



FOOD AND SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental Studies, Eckerd College, Spring 2019

Monday and Thursday 1:40 – 3:10, BES 123

Courses, like life, are dynamic. Changes to this syllabus might be necessary.

Announcements will be made online. Check your school email and Moodle before each class!

Professor: Dr. Dave Himmelfarb

Email: himmeldk@eckerd.edu

Office: ES 101

Office hours: Tuesday 9:00-12:00, 2:00-4:00; Wednesday 3:00-5:00; Thursday 11:00-1:00, or by appointment.

Course Description:

Few topics in contemporary society inspire more impassioned responses than the food we put into our bodies. What we eat and what we don't, how much we eat, how we get that food are shaped by the cultural contexts in which we live, but also have significant consequences for the environments and societies in which we live. Over the past century, food production has changed dramatically, enabling the world to produce food at unprecedented rates. Yet, despite these advances, nearly 800 million people (according to the World Food Program) currently do not have access to sufficient food to live healthy lives. Additionally, the environmental toll of such production is staggering, in the form of fossil fuel consumption and associated climate change, unprecedented soil and water degradation, and species loss, leading many to question the sustainability of contemporary production methods. Drawing on insights from ecology, agronomy, human geography, anthropology, and development sociology, we will examine the development of the global industrial food system, the human and environmental consequences of such a system, and explore alternatives.

Assessment:

Assignment	Points
Attendance/Participation	50 points
Weekly Assignments	(15 points each, 150 points total)
Exams	200 (100 points each)
Extra Credit Papers	2 points each (up to 10 points)
Total	400

Your letter grade will correspond to the following percentage of points you earn throughout the term. (Please note: To earn an A in this class, you must exceed my expectations of you.)

A = 93-100%	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D = 60-69%
A- = 90-92%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	F = 0-59%
	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	

Attendance/Participation (50 points)

The success or failure of this class rests with you and depends on the extent to which you actively engage with the material and your fellow classmates. When everyone is an active participant, we can have more interesting discussions and explore issues more deeply. As such, attendance and meaningful participation is essential. Your participation grade will be based on 1) attendance; and 2) in-class behavior (preparation, contribution to class discussion, interaction with other students, etc.).

To account for emergencies and accidents (like being sick, car trouble, etc.), you may miss up to 2 classes without affecting your participation. **If you miss more than 2 classes without written permission from the Dean's office/coach or a doctor, you will lose one percentage point from your FINAL GRADE for each additional absence.**

Weekly Assignments (15 points each):

Once per week, you will answer a set of questions based on the readings and course topics for that week. A Word Doc with questions will be available on Moodle at least a week before each Thursday's class. You should download the questions and type your responses on the document (12 pt. font, single spaced) and print out your responses for in-class use and submission. These are designed to ensure that you stay current with the readings, help you prepare for and contribute to discussion, and to aid your studying for the exams. These are formal writing assignments; you will be assessed on the content and depth of your responses AND the quality of your writing. Please note that all content should be appropriately cited with parenthetical citations that reference the readings (Author Date, page #).

Your lowest two scores will be dropped to account for emergencies. **There will be no late or make-up assignments for ANY reason.**

Exams (100 points each):

This course will have two exams, March 14 and May 9 (last day of class). These will consist of short-essay questions that will ask you to critically examine lecture and reading materials using the concepts discussed in class often in a creative manner (such as a role-playing scenario or dialogue). The topics will not be cumulative but the concepts will (that is, you may be asked to apply concepts and terms discussed in the first half of the class to readings and topics discussed in the second half of the class).

Extra Credit (2 points each, up to 10 points):

Find a news article, documentary film, or extracurricular lecture that relates to the course material and write a 1 page double-spaced paper that includes: **1) the full citation of the article (author, date, article title, publication title, and full url); 2) a brief summary (3-4 sentences, no quotes); and 3) a short account of how it ties in to course themes (2-3 sentences).** If you have any questions about the suitability of the source or its relevance, feel free to contact the instructor.

Required Reading:

Akram-Lodhi, A. Haroon. 2013. *Hungry for Change: Farmers, Food Justice and the Agrarian Question*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing. (referred to below as HfC)

Chappel, M. Jahi. 2018. *Beginning to End Hunger: Food and the Environment in Belo Horizonte, Brazil and Beyond*. (referred to below as BEH)

Additional readings will be posted as PDF's on Moodle.

[Note: include the chapter "Good to Eat, Good to Think About" in Bloch-Dano's *Vegetables: A biography* as one of the first readings]

Date	Topic	Readings (complete before class)
Thurs Jan 31	Introduction: Food, Culture, Environment	
Mon Feb 4	Subsistence Livelihoods and Domestication	Lanchester 2017
Thurs Feb 7	Subsistence Livelihoods and Domestication	Engstrom 2017, pg. 1-4 Cohen 2013
Mon Feb 11	Subsistence Livelihoods and Domestication	Dufour 2013[1990] Lee 2013[1968]
Thurs Feb 14	Political Economy and Market Production	HfC Ch. 1
Mon Feb 18	Political Economy and Market Production	HfC Ch. 2
Thurs Feb 21	Political Economy and Market Production	HfC Ch. 3 Scoones 2015 Ch. 3
Mon Feb 25	Industrialization	Patel and Moore 2017 HfC Ch. 5
Thurs Feb 28	Industrialization	Watch <i>King Corn</i> at home Fitzgerald 2015
Mon March 4	Global Trade, Development, and the Green Revolution	Carolan 2011 Ch. 2 Agrifood Atlas pg. 10 - 13
Thurs March 7	Global Trade, Development, and the Green Revolution	HfC Ch. 8
Mon March 11	Exam 1 Review	
Thurs March 14	Exam 1	
Mon March 18	Spring Break!!	
Thurs March 21	Spring Break!!	
Mon March 25	Genetic Engineering and the New Green Revolution	Hall 2018 Charles 2012
Thurs March 28	Genetic Engineering and the New Green Revolution	Stone 2016 Podcast (see url) Holt-Giménez et al. 2006
Mon April 1	Food In/security, Food Sovereignty, and Nutrition	BEH Ch. 1 Carolan 2011 Ch. 4
Thurs April 4	Food In/security, Food Sovereignty, and Nutrition	BEH Ch. 2
Mon April 8	Alternative Agriculture and Agroecology	Biel 2016 Ch. 5
Thurs April 11	Alternative Agriculture and Agroecology	Altieri and Nicholls 2005 Ch. 2
Mon April 15	Urban Food Systems	Heynan et al. 2012

		Biel 2016 Ch. 11
Thurs April 18	Urban Food Systems <i>Special Guests: Malory Foster, Mark Trujillo UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program</i>	Johns et al. 2009
Mon April 22	Social Movements	HfC Ch. 4
Thurs April 25	Social Movements	Brent et al. 2015
Mon April 29	Case Study: Belo Horizonte, Brazil	BEH Ch. 3
Thurs May 2	Case Study: Belo Horizonte, Brazil	BEH Ch. 5
Mon May 6	Case Study: Belo Horizonte, Brazil and Course Wrap Up	BEH Ch. 6
Thurs May 9	Exam 2	

Academic honesty policy:

In this course we will be following the Eckerd College Academic Honesty Policy. Engaging in any form of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated and will result in an F for the class. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. All students must acknowledge the Honor Code with a signature on every assignment. The Code is stated as follows: "On my honor, as an Eckerd College student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to tolerate these behaviors in others." Students should review the aforementioned website and any questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Bottom line: Don't be a jerk.

Technology Use: Laptop and phone use during class is not allowed. Studies have shown that students who take notes by hand retain information far better than those who type them. Furthermore, checking email and Instagram will not help you succeed in this class. The only exception for laptop use is for documented disabilities – see me if you have concerns about this.

Incompletes and Withdrawals: A grade of 'I' is given only in cases of documented emergency or other extreme circumstances late in the semester, provided the student has been making satisfactory progress throughout the semester. Students are responsible for keeping track of the deadline for withdrawing from the course without grade penalty.

Disabilities: Students who qualify for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Accessible Education Services at 727-864-8248 or via email at aes@eckerd.edu. Appropriate accommodations can only be arranged through that office and may not be made retroactively.

Campus Evacuation: If for any reason, Eckerd College is evacuated, students who leave campus for overnight stays or longer should bring their texts, notes, and syllabus so that they are able to continue their coursework. In such an event, check your Eckerd email from your off-campus location and continue with the coursework according to the syllabus and delivered via the course Moodle site.

Title IX Reporting Policy: Eckerd College is committed to fostering a campus community based on respect and nonviolence. In accordance with Title IX, Eckerd is legally obligated to investigate incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault that occur on our campus. Faculty who become aware of any incident of sexual violence, including harassment, rape, sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, are required by law to notify Eckerd's Title IX Coordinator. For more information about your rights and reporting options at Eckerd, including confidential and anonymous reporting options, please visit: <http://www.eckerd.edu/titleix/>.

Unauthorized Use of Course Materials

All course materials (including lectures, PowerPoint, and materials posted on Moodle or other course management sites or shared by email) may only be used for the purposes of an individual's or group's study while enrolled in this course, and may not be shared with a wider audience on or off campus nor posted on an external website without my explicit permission.

