



PROFESSOR VIRGINIA HAUFLER

Offices:
3117J Chincoteague
AND
0116 Dorchester
Contact info:
301-405-4122
vhaufler@umd.edu

Office hours:
Mon 3:15-5:00 Chincoteague
Wed 3:15-5:00 Dorchester
and by appointment

Teaching Assistants

Eric Dunford
5133 Tydings
208-404-3405
edunford@umd.edu
sections 101, 102, 103
Mon 12-2, Tues 11:30-1:30

Brandon Ives
5145 Tydings
301-405-4162
bjives@umd.edu
sections 104, 105, 106
Office hours:
Mon 3:15-5:00, W 12-1:45

Don't eat anything your great-grandmother wouldn't recognize as food.

— Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*

Appetite for Change

Politics and the Globalization of Food

GVPT289A Spring 2014

Syllabus 1.0
MW2-2:50 2102 SHM
F sections

Course Description

How has the globalization of food affected society and politics? The industrialization of agriculture and the emergence of global food supply chains integrates food systems across political boundaries, raising a host of political issues. The often negative consequences for workers, the environment, health, and inequality leads to social and political resistance, from the transnational "slow food" movement and a growing interest in sustainable food practices, to outrage over toxic food imports and the rise of "locavores."

Global food is viewed by some as a threat--to local culture, to nature, and to life itself. But it is viewed by others as the greatest hope for preventing famine, facilitating economic development, and enhancing food security for all. For many people, the issues surrounding food and agriculture illustrate the maxim that "the personal is political," i.e. that the choices we make every day about what to put on our plate have consequences for the collective good.

This course explores the major forces transforming the food system: industrialization, corporate food and agriculture, financialization, and transnational activism. We address debates over food security, food aid, biotechnology, the nutrition revolution, and others. We will analyze power, institutions and values as they collide in this arena. Discussion and respectful debate about these issues is important to this class, and to society as a whole. GVPT289 is approved to fulfill the General Education I-series course requirement.

Course Requirements

Read assigned material before class, and be prepared to share questions and comments.

Participation (10%)—Attendance, discussion, and general engagement; medical absences require a signed note from you; prolonged illness or absence during an exam or major grading event must be documented by a health care practitioner.

Simulation (10%)—Groups research and represent a role in an online food security negotiation simulation; group does a background/ position paper; individuals do reflection papers and are evaluated on participation/ contribution

Research Paper (20%)—Analyze the globalized nature of a single food product (8-10pp) (we will provide more details separately)

Assignments (15%)—low-stakes assignments

Mid-term exam (20%)- Essay and short questions

Final exam (25%)—Essay and short questions

Need Help?

Accommodations—Please inform your TA by the end of the registration period about scheduling conflicts due to religious observances, or any request related to a documented disability (via DSS), so that we can make accommodations.

Need Help with something?

McKeldin Library—Reference librarians want to help you! Ask questions in person or online at www.lib.umd.edu The social science librarian, Judith Markowitz, is eager to assist you—contact her at judym@umd.edu

Learning Assistance Center—Advice and courses on the skills it takes to succeed in class—they have a lot to offer so take advantage! Don't be shy about learning how to learn and succeed. They can be reached at 301-314-7693 or las-cc@umd.edu

The Counseling Center—If you are struggling to adjust to college life, or are dealing with personal problems that appear overwhelming, remember you are not alone and we have people here who can help you. The Counseling Center staff can be reached at **301-314-7651**

Readings/ Resources

Required books to buy, borrow, download or rent:

Full Planet, Empty Plates: The New Geopolitics of Food Scarcity by Lester Brown

Stuffed and Starved by Raj Patel

Issues for Debate in Food Politics and Policy by CQ Researcher --only available in digital format at

Other readings are available on the internet, through the library or on our ELMS course website

Library Guide

<http://lib.guides.umd.edu/gvpt289A>

Fine Print!

I expect UM students to set high standards of integrity: don't try to pass off something from the Internet or a friend as your own. It certainly doesn't help you learn and it is frankly just not right. Cases of plagiarism and cheating will be referred to the Student Honor Council. See www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu

Tech Use in the Classroom

Use it for notes or to look up something related to the class... but don't use it for other things. It's distracting to everyone—and bars you from genuine engagement in the course. And be sure to turn off anything that might ring, sing, or otherwise make a noise.

SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC/ READINGS	WHAT'S DUE/ WHAT'S HAPPENING
JAN 27	APPETITE FOR CHANGE	Why do we care? What is the "new global food politics" about?
JAN 29	GLOBAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: From Global Forces to Food Day Adler/ Lawler, "How the Chicken Conquered the World," <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i> 2012	Is the globalization of food new? What do we mean by "global food"? What are the issues it raises?
JAN 31	THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL: Eat, Shop, Vote Take the Quiz: http://bit.ly/Lxb8kL Optional: http://bit.ly/1e7WtDz	What do you know about food issues? Handout: Supermarket Scavenger Hunt Guide
FEB 3	SCALE AND INTENSITY: The Origins of Change Patel, Chs 1-2 Coclanis, "Back to the Future," <i>SAIS Review</i> 2003	What is the impact of globalization on agriculture? What forces led to intensification of agriculture and diffusion of techniques?
FEB 5	THE GREEN REVOLUTION: From Peasants to Farmers in the Developing World Cullather, "Miracles of Modernization" <i>Diplomatic History</i> 2004 Easterbrook, "Borlaug—Forgotten Benefactor of Humanity" <i>The Atlantic</i> 1997	What was the Green Revolution? What was the political context? Who benefited?
FEB 7	DISTANCING	Do you know where your food comes from? How are we distanced from food origins? Assignment Due: Scavenger Hunt Paper
FEB 10	TRADING IT AWAY: Who Wants Free Trade in Food and Agriculture? Panagariya, "Liberalizing Agriculture," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Patel, Chs. 3-4	What are the arguments for and against free trade in agriculture? Who wins and who loses?
FEB 12	GLOBAL RULES ON AGRICULTURE: Bringing Agriculture into the WTO Grant/Boys "On the Road to Doha," <i>Foreign Policy</i> 2011	What are the conflicts between developed and developing countries over liberalizing agriculture?
FEB 14	DOHA DISPUTES	Will agriculture ever be subject to real free trade? Why / why not?
FEB 17	SUBSIDIZING SUCCESS: US, EU and the ROW CQ Reader Ch.6, "Farm Subsidies"	How do domestic farm policies affect trade liberalization? Why subsidize agriculture?
FEB 19	EU AGRICULTURE: The Ties that Bind Kroger, "Ideas, Interests and Institutions? CAP Reform," Working Paper	How does the EU work? What is the role of the CAP in integration?
FEB 21	RESEARCHING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ISSUES Class meets in 6101 McKeldin Library	Due: Writing Assignment Topic Guest: Judith Markowitz

FEB 24	BIG FOOD: Multinational Corporations Patel, Chs. 5 and 8	What is the structure of the food industry? Are the corporations too big? Do they have too much power?
FEB 26	FAST FOOD WORLD Ritzer, "The McDonaldization Thesis"	Is McDonald's model of life taking over the world? Why has it been so successful? Mid-term review guide handout
FEB 28	"FOODOPOLY": One view http://bit.ly/1bESf9P	Debate: Are food companies too big?
MAR 3	MID-TERM EXAM	
MAR 5	STUFFED AND STARVED: The Nutrition Revolution Patel, 9 and 10 CQ Reader Ch. 9 "Preventing Obesity"	What is the source of both obesity and undernourishment globally? What are the politics of obesity at home and abroad?
MAR 7	BLINDED BY SCIENCE? Pollan, "Six Rules for Eating Wisely" http://bit.ly/1dOtlj8 McClements, "In Defense of Food Science," <i>Gastronomica</i>	Is criticism of the nutrition revolution leading to attacks on food science? Is processed food evil?
MAR 10	FRANKENFOOD AND FOOD SAFETY: Transatlantic Conflict Runge et al, "Differing US and European Perspectives.." <i>Estey Journal</i>	What are the politics of food safety in the US vs EU? Why are GMOs controversial? How are GMOs regulated internationally? Who supports and who opposes GMOs?
MAR 12	GMOs IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD Paarlberg, "Political Actors on the Landscape" <i>AgBioForum</i> 2007 Newell/ Mackenzie, "Whose Rules Rule?" <i>IDS Bulletin</i>	How does the debate over GMOs play out in the developing world? What are the economic, political and cultural factors at play?
MAR 14	LABELLING CONTROVERSIES	Do we need food labels to tell us about our food? What is the debate over transparency?
MAR 17-21	SPRING BREAK!	
MAR 24	THE REAL HUNGER GAMES: Food Security and Geopolitics Brown, Chs. 1-3	What is the Malthusian perspective? What are the politics of famine? Can we feed 9 billion people in the future?
MAR 26	CRISIS AND SCARCITY AND SECURITY CQ Reader, Ch.1 "Food Crises" Simmons, "Harvesting Peace"	What is food security? Where is there the most insecurity? What is driving the crises? What role for food aid?
MAR 28	ENOUGH FOR 9 BILLION?	Calculate how much land we need to support 9 billion people Assign groups for simulation Handout on simulation assignment Due: Writing Assignment Outline and Preliminary Bibliography

MAR 31	FOOD BUBBLE Kauffman, "The Food Bubble," <i>Harper's</i> 2010	What is the link between Wall Street and our food? How has food become "financialized"? How does this distance us from food in a new way? What has been the impact?
APR 2	FOOD AID Oakland Institute, "The Status of International Food Aid Negotiations" 2008 Chavkin, "Scuttled at Sea," <i>Foreign Policy</i> http://atfp.co/1bUoqST	How is food aid distributed? Why is it controversial? Is it part of foreign policy or domestic politics?
APR 4	FUTURE OF GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY: SIMULATION DAY 1	Who wants what regarding food aid and food security? Who might ally? Due: Group Preparation Report
APR 7	FOOD AS FUEL Brown, Ch. 4 "Food or Fuel?"	What is biofuel? What is causing rising demand? What conflicting values are at play?
APR 9	CAN WE SUSTAIN BIG AG/ BIG FOOD? Brown, Chs. 5-9	What environmental pressures challenge our current system? Can we sustain our global food system?
APR 11	FUTURE OF GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY: SIMULATION DAY 2	Voting for change—or not? Final negotiations and conclusion
APR 14	THE GLOBAL FARMS RACE Brown, Ch. 10-11 Funk, "The Capitalists of Chaos," <i>Rolling Stone</i>	How are biofuels, financialization, and land grabs related?
APR 16	BRAVING THE SEAS Monterey Bay Aquarium, "Turning the Tide"	Why is overfishing difficult to end? What is the role of local and international regulation in addressing fisheries collapse?
APR 18	CHALLENGES OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	Why is it so hard to manage fisheries? Is this a case of the "tragedy of the commons"? Due: Individual Reflection
APR 21	TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVISM: Slow Food, La Via Campesina and More CQ Reader Ch.8 "Slow Food Movement" Nicholson, "Food Movements Unite!"	What is the origin of transnational activism on food issues? What is the food sovereignty movement? What transformations does it seek? What effect has it had? Who is involved?
APR 23	WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST Global Exchange, "Time to Raise the Bar" Bhatia, "A Pound and So Much More" http://bit.ly/1kO6miU	How does the global value chain distance us from workers? How do labor rights become part of global food politics? How are workers organizing to demand change?
APR 25	FAIR TRADE: Your Role in Global Resistance CQ Reader Ch. 4, "Fair Trade Labeling"	What is fair trade vs. free trade? Why is certification supposed to make a difference? Who is supposed to act?

APR 30	EATING MEAT: Sustainability, animal rights, and activism CQ Reader, "Animal Rights" Heinrich Boll Stiftung, "Meat Atlas"	What is the impact of rising meat consumption? What is a reasonable response? How do personal choices become political?
MAY 2	POLITICAL VEGETARIANISM	How do personal decisions become nationally and globally relevant? Due: Writing Assignment
MAY 5	THE RIGHT TO FOOD Kenney, "Famine is a Crime"	Is food a human right? Why is it so difficult to accept?
MAY 7	THE POLITICS OF HUNGER: Global and Domestic Dimensions Collier, "The Politics of Hunger" Massing, "Does Democracy Avert Famine?" <i>New York Times</i>	How can such wealth co-exist with famine? Is the distribution of food within and between countries more of a problem than productivity?
MAY 9	CONSUMERS AND CITIZENS Patel, Ch.10	Can we shop our way to a new food system?
MAY 12	THE FUTURE OF FOOD	Where do we go from here?
MAY 19	1:30-3:30 Final Exam	

We are enslaved by speed and have all succumbed to the same insidious virus: *Fast Life*, which disrupts our habits, pervades the privacy of our homes and forces us to eat Fast Foods.

--Slow Food Manifesto