

University of Toronto Department of Geography  
**GGR107 – Environment, Food, and People**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Fall 2019

Lecture: Mondays 12-2 (SSH2118 and live online via Bb Collaborate)

Tutorial: varies according to section; check your timetable

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course critically examines the relations between food, nature, and society. Food is fundamental to human existence and is different across different cultures – it also shapes and is shaped by physical and social environments. Join us as we introduce you to the study of geography by exploring the ways food is produced, processed, distributed and consumed. We use a wide range of foods as case examples to explore human-environment interactions, locally and globally.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the class, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the origins of the global food system and the issues, concepts, and theories that help us understand the relationships between food, the natural environment, and human society;
- Differentiate between claims and evidence in readings and lectures, and examine the assumptions and worldviews underlying different arguments (including their own);
- Identify and assemble appropriate and reputable sources of evidence to support their own arguments or perspectives on the course material;
- Communicate their opinions and supporting evidence, orally and in writing.

**INSTRUCTOR**

Name: Sarah Wakefield  
Office: University College B202<sup>1</sup>  
Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30  
Wednesdays 2:00-3:00  
...or email to set up an appointment

Dr. Wakefield has been researching food issues for 23 years – her undergraduate thesis was on backyard gardens! Over the years, she has worked with government, community and academic partners in many cities in Canada (particularly Toronto and Hamilton) to understand how cities can integrate food system planning into their work. Her work has helped to develop relevant urban policy related to food, including rules and supports for community gardens, farmers' markets, and other forms of urban agriculture and food distribution (e.g., urban aquaculture, backyard chickens, food terminals, and community food centres), pesticide regulations and education, and food system sustainability assessments. Her work also investigates how Canadians think about food and food security, from the local to the global.

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<sup>1</sup>To get to UC B202 from Sidney Smith Hall: cross St. George and go through the archway into the Sir Dan quad. Go straight ahead to the next archway – once under the arch, go through the left-hand doorway (if you reach the interior courtyard you have gone too far). Take the staircase up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and then turn right – my office is the first door on the left, just past the small classroom. Note that this location is NOT accessible: I am happy to make arrangements to meet elsewhere!

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## READINGS

The reading list is comprised of articles and book chapters from a variety of sources. They generally focus on individual foods or commodities, but come together to highlight many of the important issues (social, political, economic, cultural, environmental, etc.) within the food system. The readings are available online through the U of T library system – you can search for them using the library website, or you can check under “Library Course Reserves” on your personal portal page (not the course page) for a searchable database of readings.

## LECTURES

Lectures will be held for two hours once a week. Lectures will be used to help interpret (as opposed to just summarize) the readings, to introduce and tie together concepts and examples, and to provide opportunities for student Q&A and discussion. In addition, lecture time may be used to show videos and host expert guest speakers.

**Students can join the lectures in person or live online.** The in-person lecture takes place in Room 2102, Sidney Smith Hall.

Students wishing to join live online should click on the *Bb Collaborate* tab in the left hand toolbar within the course’s Quercus home page, and then on the lecture for the week. This will take you to a blackboard collaborate page, where you will be able to see the slides and hear the audio of the instructor's voice (video of the instructor will not be provided). You will also be able to ask questions, and answer questions the instructor asks. To ensure you are set up properly in advance of the lecture, please review the *GGR107 Bb Collaborate Guide* – the link can be found on the Lectures tab in the Course Overview module on Quercus.

**Lectures will also be recorded** in cases you are unable to attend, or if you wish to review what was covered. These recordings will be made available within each week's module as soon after the lecture as they are available. Of course, if you view the recorded lecture you will not be able to join the discussion or ask questions. Online students, please note that questions and comments you provide using the chat function will also be recorded, and will not be anonymous.

Please note that lectures are intended to complement the course readings and to provide timely information to students - for that reason, **LECTURE RECORDINGS WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FOR TWO WEEKS** after the date of the original lecture, so please be sure to review the lecture by that time.

## COURSE WEBSITE

The course website is available through **Quercus** ([q.utoronto.ca](http://q.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 (any questions or concerns about Quercus access should be directed to the help desk in Robarts Library). All course materials – including the class schedule, tutorial guide, assignments, lecture slides, and quizzes – will be posted on the website. In addition, you can email the instructor and TAs through the site.

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## EVALUATION

Online quizzes on readings	(due the night before each lecture)	10%
Assignment 1 – Worldview Assessment & Critical Reading Exercise	(due October 11)	20%
Assignment 2 – Food Item Investigation	(due November 24)	30%
Final Examination	(during exam period)	35%
Tutorial participation	(in tutorial)	5%

**Online quizzes** on the readings will begin the second week of classes. To access the quiz for each week, select *Quizzes* from the main Quercus toolbar and select the Quiz you wish to complete, or access the quiz through the week's module. The quiz for the week will open on Wednesday, and you will close at *11:00 a.m.* the day of the lecture. More quiz information is posted on Quercus.

Instructions for the **Assignments** can be found in the Course Assignment handouts: you can access them through the course website. All written assignments are submitted electronically in this course through the course website - no paper copies are required!

## TUTORIALS

**Tutorials** are places where a small number of (about 20) students get together to discuss the lectures, readings, etc. and do activities in a smaller group. Tutorials offer a different way to learn, in which discussion is a fundamental part of the process. Tutorials will help you to develop your oral comprehension and communication skills, and your confidence in talking about your ideas.

In addition, tutorials are a place to work through the expectations for the course assignments. In tutorial, you will learn about what is expected of you in each assignment. Tutorial exercises will give you a chance to practice the skills needed for the assignments in a hands-on way. In addition, the materials you are expected to prepare in advance of some tutorials will keep you on track, and give you a chance to get input and feedback on your work before the assignments are finally due.

Each tutorial is led by a teaching assistant (TA) – s/he will lead the tutorials, facilitate discussions, describe the assignments, and answer your questions. Your TA will also grade your assignments.

Tutorials will be held according to the schedule contained in the course schedule (available on the course website), beginning in the second week of classes. Tutorials will not be held every week, so be sure you check the schedule!

**Participation** in tutorials forms a small component of the grade for this course. Please see the link above for more information about the tutorials and what is expected of you.

**Tutorial participation** forms a small component of the grade for this course. Please see the *Tutorial Participation Guide* for more information about the tutorials and what is expected of you.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Contacting the Instructor and TAs:** Dr. Wakefield can be reached in person at her office during her office hours (or at other times by appointment; contact her through the Portal using the email function). She will be happy to answer any questions you have in person during these times. The TAs will also hold office hours – they will provide times and locations during the first tutorial.

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**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). Extensions will be granted in the case of illness or other emergencies, with appropriate documentation. If you require accommodation for a disability or long-term illness, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca).

**Turnitin.com:** When you hand in your assignments through Quercus, they will be automatically submitted to *Turnitin.com* for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In submitting their assignments, you are allowing your essay to be included as a source document in the *Turnitin.com* reference database, where it 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 your TA at least a week before the first assignment is due, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. At the University of Toronto, examples of academic offences include:

- Using someone else's ideas without appropriate acknowledgement (in-text citation)
- Copying material word-for-word from a source and not placing the words within quotation marks (it isn't enough to put a citation there – the author's own words **MUST** be in quotations)
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor
- Making up sources or facts, or including references to sources that you did not use
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
  - having someone else complete part or all of an assignment for you
  - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work
  - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while editing (having someone read your work is a good idea, but they should tell you what is wrong, not fix it for you)
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own

The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor or TAs. More information is available at [www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students).

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**What Your Grades Mean:** The assignments in this course are graded according to the following scale (used throughout Arts & Science):

**A (80+)** *Exceptional* performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

**B (70-79)** *Good* performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.

**C (60-69)** *Adequate* performance: student who is profiting from her or his university experience; understanding of the subject matter and ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

**D (50-59)** *Minimally acceptable* performance: some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.

**F (0-49)** *Inadequate* performance: little evidence of even superficial understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of sources.