

**COURSE SYLLABUS & OUTLINE**  
**GGR 329 H1F Winter 2016: The Global Food System**  
**Lectures: Fridays 11:00am-1:00pm, Room: RW 143**

**Instructor:** Tammara R. Soma (tammara.soma@mail.utoronto.ca)

**Office:** Sidney Smith Hall Room 5038

**Office Hours:** Fridays 2:00-3:00 pm and by appointment

**TA:** Jina Jill

**Course Description:**

What is the first word that comes to your mind if you are asked to describe the current global food system? Would that word be “**sustainable**”? “**industrial**”? “**corporate**”? “**unjust**”? Is it likely you would have said “**colonized**”? While there are many words that can be used to describe the current global food system, many of us can agree that if we were to sum up the current global food system in one word, that word would be: “**complex**.”

Depending on your worldview, a food system can be an integral part of your identity and spiritual or cultural practices. This has been and is still the case in some Indigenous or rural communities. Associations with the land, relationships with your food and those who grow foods might be an important part of your life. For others, perhaps food is merely a commodity: a product to be traded in the stock market, produced in distant faraway places, and something you consume but never think too much about. For some of us, we have exclusively experienced food in the context of modern supermarkets, retail shops and restaurants. While for others, relationships and interactions with food have occurred through food banks, food aid, dumpster diving, gleaning, or farming.

This course will utilize both macro and micro-scale analysis of the global food system by engaging with real-world examples including data from the Instructors’ fieldwork. Students will understand theories by applying it to various case studies from both the Global North and Global South. The focus of this course is to help students develop the ability to think through problems pertaining to the food systems in a holistic, systems-based approach.

**Classes:**

Classes will be run as a lecture with a mix of guest speakers, multi-media presentations as well as interactive creative presentations. We will be using the readings to engage in group discussions led by the instructor. The material covered in the 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:** By the end of the class, students should be able 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 global food system through a systems-based approach.

**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) **Write an Op-ed/ Opinion Editorial (10%):** Peruse through local/ international newspapers and find an article that addresses a food-related matter (note: avoid articles solely focusing on recipes). After you find a suitable article, express your opinion about a current food issue in an Op-Ed format. Please use 12-point font, Times New Roman, and double-space (600 word maximum limit). For this assignment **ONLY**, use endnotes when citing. Please include the online link of the story you chose to comment, along with the name of the newspaper, the title of the article, and date of the publication in your submission. If your story is not online, please provide the name of the newspaper, the title of the article, and date of the publication in your submission. You do not need to include a title page but please include your name, student number, instructor, word count, and course name at the top of the first page. It is strongly recommended but not mandatory that students actually submit their op-ed for publication. Those who submit their op-ed and get it published will receive an extra 3% on their next assignment. Here are guidelines on writing an effective Op-Ed: <http://media.utoronto.ca/writing-an-effective-opinion-piece/>

***Due Date: Before Beginning of Class February 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 (upload on Blackboard)***

2) **Film Analysis (20%)** – Write a film analysis of 800-1000 words (4 pages) using one or more of the course concepts. Please use 12-point font, Times New Roman, APA citation 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 food-related films. 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 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: Before Beginning of Class February 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 (upload on Blackboard)***

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 1500 to 2000 words (not including bibliography). Please use 12-point font, Times New Roman, APA citation 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: Before Beginning of Class March 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 (upload on Blackboard)***

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 texts are:

1. Mustafa Koc, Jennifer Sumner, and Anthony Winson (eds.). 2012. *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford.
2. Patel, Raj. 2007. *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World's Food System*. Toronto: Harper Perennial.

**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 during office hours as I will be able to provide you with a more comprehensive response, but I 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 by the beginning of the class and must be uploaded on Blackboard**. To submit assignments:

1. Go on the course Blackboard Site: <http://portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/login-and-access-your-course>
2. On the left side of the page you will see “Assignments (Upload)”, click on “Assignments (Upload)”
3. Upload your paper in either a PDF or word.docx format in the proper assignment link (for example: Assignment 1 (Op-Ed), Assignment 2 (Film Analysis), and Assignment 3 (Position Paper). Please make sure you include your name and student number on every assignment.
4. Click submit.

**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.

**Electronic Devices:** If you do bring a computer to class, please use it in a way that is not distracting to those around you and the instructor (for example: by checking Facebook, Twitter etc.). 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:**

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**

**Class #1: Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
**Entangled in The Global Food System**

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>

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

**Class #2: Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016**  
**Food in the City: A Closed Loop System**

**Guest Speaker: Ran Goel, Founder of Fresh City Farms (<https://www.freshcityfarms.com>)**

Pothukuchi, K., & Kaufman, J. (2000). The food system: A stranger to urban planning. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 66(2), 113-124. dx.doi.org/10.1080/01944360008976093

Mendes, W. Municipal Governance and Urban Food Systems. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.).(2012).*Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. pp. 290-309

Steel, Carolyn. 2012. Chapter 2 (Supplying the City). In *Hungry City: How Food Shapes Our Lives*. London: Vintage Books. 53-103 (Available on Blackboard).

***Recommended***

McIvor, D.W., & Hale, J. (2015). Urban Agriculture and the prospects for deep democracy. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 32(4), 727-741. DOI 10.1007/s10460-015-9588-9

**Class #3: Friday January 29<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Whose land? Whose food? The legacy of Indigenous Peoples**

**Guest Speaker: Aboriginal Elder (To Be Confirmed)**

Fee, M. (2009). Stories of Traditional Aboriginal Food, Territory, and Health. In Cooke, N(Ed). *What's to Eat? Entrees in Canadian Food History*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. Pp.55-78. (available on Blackboard)

LaDuke, W.(2005).Three Sisters . In *Recovering the Sacred: The Power of Naming and Claiming*. pp. 153-166. (available on Blackboard)

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.

***Recommended***

Food Secure Canada, 2013. Discussion Paper Series 1: Indigenous Food Sovereignty [http://foodsecurecanada.org/sites/foodsecurecanada.org/files/DPI\\_Indigenous\\_Food\\_Sovereignty.pdf](http://foodsecurecanada.org/sites/foodsecurecanada.org/files/DPI_Indigenous_Food_Sovereignty.pdf)

**Class #4: Friday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**The Corporatization of Food Systems: MNC's and Food Regimes**

**(1<sup>st</sup> PAPER DUE)**

Chapter 4 (“Just a Cry for Bread”) & 5 (The Customer is Our Enemy: A Brief Introduction to Food System Business) in Patel, Raj. 2007. *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World's Food System*. Toronto: Harper Perennial. Pp. 75-111.

Wiebe, Nettie. 2012. Crisis in the Food System. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.). *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. Pp:155-170

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

***Recommended:***

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

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)

**Class #5: Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Off to the Market! The Transformation of Food Provisioning Infrastructure**

Chapter 8 (Checking out of Supermarkets) in Patel, R. (2007). *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World’s Food System*. Toronto: Harper Perennial. Pp. 215-247

Winson, A. (2012). Spatial Colonization of Food Environments by Pseudo-Food Companies: Precursors of a Health Crisis. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.). *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. pp 186-207.

Reardon, T., & Hopkins, R. (2006). The Supermarket Revolution in Developing Countries: Policies to Address Emerging Tensions Among Supermarkets, Suppliers and Traditional Retailers, *The European Journal of Development Research*, 18(4), 522-545. (available through the library website)

**February 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> Reading Week NO CLASS**

**Class #6: Friday February 26<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**To Cook or not to Cook? That is the question (2<sup>nd</sup> PAPER DUE)**

***Guest Speaker: Chef Joshna Maharaj (Cookbook Author and Social Justice Chef)***

Chapter 9 (Chosen by Bunnies). In Patel, R. 2007. *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World’s Food System*. Toronto: Harper Perennial. Pp: 253-286

Cooke, Natalie. 2012. Canada’s Food History Through Cookbooks. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.). *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. pp.33-48

Johnston, Josee & Sarah, Cappeliez. You Are What You Eat: Enjoying (and Transforming) Food Culture. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.). *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. Pp 49-64.

## **Class#7: Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**

### **Racial, gender and power inequalities in the food system**

Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Who Governs Global Food Prices. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.) *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. Pp 276-289.

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)

Sook Lee, Min. 2003. *El Contrato*. National Film Board.  
Available online: [https://www.nfb.ca/film/el\\_contrato](https://www.nfb.ca/film/el_contrato)

#### ***Recommended***

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)

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)

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

## **Class #8: Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> 2016**

### **The Neoliberal Diet: Politics of 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)

Brady, Jennifer., Jacqui Gingras, and Elaine Power. 2012. Still Hungry: A Feminist Perspective on Food, Foodwork, the Body, and Food Studies. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.) *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. pp. 122-135.

Johnston, Josee., and Sarah Cappeliez. 2012. You Are What You Eat. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.) *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. Pp 49-64.

#### ***Recommended***

Guthman, Julie. 2007. Commentary on teaching food: Why I am fed up with Michael Pollan et al. *Agriculture and Human Values*. 24 (261-264).

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-agricultural-contradictions-of-obesity.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm>

**Class #9: Friday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 (3<sup>rd</sup> PAPER DUE IN CLASS)**

**Alternative Food Systems: Food security, the right to food, and food sovereignty**

Chapter 1 (Introduction) and Chapter 2 (A Rural Autopsy). 2007. In Patel, R. 2007. *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World's Food System*. Toronto: Harper Perennial. Pp: 1-43.

Desmarais, Anette Aurelie. 2012. Building Food Sovereignty: A radical Framework for Alternative Food Systems. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.) *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. Pp.359-377.

Suschnigg, Carole. 2012. Food Security? Some Contradictions Associated with Corporate Donations to Canada's Food Banks. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.) *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. Pp.223-237.

***Recommended:***

Edelman, Marc, Tony Weis, Amita Baviskar, Saturnino M Borrás 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. (available in the library website)

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)

**March 25<sup>th</sup> Good Friday, NO CLASS (University Closed)**

**Class #10: Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**

**The Paradox of Food Waste amidst Hunger**

***Guest Speaker: Mary Roufail, Greenhouse Coordinator and Compost Guru***

***The Stop Community Food Centre***

Cloke J, 2013. Empires of Waste and the Food Security Meme. *Geography Compass* 7(9) 622-636. (Available on the library website)

Gille, Zsuzsa. (2012). From Risk to Waste: Global Food Waste Regimes. *The Sociological Review*, 60, 27-46 doi:10.1111/1467-954X.12036. (Available on the library website)



Steel, Carolyn. 2012. Chapter 6 (Waste). In *Hungry City: How Food Shapes Our Lives*. London: Vintage Books. Pp: 247-282 (Available on Blackboard).

***Recommended***

Evans, D. (2011), "Blaming the consumer-once again: the social and material contexts of everyday food waste practices in some English households" *Critical Public Health*, 21(4): 429-440.

**Class #11: Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 (LAST DAY)**

**Food Ideas, Solutions and Innovations (Exam Review)**

***Guest Speaker: Dr. Lauren Baker, Coordinator of the Toronto Food Policy Council***

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)

Sumner, J. 2012. Conceptualizing Sustainable Food Systems. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.) *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. Pp: 326-336.

***Recommended:***

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/>

Friedmann, H. 2012. Changing Food System from Top to Bottom: Political Economy and Social Movements Perspectives. In M. Koc, J. Sumner and A. Winson (eds.). *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Toronto: Oxford. pp 208-222

**EXAM (Date to be confirmed during Exam week)**

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