

**Course Syllabus and Outline**  
**GGR 329 H1F: The Global Food System**  
**Lectures: Fridays 11:00am-1:00pm, WI 523**

**Instructor:** Lauren Kepkiewicz (lauren.kepkiewicz@mail.utoronto.ca)

**Office:** Physical Geography Building, Room 203

**Office Hours:** Fridays 1:00-2:00pm or by appointment

**TA:** Jina Jill

**Course Description:** Food is one of the most basic material needs in our everyday lives and yet as individuals we don't often question the paths our food has traveled or the geographies it has encountered along the way. In order to better understand the connections between the food we consume and the spaces they travel through, this course provides a critical perspective on the global food system. We will begin with a historical overview, discussing key influencing factors that have shaped the food system today including industrialization, colonialism, and corporatization. We will then move on to discuss some of the key challenges arising from the current global food system including labour, development and aid, trade, and health. Lastly, we will examine the ways that different groups are resisting these challenges and organizing for alternative food systems.

**Classes:** Class meetings will consist of opening lectures to provide background and themes for the day, multi-media presentations, interactive activities, and guest speakers that make connections between the week's readings and the broader course themes. The material covered in classes will be used to help interpret (as opposed to summarize) the readings, to add new concepts and examples to those covered in the text, and to provide opportunities for discussion.

**Course Objectives:** Through an examination of the changing geographies of food, this class aims to:

1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of issues, concepts, and theories that help us understand the relationships between food, the natural environment, and human society
2. Identify the historical and current factors that shape the global food system.
3. Understand some of the main theories and concepts around the geography of the global food system.

**Requirements and Evaluation:** Assignments will be discussed in class. More details will be available on the course website. Please submit your assignments at the beginning of class (see instructions below).

1) Discussion Questions (5%) – Submit 2 discussion questions relating to the week's readings for a total of 5 weeks. You may pick which weeks you wish to submit questions for. Discussion questions should deal with specific assigned readings. They should not require yes or no answers but rather provoke discussion and further critical thought as well as clearly demonstrate that you've completed the readings.

***Due by 9pm by email the night before the class in which we are discussing those readings. Please use the following title in the subject line, specifying which week your questions pertain***

*to: GGR329 Questions for Week ...*

2) Film Analysis (25%) – Write a film analysis of between 800-1000 words using one or more of the course concepts. Please use 12-point font, Times New Roman, and double-space. You do not need to include a title page but please include the title, your name, student number, instructor, word count, and course name at the top of the first page. The University of Toronto Libraries have a good collection of films related to food. In order to obtain a list of the resources, visit the Media Commons home page at <http://mediacommons.library.utoronto.ca>. Click on the icon for "Research Topics", and then scroll down to the icon for "Food". Click on the icon and list of all the films in the collection will appear. At the present, the Media Commons has almost 180 films on food related topics. Note: you must choose a popular film (i.e. NOT A DOCUMENTARY).

***Due Date: Beginning of class, February 13<sup>th</sup>***

3) Position Paper (35%): The purpose of a position paper is to take a position on a controversial issue related to the global food system. The position paper is based on evidence that provides a solid foundation for your argument. Make sure to present multiple sides of the argument in order to include (and refute) counter arguments. Papers should be between 1800 to 2000 words (not including bibliography). Please use 12-point font, Times New Roman, and double-space. You do not need to include a title page but please include the title, your name, student number, word count, instructor, and course name at the top of the first page.

***Due date: Beginning of class, March 20<sup>th</sup>***

4) Final Exam (35%) – to be held during the exam period.

**Readings:** You will be expected to buy (or share) the course text, which will be available at the University of Toronto Bookstore. Supplementary readings will be made available online. The course text is:

*The No-Nonsense Guide to World Food*, Second Edition. Wayne Roberts. 2013. Toronto: Between the Lines. (Please make sure you're reading the most recent edition!)

**Course Website:** The course website is available through the University of Toronto portal ([portal.utoronto.ca](http://portal.utoronto.ca)). All students enrolled in the class should be able to view the link to the course once they enter the portal using their UTORID and password. Information on the Portal login procedures available here: <http://portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/login-and-access-your-course>. All course materials – including the course outline, reading lists, assignments, and links to additional readings – will be posted on the website.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Contacting the Instructor:** You are welcome to reach me in person during my office hours or by appointment. I prefer to answer more in-depth questions (such as guidance on assignments) in person in office hours as I will be able to provide you with a more comprehensive response, but am happy to reply to short questions by email. If you have a question, please check the syllabus and Blackboard before emailing me as I may not respond to questions about information that is clearly stated in the syllabus. Please allow 2-3 days for me to respond via email.

**Handing in Assignments:** All assignments are due at the beginning of the class in paper copy on the date indicated. All assignments must also be uploaded to the Turnitin.com website before the beginning of class the day the assignment is due; more information on submitting a Turnitin Assignment (including submission codes) will be made available in class.

**Turnitin.com:** Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. If you have concerns about the course's use of Turnitin, contact me at least a week before the first assignment is due, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

**Late penalties, Extensions and Accommodations:** A late penalty of 5% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted from the grade per day for late work (including weekend days). Assignments submitted after class has started on Friday will be considered one day late (i.e. as if they had been handed in on Saturday). Extensions will be granted in the case of illness or other emergencies, with appropriate documentation. For medical exemptions, only an official U of T form will be accepted (available online here: <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>). Please consult your college registrar if you are having difficulties during the term that prevent you from completing your course work. For non-medical emergencies, they may be able to provide a letter documenting your situation. Be aware that submitting a note which has been altered or obtained under false pretences is considered a very serious offence by the University.

You may submit your assignment via Turnitin.com on Saturdays and Sundays *as well as* a paper copy the following Monday to the assignment drop box outside of the geography office. Like the paper version, the 'cut off time' for receipt of weekend submissions is 5pm. Weekends are the only time that assignments will be dated according to the submission time on Turnitin.com; papers submitted during the week will be dated according to your submission to the office drop box. You can find the drop box in the Geography Main Office, Sidney Smith Hall, 5047 (open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Anything submitted to the drop-box will be time stamped at 5pm (sometimes earlier on the day before a long weekend). It's a good idea to get to the office at least 15 minutes before it closes.

**Electronic Devices:** Although electronic technologies have the potential to enhance learning, recent studies suggest that the use of personal computers and other electronic devices can be detrimental to students' learning: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/laptop-use-lowers-student-grades-experiment-shows-1.1401860> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/04/28/why-students-using-laptops-learn-less-in-class-even-when-they-really-are-taking-notes/>

With this in mind, I strongly encourage you to come to class prepared to take non-electronic notes. However, I understand that computers and tablets can be effective and potentially necessary for some people to take notes. If you do bring a computer to class, please use it in a

way that is not distracting to those around you. I also ask that you turn your cell phones to silent and keep them tucked away throughout class.

Taking photos and videos during class is not permitted. Please ask me for permission if you wish to audio record the lecture. Students should be aware that since audio recordings may occur within the lecture, your voice may be recorded by other students during class. Please speak to me if you have any concerns about this.

**Accessibility Needs:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism is quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper use of citation. Quotation marks are required when using an author's words. Students also should not be submitting any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor. Please consult the "Rules and Regulations" section of the Arts and Science Calendar ([http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules\\_&\\_Regulations.html](http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules_&_Regulations.html)) for further information and check the 'How not to plagiarize' website at: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

**Writing:** Clear writing and communicating is essential. You will be expected to write clearly and effectively on tests and assignments. The University provides some resources through the writing centre (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/centres/arts-and-science>). Brief advice on specific elements of writing for university courses can also be found at (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice>).

## **COURSE OUTLINE: Required and Recommended Readings**

### ***PART 1: How have food systems changed? What structures have shaped the current global food system?***

#### **Class #1: Friday January 9<sup>th</sup>**

#### **The Global Food System: An introduction**

Fraser, E., and Fraser, E. 2014. 10 things you need to know about the global food system. The Guardian, May 1 2014. Available at: <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/food-blog/10-things-need-to-know-global-food-system>

Roberts, Wayne. 2013. Introduction; and Introducing the food system. In *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Food*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp 8-31.

Tansey, Geoff. 2014. The Food System: An Overview (video). Available online at: <http://www.foodsystemsacademy.org.uk/videos/geoff-tansey.html>

***Recommended:***

Winter, M. 2003. Geographies of food: agro-food geographies – making reconnections. *Progress in Human Geography*, 27(4): 505–513. (available through the library website)

**Class #2: Friday January 16<sup>th</sup>  
Agricultural Industrialization**

***Guest Speaker:*** Hillary Barter, Greenbelt Farmers Market Network (and aspiring farmer!) - “Industrial Meat Consumption and Local Regulation”

Roberts, Wayne. 2013 Brave new food. In *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Food*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp 32-53.

Van der Ploeg, J. 2010. The food crisis, industrialized farming and the imperial regime. *Journal of Agrarian Change* 10 (1): 98-106. (available through the library website)

Perkins, J.H., (1990). The Rockefeller Foundation and the green revolution, 1941-1956. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 7(3-4):6-18. (available through the library website)

***Recommended:***

Shiva, Vandana. 2000. The Stolen Harvest Under the Sea. In *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press. 37-56. (available on Blackboard)

**Class #3: Friday January 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Colonizing Food Systems**

Bernstein, Henry. 2010. Chapter 3: Colonialism and Capitalism. In *Class Dynamics of Agrarian Change*. Nova Scotia: Fernwood Press. pp. 39-60. (available on Blackboard)

King, Thomas. 2012. Chapter 9: As Long as the Grass is Green. *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada. 215-247. (available on Blackboard)

LaDuke, Winona. Three Sisters. In *Recovering the Sacred: The Power of Naming and Claiming*. pp. 153-166. (available on Blackboard)

***Recommended:***

Grey, Sam and Raj Patel. 2014. Food sovereignty as decolonization: some contributions from Indigenous movements to food system development politics. *Agriculture & Human Values*. 32(1). (available through the library website)

Raschke, V., and Cheema, B. 2006. Colonisation, the new world order, and the eradication of traditional food habits in East Africa: historical perspective on the nutrition Transition. *Public Health Nutrition*. 11 (7): 662-674. (available through the library website)

**Class #4: Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Corporatization/the Rise of the TNC's and Food Regimes**

Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Chapter Four: Transnational Corporations. In *Food*. Cambridge, Malden: Polity Press. pp. 90-124 (available on Blackboard)

McMichael, P. 2009. A food regime analysis of the “world food crisis.” *Agriculture and Human Values*, 26(4), 281–295. (available through the library website)

Roberts, Wayne. 2013. The High Cost of Cheap Food. In *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Food*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp 32-53.

***Recommended:***

Friedmann, Harriet. 2014. Food Regimes and their transformation (audio). Available online at: <http://www.foodsystemsacademy.org.uk/audio/harriet-freidmann.html>

***Part II: What are the key challenges and issues within the current global food system?***

**Class #5: Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Labour, Gender, and Race**

**Guest Speaker:** Sam Walker, PhD Candidate, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto – “Food Deserts and Food Access”

Barndt, Deborah. 2001. On the move for food: Three women behind the tomato's journey. *Women's Studies Quarterly*. 29(1/2), 131-143. (available through the library website)

Minkoff-Zern, Laura-Ann, Nancy Peluso, Jennifer Sowerwine, and Christy Getz. 2011. Chapter 4: Race and Regulation: Asian Immigrants in California Agriculture. In: Alkon, Alison Hope and Julian Agyeman (eds) 2011. *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press. pp. 65-85 (available on Blackboard)

Shiva, Vandana. 1999. Monocultures, Monopolies, Myths and the Masculinization of Agriculture. *Development*. 42(2), 35-38. (available through the library website)

Mintz, Sidney. 2011. Plantations and the Rise of a World Food Economy: Some Preliminary Ideas. *Review (Fernand Braudel Center), Rethinking the Plantation: Histories, Anthropologies, and Archaeologies*. 34(1/2), **READ ONLY** p 8. from Origins of World Food Economy to p. 11 (available through the library website)

***Recommended:***

Coalition of Immokalee Workers. 2012. Anti-Slavery Campaign. Available online at:  
[www.ciw-online.org/slavery/](http://www.ciw-online.org/slavery/)

hooks, bell. 2009. Chapter 4: Touching the Earth. In *Belonging: A culture of place*. New York: Routledge. pp. 34-40. (available on Blackboard)

**Class #6: Friday February 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Global Governance, Trade, and Regulation**

\*\*\*Film Analysis due at beginning of class\*\*\*

Tansey, G., and Rajotte, T. 2008. Food, farming and global rules. *The Future Control of Food: A Guide to International Negotiations and Rules on Intellectual Property, biodiversity and food security*. London: EarthScan. pp 3-26. (available at  
<http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Resources/Publications/Pages/IDRCBookDetails.aspx?PublicationID=79>  
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Weis, Tony. 2007. Chapter 4: Entrenching an uneven playing field: the multilateral regulation of agriculture. In *The Global Food Economy: The Battle for the Future of Farming*. London, New York: Zed Books. pp 128-160. (available on Blackboard)

**Recommended:**

Desta, Melaku Geboye. 2001. Food Security and International Trade law: An appraisal of the World Trade Organization Approach. *Journal of World Trade*. 35(3), 449-468.  
(available through the library website)

Rosset, Peter. 2011. Preventing hunger: Change economic policy. *Nature*. 472-3. (available through the library website)

**Class#7: Friday February 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**International Development and Food Aid**

Carney, Judith. 2008. The Bitter Harvest of Gambian Rice Policies. *Globalizations*. 5(2): 129-142. (available through the library website)

Human Rights Watch. 2014. Sugar Plantations in Ethiopia's Omo Valley. Available online at:  
<http://www.hrw.org/features/omo-sugar-plantations> (please scroll through each of the slides and click on the links provided)

Oxfam. *Food aid or hidden dumping? Separating wheat from chaff*. Available online at:  
[http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bp71\\_food\\_aid.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bp71_food_aid.pdf) pp. 2-29

**Recommended:**

Clapp, Jennifer. 2004. The Political Economy of Food Aid in an Era of Agricultural Biotechnology. *TIPEC Working Paper 04/6*. Available online at: <http://www.trentu.ca/org/tipec/4clapp6.pdf>

Escobar, Arturo. 2012 [1995]. Chapter 4: The Dispersion of Power: Tales of Food and Hunger. In *Encountering Development: The making and unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 102-154. (available on Blackboard)

**Class #8: Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Diet, Consumption and Health**

Guthman, J., and Dupuis, E. 2006. Embodying neoliberalism: economy, culture, and the politics of fat. *Environment and Planning D* 24: 427–448. (available through the library website)

Martin, D. 2012. Nutrition transition and the public-health crisis: Aboriginal perspectives on food and eating. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.). *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. pp 208-222. (available on Blackboard)

Pollan, Michael. 2003. The way we live now: the (agri)cultural contradictions of obesity. *The New York Times Magazine*. Available online at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/12/magazine/the-way-we-live-now-10-12-03-the-agri-cultural-contradictions-of-obesity.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm>

***Recommended:***

Dowler, Elizabeth. 2014. Food, nutrition and poverty – An overview (video). Available online at: <http://www.foodsystemsacademy.org.uk/videos/elizabeth-dowler.html>

***PART III: What kinds of responses, resistances, and alternatives to the Global Food System have arisen?***

**Class #9: Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>  
Food security, the right to food and food sovereignty**

**Guest Speaker:** Bryan Dale, PhD Candidate, Department of Geography and Program in Planning, University of Toronto – “Farmers, Food Systems, and Sustainability”

Morrison, D. 2011. Indigenous food sovereignty: a model for social learning. In H. Wittman, A. Desmarais, and N. Wiebe (eds.). *Food sovereignty in Canada: creating just and sustainable food systems*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing. pp. 97-113. (available on Blackboard)

Roberts, W. 2013. A tale of two worlds: understanding food sovereignty. In *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Food*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp 83-115.

Davis, B., and Tarasuk, V. 1994. Hunger in Canada. *Agriculture and Human Values* 11 (4) 50-57. (available through the library website)

***Recommended:***

Edelman, Marc, Tony Weis, Amita Baviskar, Saturnino M Borras Jr., Eric Holt-Giménez, Deniz Kandiyoti and Wendy Wolford. 2014. Introduction: Critical Perspectives on Food Sovereignty. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. 41(6), 911-931.

**Class #10: Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sustainable Agriculture and the Rise of the Food Movement**

**Guest Speakers:** Sarah Archibald, Meal Exchange, and Alia Karim, Toronto Youth Food Policy Council

\*\*\*Position Paper Due at beginning of class\*\*\*

Desmarais, Annette Aurélie. 2002. Peasants Speak: The Via Campesina: Consolidating an International Peasant and Farm Movement. *Journal of Peasant Studies*. 29(2):91-124. (available through the library website)

Roberts, W. 2013. Seeds of hope: the rise of the food movement. *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Food*. Toronto: Between the Lines. pp 141-175.

***Recommended:***

Altieri, Miguel A. 2009. Agroecology, Small Farms, and Food Sovereignty. *Monthly Review*. 61 (3). Available online at: <http://monthlyreview.org/2009/07/01/agroecology-small-farms-and-food-sovereignty/>

Feenstra, G. 2002. Creating space for sustainable food systems: lessons from the field. *Agriculture and Human Values* 19(2), 99–106. (available through the library website)

People's Food Policy. 2011. Resetting the table: a people's food policy for Canada. Available online at: <http://peoplesfoodpolicy.ca/policy/resetting-table-peoples-food-policy-canada>.

**Class #11: Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>  
Limits of Resistance?**

Guthman, Julie. 2008. Bringing Good Food to Others: Investigating the Subjects of Alternative Food Practice. *Cultural Geographies*. 15 (4): 425-441. (available through the library website)

Holt-Giménez, E., and Wang, Y. 2011. Reform or transformation? The pivotal role of food justice in the US food movement. *race /ethnicity* 5(1): 83-102. (available through the library website)

Holt-Giménez, Eric. *Tangled roots and bitter fruit: what Ferguson can teach the food movement*. Available online at: <http://foodfirst.org/tangled-roots-and-bitter-fruit-what-ferguson-can-teach-the-food-movement/>

***Recommended:***

Goodman, D. E., DuPuis, M. and Goodman, M. K. 2012. Chapter 2: Coming Home to Eat? Reflexive Localism and Just Food. In *Alternative Food Networks*. New York: Routledge.  
DuPuis, E.M., Goodman, D. 2005. (available on Blackboard)

**Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Good Friday, No Class**

The instructor reserves the right to modify the topic schedule or readings.