Barrett and Daniel Maxwell, “Towards a Global Food Aid Compact”, Food Policy, Vol.31, 2006, pp. 105-118.
- Edward Clay, “Responding to Change: WFP and the Global Food Aid System”, Development Policy Review, Vol.21, No.5-6, pp.697-709.
- Zerbe, Noah, “Feeding the Famine? American Food Aid and the GMO Debate in Southern Africa”, Food Policy, Vol.29, 2004, pp.593-608.

**Film:** *The Price of Aid*

**November 10/11**

**From Global to Local? Alternatives in Global Context**

- Laura Reynolds, “The Globalization of Organic Agro-Food Networks”, World Development, Vol.32, No.5, 2004, pp.725-743.
- Daniel Jaffee, “Bringing the ‘Moral Charge’ Home: Fair Trade within the North and within the South”, Rural Sociology Vol.69, No.2, 2004, pp. 169–196
- Sigrid Stagl, “Local Organic Food Markets: Potentials and Limitations for Contributing to Sustainable Development”, Empirica. Vol.29, pp.145-162.

Film: *The Future of Food* (last part)

**November 17/19**

**Student Presentations**

**November 24/26**

**Student Presentations**

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Student Presentations**

Additional films may be shown in the final weeks of class if time permits.